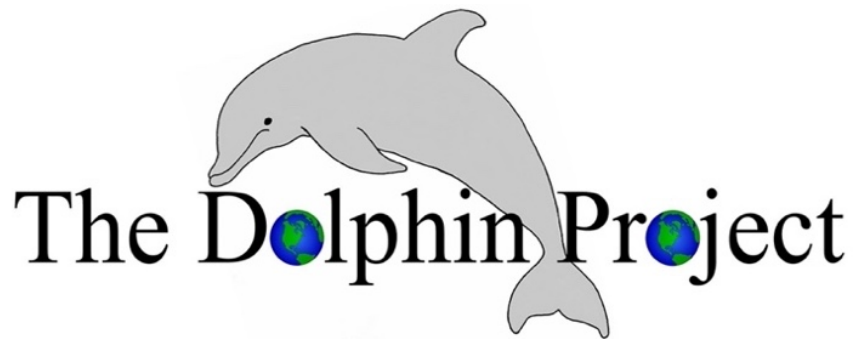


“On Effort”

Newsletter
Summer 2023



From the Helm

It's been a busy year for TDP and will be even busier heading into fall.

Research surveys are on course with new and veteran skippers and crews. Behind the scenes, our new Data Committee is hard at work coordinating and uploading survey results into the Duke University databases. We have a new Event sheet format which will make it easier to upload our data into Duke. It's included in this newsletter so take a look.

Team Leaders will be mailed a revised Laminated Instruction sheet for their Team Leader Kits. It includes directions pertaining to the new Event sheet and a phone number for Trip Kolkmeier, the new Coastal GA-DNR agent who has replaced Clay George who is now working for NOAA. Trip's phone number is the one you would call for a dolphin emergency.

Lisa Martineau is coordinating a **fundraiser** for TDP. It's scheduled for September 30th, so mark your calendars. Details are within and more to follow. If you can help recruit sponsors or auction items, please contact thedolphinproject@gmail.com.

Fall festivals are scheduled and TDP will be there - with your help - to educate the public about protecting the Bottlenose dolphin and our environment. The Events are listed within. If you can offer a few hours to volunteers to host our booths, please email thedolphinproject@gmail.com. More details coming.

There's a lot going on this year...getting back to our 'normal' routine. With your help, all will be successful.

Gratefully,

Peach

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Lisa Martineau	Treasurer
Joni Chastain	Secretary

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THE DOLPHIN PROJECT

P.O. Box 60753
Savannah, Georgia 31420
thedolphinproject@gmail.com
www.thedolphinproject.org
912-657-3927

The Dolphin Project is an all-volunteer, non-profit research, conservation and education organization, founded in 1989, dedicated to the protection of wild estuarine Bottlenose dolphins and our shared environment. Tax ID# 58-1914176



Survey Crew Photos



6/24/23 Survey Crew: John Scanlon; Lisa Martineau; Kasey Russell; Carol DeFelice; Jim DeFelice.



6/24/23 Survey Crew: Tom Workman; Sandy Workman; Ruth Goldstein; Tracy Sellard.



3/11/23 Survey Crew: Lisa Martineau; Liz Rothman; Peach Hubbard; Tim Dunbar; Ruth Goldstein; Lyn Ryter; Joyce Albrecht.



6/24/23 Survey Crew: Mark Harrington; Jennifer Isaak-Harrington; Nicole Neiningner; Mickey Rountree.

Thank you, Survey Crews!! We couldn't complete our mission without you!

Bottlenose Boutique

TDP T-Shirts now available at:

<https://www.bonfire.com/store/bottlenose-boutique-1/>



TDP Survey & Events Calendar

August

- Aug 12 Zoom Training Workshop
- Aug 19 TDP Survey

September

- Sep 9 Zoom Training Workshop
- Sep 20 TDP Lecture at OLLI/Bluffton, SC
- Sep 23 TDP booth at UGA Sea Grant Symposium, Tybee Marine Science Center
- Sep 30 TDP fundraiser at Debellation Brewing Company

October

- Oct 7 TDP Booth at GA-DNR COASTFEST, Brunswick, GA
- Oct 14 TDP Booth at Skidaway Institute of Oceanography Marine Science Day
- Oct 20-22 TDP Booth at Great Ogeechee Seafood Festival, Richmond Hill, GA
- Oct 21 TDP Survey
- Oct 28 Zoom Training Workshop

November

- Nov 18 TDP Survey

December

- Dec 9 Zoom Training Workshop

We need VOLUNTEERS for our education and outreach events!

