

NEWS RELEASE

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VIRGINIA
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Images available upon request

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Virginia Aquarium Annual Dolphin Count

WHO: “Local” dolphins and 50 volunteers from the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Team, who have received special training.

WHAT: This may be the Aquarium’s 25th year but it is the team’s 19th annual Dolphin Count. In addition to counting dolphins this year along the beach observation posts, the team will host an **educational outreach post on the Virginia Beach boardwalk at 15th St.** near the Virginia Beach Fishing Pier from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.* Charts, data and other information about the Dolphin Count and the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Program will be available.

WHEN: Saturday, July 30, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon

WHERE: Volunteers spread out over several observation posts along beaches of the lower Chesapeake Bay and southern Virginia coastline.

WHY: The annual count gives Virginia Aquarium researchers an idea of the relative abundance of dolphins in Virginia waters. More importantly, it provides a picture of dolphin distribution and identifies the coastal habitat areas where they are most concentrated. This is important when addressing resource management and conservation issues. Both state and federal agencies have used the Aquarium’s research on dolphins when making decisions on projects that impact the coastal marine environment.

***This is the best place for media to interview team members and see pier guests’ reactions to the count.**

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