

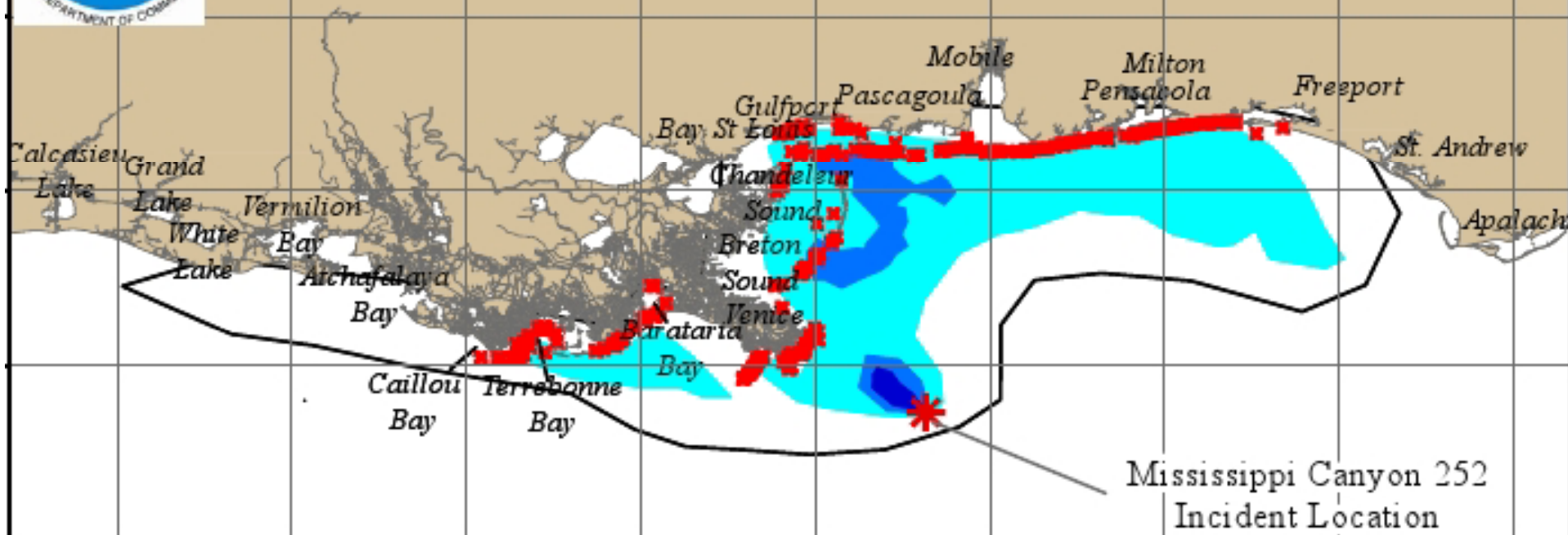


# **IMMS Response** to the **Deepwater Horizon** **Oil Spill** **April 20, 2010**

<http://cajuntvnetwork.com/gulf-oil-spill-update>



# NOAA Spill Trajectory July 1, 2010



# Marine Animals Inhabiting the Gulf of Mexico



Protected Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin



Threatened Loggerhead Sea Turtle



Endangered Manatee

The Gulf of Mexico is home to many endangered, threatened and protected species of marine mammals and turtles. Large numbers of these marine animals were found sick, injured, or dead in the months after the oil spill.



# Sea Turtle Deaths

In 2010, IMMS responded to 299 dead sea turtles and rescued and rehabilitated 70 live sea turtles.



**Stranded Manatee**



**Stranded Dolphin Calf**

# Animal Rescue & Response

In 2010, after the oil spill, IMMS responded to over 460 dead marine animals including: manatees, dolphins, and sea turtles.



**Rescued Juvenile Dolphin under rehabilitation**

# Scientific Investigation



IMMS veterinarians, Dr. Kaletch and Dr. Chevis, along with Dr. Moby Solangi, Director of IMMS, perform a necropsy on baby dolphin found stranded on the beach in February 2011.

# Cleaning Oiled Sea Turtles





In 2010, 70 live sea turtles were found sick or injured in the MS-AL area. This endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtle was caught on a fish hook in MS.

## Habitat Disruption







# Sea Turtle Rehabilitation

Senator Wicker along with his wife, Gayle, watch IMMS veterinarian and training staff perform medical procedures on a rescued Kemp's Ridley sea turtle.