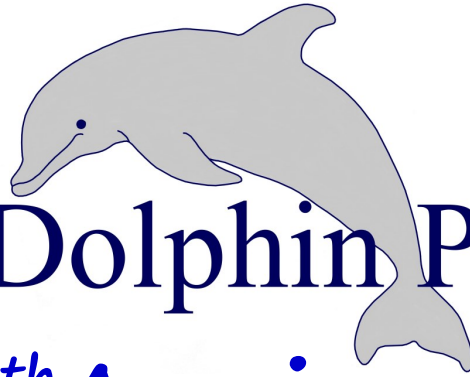
Please email thedolphinproject@gmail.com if you can spend a few hours as a booth host at an event.

Let's Party!!!

TDP is celebrating its 34th Anniversary with a silent auction and a signature brew at Debellation Brewing Company in Richmond Hill on September 30th. This event will raise funds to advance our research and education outreach programs. We would greatly appreciate your efforts to obtain sponsorships, donations and/or auction items which will, in turn, significantly enhance our continued research, conservation and education efforts in Georgia and lower South Carolina. For sponsorship forms and TDP info sheets, contact Lisa or Peach: thedolphinproject@gmail.com.

This is our first fundraiser since the Covid shutdown. Please invite your family and friends.

Let's make this event a fun success!



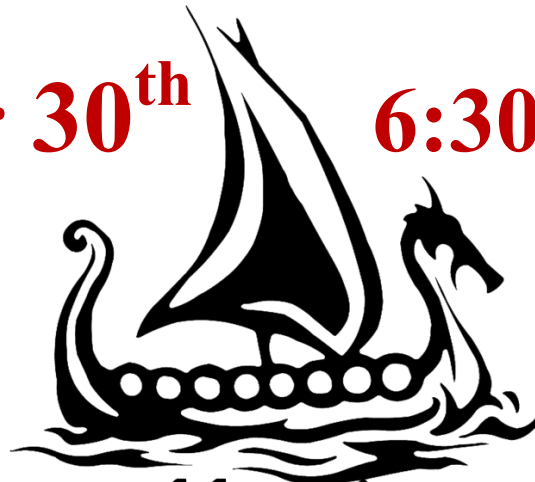
The Dolphin Project

34th Anniversary Silent Auction Fundraiser

Be ye Landlubber or Old Salt,
Savor Brews and Spirits at Debellation's bar,
Avast Mateys for Live Music!
Forage Vittles from a Bounty of Food Trucks,
& Parlay your silver for a Treasure in our
SILENT AUCTION to fund dolphin research

September 30th

6:30-10:00pm



**DEBELLATION
BREWING CO.**
RICHMOND HILL, GA

822 Longwood Drive, Richmond Hill, GA 31324

<https://TheDolphinProject.org> 912-657-3927



1989-2023

The Dolphin Project

34th Anniversary

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Seastar

\$1000+

Sponsor logo on TDP website, social media and all membership correspondence for five years,

Sponsor logo on Event banners,

Sponsor logo/name in Event programs,

Sponsor/donor Decal

Angelwing \$500-999

Sponsor logo on TDP website for one year,

Sponsor logo on Event signage,

Sponsor logo/name in Event programs,

Sponsor/donor Decal

Sand Dollar \$250-499

Sponsor logo on Event signage,

Sponsor logo/name in Event programs,

Sponsor/donor Decal

Periwinkle \$50-249

Sponsor logo/name in Event programs,

Sponsor/donor Decal

PLEASE PRINT

CONTACT NAME: _____ COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / Zipcode: _____

PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

DONATION: CURRENCY \$ CHECK \$ CHECK # VALUE \$

DONATION

DESCRIPTION:

CONTACT SIGNATURE: _____ RECEIVED: TDP INITIAL/DATE _____

Payable to: The Dolphin Project Send to: 155 Bent Tree Way, Richmond Hill, GA 31324 912-657-3927 thedolphinproject@gmail.com

New Event Sheet for Crew Use

TDP Event sheets have been re-designed to be more compatible with Duke University's databases: MABDC (Mid Atlanta Bottlenose Dolphin Catalog) and OBIS-SEAMAP (Ocean Biodiversity Information System-Spatial Ecological Analysis of Megavertabrate Populations). See below for the revised sheet and instructions.

TDP-DUKE Event sheet INSTRUCTIONS

Item [Section]

1. [A] Skippers should set their GPS's to use the decimal format for longitude and latitude; not the degrees, seconds, minutes format. If not possible, use phone app: GPS coordinate converter by Smart Tools.
2. [A] Use Military format for time: 9:34am = 0934 2:00pm = 14:00
3. [A] Date format: April 9, 2023 = 2023 04 09
4. [A] Survey **Start** Time is noted at the upper right corner of the **first** sheet. Survey **End** Time is noted at the upper right corner of the **last** sheet used.
5. We are no longer indicating first and second periods and lunch break times.
6. [A] Record first & last names of crew members.
7. [E] Add photographer #1's and photographer #2's initials to the boxes on Section E of the Event sheet.
8. [E] The photographers need to set their cameras for the current survey time and date for **metadata**. This does not mean numbering the actual photographs. It's embedded information for each frame.
9. [E] The first photo taken at the start of the survey, while still on the dock, will be of the Event sheet that has the top portion completed and frame number '1' is recorded at the bottom of the sheet in Section E/START of SURVEY box.
10. [B] At the START of every sighting/Event, the time is recorded [EVENT START Time] and the latitude and longitude is entered.
At the END of same sighting/Event, the time is recorded [EVENT END Time] and the latitude and longitude is entered.
11. [B] Circle 'yes' or 'no' to indicate if the sighting/Event was ON EFFORT (In the zone, actively looking for dolphins). There may be a sighting/Event while traveling to or from the assigned zone.
12. [D] Dolphin behaviors are now indicated by entering the codes [initials] into the boxes in Section D of the sheet. Subadults and Juveniles are now combined into one category. If the dolphin is smaller than an adult but bigger than a calf, record it as 'Subadult'.
13. [E] When the photo frame numbers are entered near the bottom of the sheet for each photographer, be sure to enter the subsequent frame numbers in the boxes for "This Event Sheet#" **PRIOR** to the photographer(s) taking the photo(s) of the entire Event sheet after the sighting/Event.
14. Be sure to CLEARLY complete **ALL** the data in every Section [A-F] on **every** Event sheet



⇒ Use **MILITARY TIME & DATE FORMAT:** 2:00pm= 14:00 / April 9, 2023 = 2023 04 09

⇒ **PRINT CLEARLY**

Survey Start Time

Survey End Time

Write: first name, last name

A	YYYY	MM	DD	Skipper TeamLeader Photographer-1 Photographer-2	Assist TL Assist TL Assist TL CI
	ZONE				
	<input type="text"/>				
	<input type="text"/>				

B	Event # <input type="text"/> <small>continuous numbering all day</small>	Use decimal format: LATITUDE -NORTH	LONGITUDE -WEST
	EVENT START time <input type="text"/>	3	-8
ON EFFORT: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> <small>In the zone, actively looking for dolphins</small>	EVENT END time <input type="text"/>	3	-8

C	TIDE	OH - Outgoing High OM - Outgoing Mid OL - Outgoing Low	IH - Incoming High IM - Incoming Mid IL - Incoming Low	SEA	0 = Glassy 1 = <1ft 2 = 1-2 ft 3 = 2-3ft 4 = >3ft	WEATHER	C = Clear D = Drizzle P = Partly Coudy F = Fog O = Overcast R = Rain
	WATER INFO: DEPTH <input type="text"/> FEET SALINITY <input type="text"/> PH <input type="text"/> TEMP <input type="text"/> CELCIUS						