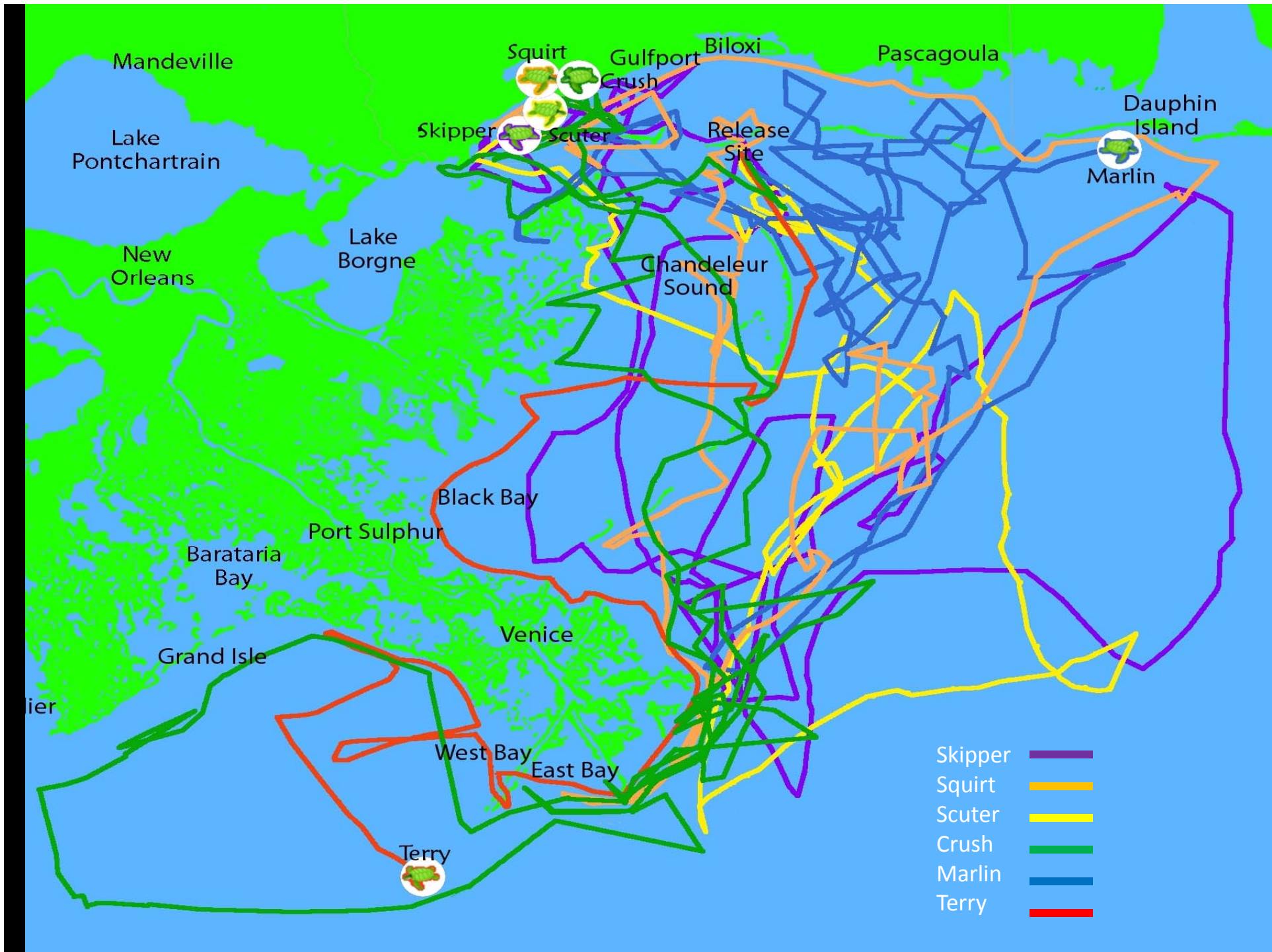


Sea Turtle Release in nGOM

# Satellite Tracking & Research

Six Kemp's Ridley sea turtles were released in November 2010 with Satellite Tracking Tags. This pioneering study will help IMMS scientists and others better understand sea turtles of GOM. Follow them at [www.imms.org](http://www.imms.org)





# Dead Zone

Rivers and tributaries from 31 states flow into the Mississippi River and eventually empty into the Gulf of Mexico.



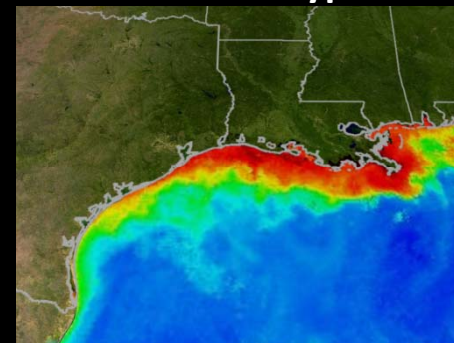
Animal waste and agricultural and industrial runoff drain into tributaries and rivers polluting the water with contaminants like antibiotics and mercury.