D	ADULT: 6' or more / SUBADULT: 4-5'; Stays with similar size / CALF: 3-4'; Stays w/ mother / NEONATE: 3' or less; Dark skin; Light fetal folds; Soft fins.								
Adults	<input type="text"/>	Subadults	<input type="text"/>	Calves	<input type="text"/>	Neonates	<input type="text"/>	TOTAL # dolphins	<input type="text"/>

M MILLING: non-directional movement	F FEEDING: fish in mouth
T TRAVELING: heading in general direction	PF PROBABLE FEED: fish splashing near dolphin, birds nearby, repetitive deep dives
B BREACH: leap out of water/land on side	MD MUDDING-STRAND FEEDING: part or totally out ofwater-on mud bank - with fish
L LEAP: jump out of water/ head enters water first	H HERDING/HARDSTOP: rushing fish parallel to mudbank, abrupt stop & turn
S SEX: Erect penis	C CIRCLING: Dolphins circling to corral fish in center
PS PROBABLE SEX: Rolling together	K KERPLUCKING/WHACKING: slapping tail to stun fish
SH SPYHOP: pops up to look around	BI BOAT INTERACTION: riding alongside; bow riding
P Playing, Social	BG BEGGING: head out of water, mouth open, approaches boat

DOLPHIN DISTRESS: If directed towards boat, STOP sighting, LEAVE DOLPHINS. Check behaviors seen: Tailslap Chuffing Jaw Clap

Enter Behavior Codes: Other:

Photographer #1 initials= <input type="text"/>	START of SURVEY: <input type="text"/> Event Sheet Frame #	Photographer #2 initials= <input type="text"/>	START of SURVEY: <input type="text"/> Event Sheet Frame #
This Event Camera Frames # - #	This Event Sheet#	This Event Camera Frames # - #	This Event Sheet#
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

F OBSERVATIONS/ NOTES/ SKETCHES

Science Finds and News Notes

Disclaimer: The news articles in this newsletter do not represent the views or opinions of The Dolphin Project organization or any individual member. All content provided within is for informational purposes only.

West-Coast Gray Whale Population Continues to Decline

Gray whales on the North American Pacific coast fell to their lowest population since the late 1960s this year but have shown encouraging signs such as an increased number of calves born and healthier looking animals, scientists report. watch this video for details. <https://www.reuters.com/video/watch/gray-whale-populations-continue-to-declineOV383430062023RP1#:~:text=Gray%20whales%20on%20the%20North,healthier%20looking%20animals%2C%20scientists%20report>.

Dolphin Moms Use ‘Baby Talk’ With Their Calves

Parents around the world coo at their babies in swooping, high-pitched tones called “motherese,” or baby talk. This exaggerated way of speaking—which we also use with our pets—is thought to help infants bond with their caregivers and learn the boundaries between syllables and words. Dolphins, it turns out, may do the same. In a study published today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers report that bottlenose dolphin mothers heighten the pitch of their whistles when communicating with their calves. The behavior—the first time motherese has been found in a nonhuman animal—may enhance bonding and, possibly, learning. For the full story, see: <https://www.science.org/content/article/dolphin-moms-use-baby-talk-their-calves>

The Unique Evolution of the Pygmy Right Whale

The pygmy right whale, scientifically known as *Caperea marginata*, has long been a source of contention among scientists due to its unique skeletal structure and the lack of comprehensive understanding regarding its ecological behaviors. However, a breakthrough study recently published in the journal MARINE MAMMAL SCIENCE has shed light on this ancient evolutionary puzzle. “After 150 years of anatomical orthodoxy and decades of dispute, genomics now shows beyond reasonable doubt that *Caperea* is a distinct lineage and not related to right whales. Like river dolphins and sperm whales, *Caperea* is the sole guardian of a unique piece of evolutionary heritage. It’s not just another weird right whale – it truly is the last survivor of an otherwise lost family that once played a much bigger role in Earth’s history.” <https://www.earth.com/news/the-unique-evolutionary-journey-of-the-pygmy-right-whale/>

78 Pilot Whales Slaughtered Near Cruise Ship Carrying Conservationists

A cruise line is apologizing to passengers who witnessed the killing of dozens of pilot whales near their docked ship this week in the Faroe Islands. Passengers aboard the cruise ship *Ambition*, owned by the U.K.-based Ambassador Cruise Line, had just arrived Sunday in the port of Tórshavn in the Danish territory when they caught the spectacle, part of a long-standing and highly scrutinized local tradition. <https://www.npr.org/2023/07/14/1187691372/pilot-whales-cruise-ship-faroe-islands>

Rare Pink Dolphin Spotted in Gulf of Mexico: Famous ‘Pinky’?

CAMERON PARISH, La. - What started out as an ordinary day out on the water for Thurman Gustin ended with an experience of a lifetime. Gustin, from Houston, told FOX 35 News he was fishing in the Old River area of Cameron Parish in Louisiana on July 12 when he spotted a pink dolphin swimming just below the surface. "I stopped and started recording on my phone," he said. "I have never seen anything like it and just wanted to save the memories." For more details, see: <https://www.fox35orlando.com/news/rare-pink-dolphin-spotted-in-gulf-of-mexico-could-be-famous-pinky-i-have-never-seen-anything-like-it>

Lawmakers Demand Ban on Offshore Wind Farms Due to Whale Deaths

New Jersey GOP lawmakers asked for 60-day halt on construction on sprawling Wind Farms being built off the coast during a hearing on Wednesday. At least 32 whales have turned up dead along east coast beaches since December. Federal Researchers have insisted the deaths are not caused by wind turbines. For the full story, see: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12044625/Lawmakers-demand-answers-shore-wind-turbines-blame-whale-deaths.html>

How to Disentangle a Forty-Foot Right Whale

Every winter, the coasts of Georgia and Florida become the front line in the fight to save a critically endangered species. A day in the life of the heroes doing the work.

<https://gardenandgun.com/feature/how-to-disentangle-a-forty-foot-right-whale/>

By **ELIZABETH FLORIO** February 1, 2023



A rescue team works to remove hundreds of feet of fishing rope from Nimbus, a fifteen-year-old North Atlantic right whale, off the coast of Jekyll Island, Georgia, on January 20, 2023. Photo: CMARI with NOAA Permit #24359

Even for someone with a remarkable day job, January 20, 2023 was a remarkable day for Melanie White. A biologist with Florida's Clearwater Marine Aquarium Research Institute, White spends every fair-weather day from December through February in a twin-engine Cessna Skymaster, scouring the Atlantic Ocean for right whales as they migrate near Georgia and Florida to give birth.

The work can be slow, in part because they are difficult to spot (the species lacks a dorsal fin, a feature that leaves them vulnerable to boat strikes), but mostly because they are so few. Scientists estimate that fewer than 350 North Atlantic right whales remain, among them fewer than seventy-five reproductively active females. A good day might bring one whale sighting. A great one, a mother and her calf.

On the morning of January 20, White and three crewmates were flying near Georgia's Blackbeard Island when they spotted just that—the eleventh such pair of the season. They recognized the mom as a whale named Pediddle, who sports a bright scar on the side of her black head that looks like a single car headlight. In the white-knuckle math of right whale conservation, every calf is crucial. Last year saw fifteen documented births, and while this season's tally won't be final for another month or so, it won't be enough to stop the slide. In recent years, about thirty North Atlantic right whales have died annually, most from human causes. While White's team was tracking Pediddle, Clay George was on the water not far away, patrolling by boat. A senior wildlife biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, George has spent the last fifteen years collecting skin samples from right whale calves, which he obtains with a biopsy dart shot by crossbow. He's also the lead responder when a whale is found ensnared in fishing gear—one of only two people in the Southeast trained to oversee such rescues—and as it happened, another whale had been spotted that morning, thirteen miles east of Jekyll Island, Georgia, by an aerial crew from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC): a lone male, dragging some four hundred feet of fishing rope.