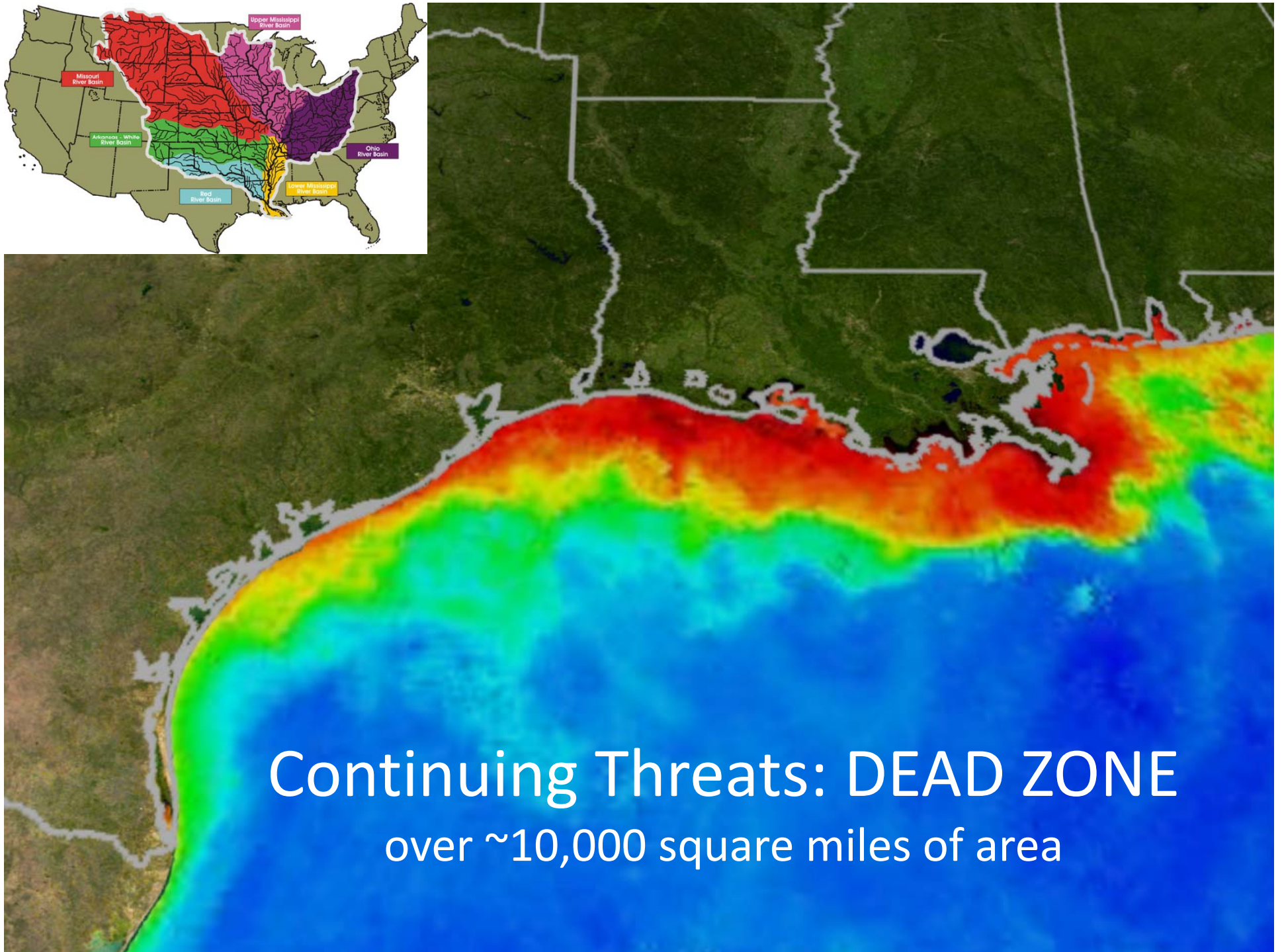


Pollutants in the water travel up the food chain and are ultimately consumed by top predators including dolphins and humans.

**Excess nutrients in the runoff allow algae to bloom creating hypoxic (low oxygen) conditions resulting in dead zones. Few organisms can survive under these hypoxic conditions.**

At the mouth of the Mississippi River, there is a 10,000 square mile Dead Zone. Every summer the Dead Zone expands affecting coastal ecosystems from Florida to Texas.





Continuing Threats: DEAD ZONE  
over ~10,000 square miles of area

# Why Study Dolphins

The northern Gulf of Mexico is home to the largest population of bottlenose dolphins in the U.S. Approximately 75,000 dolphins inhabit the coastal waters off of MS and LA



Dolphins, like humans, are at the top of the food chain and they are affected by natural factors and human influences in the marine environment.



Because humans and dolphins share habitat and food supply, changes in the ecosystem that impact dolphins also affect humans.





# Center for Marine Education and Research—Gulfport, MS



Research and Conservation

Education and Outreach Programs







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Dr. Moby Solangi is the President and Executive Director of the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies. He founded the organization in 1984 to promote marine research, conservation and education. Dr. Solangi received his Ph.D. in marine biology from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1980. He has conducted pioneering research on dolphins both in the wild and under human care. His research experience includes work in pathobiology, disease diagnoses and control, aquaculture, water-quality management, marine ecology, and marine mammal behavior, husbandry and veterinary care. In addition, Dr. Solangi serves as adjunct faculty at multiple universities and accordingly has supervised graduate students conducting research on marine mammals. His professional associations include membership in the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine, Society for Marine Mammalogy, and the International Marine Animal Trainers Association. Dr. Solangi has an extensive list of publications ranging over multiple scientific disciplines