The world of right whale conservation is tight-knit and well-coordinated. George headed toward Jekyll, where he would meet crews from the Georgia DNR, FWC, and NOAA. White's team, meanwhile, was told to stand by and relieve the FWC aircraft when it ran out of fuel. "Pretty much the entire Southeast was focused on this particular whale," she says. They were also looking out for each other. Any interaction with a forty-ton, forty-foot-long animal brings inherent danger. "Right whales are pretty obstinate and very flexible," says Mark Dodd, a Georgia DNR wildlife biologist who was on the scene. "If you're along the side of the whale, you're a target."

In 2017, Canadian rescuer Joe Howlett died moments after freeing an entangled right whale when the animal's tail, or fluke, struck him, likely killing him instantly. George, who knew Howlett and his team, says most of his training concerns the human element. "At the end of the day, our primary objective is getting home safely.

By 2:15 p.m. George and three other responders—Trip Kolkmeier, Jen Jakush, and Lisa Conger—had jumped into a Georgia DNR center-console and approached the whale, identified as fifteen-year-old Nimbus. A half-inch-thick rope draped through Nimbus's mouth like a piece of stuck dental floss (only with baleen plates instead of teeth) and cascaded behind and beneath him in the murky water. To this rope the team swiftly attached a tracking buoy so that when Nimbus dove, they could follow him. Then they cut the length of rope behind the buoy—some two hundred feet of it—to lighten his load.



Nimbus, named for the cloudlike markings on his head, is shown here entangled in fishing rope, which rescuers believe he dragged from the northeastern United States or Canada. The rope will be sent to NOAA Fisheries to determine its origin. PHOTO: FWC W/ NOAA PERMIT #24359

Next, they sent up a drone to get a better view of the entanglement, which might prove beyond their capabilities. In March 2021, a seventeen-year-old pregnant female named Snow Cone was found wrapped in fishing rope off Cape Cod; rescuers removed what they could, but it remained tightly embedded in her jaw. George encountered her that December, remarkably with a calf in tow. But the severity of the entanglement coupled with the hazard of the calf swimming beside her made intervention impossible. “We just had to stand down all season as she was sighted multiple times,” he recalls. Snow Cone was last seen off the coast of Nantucket in September 2022, emaciated and tangled in even more rope, and she’s presumed to have died.

A healthy North American right whale can live up to sixty years, possibly much longer in the right conditions. The tragedy of entanglements is not

just the population toll on these large-brained mammals—they account for more than half of all the right whale deaths, injuries, and illnesses NOAA has tracked since 2017—but the protracted suffering they induce. A lethal rope entanglement takes an average of six months to run its course, during which time the whale slowly starves, drowns, or sickens.

The right whales’ plight has put pressure on the New England and Canadian lobster fisheries and the Canadian snow crab fishery, together the biggest source of fixed fishing rope in the Atlantic. This past October, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch added American lobster to its “red list” of seafood to avoid; in November, the retail giant Whole Foods stopped selling it altogether. Industry advocates in Maine, home to most U.S. lobster fishers, contend no whale deaths have been linked to their gear. (State-specific gear marking requirements only went into effect in 2022.) Last month, a Maine congressional delegation successfully delayed new fishing regulations aimed at protecting whales from 2024 to 2028.

In a stroke of luck, Nimbus’s entanglement was straightforward, a single rope trailing asymmetrically like the letter J. Removing it, though, was more complicated. George knew they weren’t going to be able to sidle up to his mouth and yank it out. Instead, they’d have to use what’s called a cutting grapple—a tool with fork-like tines to grab the rope and small knife blades to shear it—attached to a throwing line. The opposite end of the line held a buoy they could toss overboard, and the resulting drag would slice through even the thickest rope.

For that task, they switched to a small inflatable Zodiac that posed less risk to Nimbus; Dodd came aboard to throw the grapple. The goal was to cut the rope as close to the mouth as possible, leaving only a small remnant for the whale to shed on his own, and therein lay the challenge: A whale’s head is the first part of its body to surface as it arcs over the waves for a breath and the first to disappear into the deep, which it does for five to ten minutes at a time, after which point it will emerge in a vastly different spot. George, steering the boat, would have to anticipate Nimbus and position them close enough for Dodd to lob the grapple, but not so close they’d risk hitting Nimbus with the propeller or endanger themselves.

Fortunately, they had eyes in the sky. By now White and her team were circling above them, and from her vantage point she could observe Nimbus's shadowy body or his dappled white nose just before he broke the surface. Then she could radio instructions to the Zodiac: "Whale surfacing. Three boat lengths. Eleven o'clock."

But Nimbus was evasive, inevitably a boat length out of reach, and the chase dragged on. Squinting through the glare of the late-afternoon sun, White called down instructions as Dodd gripped the razor-sharp grapple and George tried to navigate to what White called the miracle location. But each time, they were met with a disappearing fluke. By five o'clock in the evening, the light and their hopes were beginning to fade. "We were telling each other that this is the 'nth hour'—we've passed the eleventh hour," White says.

Then, dumb luck: "Whale surfacing. One boat length. Eleven o'clock." Nimbus popped up ten feet from the Zodiac, as surprised to see them as they were him. "Whales can do this funny thing when they're coming up and they see somebody," Dodd says. "They put their flippers up, put their fluke down, and arch their back inward, kind of like putting on the brakes." This funky little maneuver proved beneficial. The rope on either side of his mouth floated to the surface, Dodd made an easy toss, and Nimbus started to slowly sink, feeling the pressure on the line. Three seconds later, before they had a chance to offload the buoy, the rope gave way and Dodd found himself flat on his back in the boat, staring up at his smiling colleagues.

No one seemed happier than Nimbus, who now towed only half a body-length of rope. He sensed the change immediately. He turned south. He picked up speed. He dove once and then again, his fluke lifting higher than they'd seen all day. Then he was gone, the tracking buoy floating uselessly beside the Zodiac on the severed rope.

{See the Garden & Gun article online for a 45 second video of nimbus taken from the helicopter.}

Given stereotypes about bleeding-heart whale huggers, one might assume Melanie White is emotionally invested in the fate of each animal she encounters. But when asked how she would have felt had the team failed to help Nimbus, her answer is pragmatic. "We're here to do everything we can, to assist as much as possible for as long as possible. If it is a successful event, that is fantastic. If it's not, we know we put everything into it that we could."

It's a necessary attitude in a line of work that can feel Sisyphean. And yet, Pediddle has two living granddaughters of calf-bearing age, Chiminea and Sickie, and she herself is still calving and has been for forty years. She is a poster child for the exponential impact saving just one North Atlantic right whale can have.

George hopes to relocate and biopsy Pediddle's new calf in the coming weeks, before the pair heads north to feed off the coast of New England and Canada. He also hopes to encounter a young whale recently spotted near North Carolina with a life-threatening entanglement. "She's female," he says, "so we're all hopeful she'll show up at some point and we might be able to do something for her."

He believes North Atlantic right whales' time isn't up yet, that there's opportunity to change the mortality side of the equation. But doing so will take more than the work of a few dedicated marine biologists. "We have all these special tools and training and do what we can to disentangle these whales, but really the solution is prevention," he says. That means policy change and the adoption of new fishing technology like ropeless lobster traps.

Still, given the species' critically low numbers, it seems fair to say that if our children's children get to coexist with these animals, it will be because of the hands-on heroism of their fiercest defenders, the ones who held the line. The ones like George, White, Dodd, Joe Howlett, and their partners and colleagues up and down the East Coast who, as the sun set at the nth hour, went out and did everything they could. **(END)**



Responders Mark Dodd, Trip Kolkmeier, Clay George, and Jen Jakush approach Nimbus in a rigid-hull inflatable Zodiac.
PHOTO: FWC w/NOAA PERMIT # 24359