

NMFS Office of Protected Resources

Review of December 9, 2015 Stranding Event

June 9, 2016

NMFS completed its review of the long-beaked common dolphin stranding reported on NMFS's website on December 22, 2015. Based on the information available, NMFS determined the event does not warrant modifications to the Letters of Authorization for the U.S. Navy's Hawaii Southern California Training and Testing (HSTT) under 50 CFR 218.78(c)(1) or notice and comment procedures under 50 CFR 216.106(e) or 50 CFR 218.78(c)(1)(ii).

As reported, on December 9, 2015, Navy personnel discovered a dead long-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus capensis*) in the demolition pit area of Silver Strand Beach in San Diego, California (approximately 32.6499N, 117.15122W). The Stranding Response team from the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center responded the following day, and confirmed a juvenile long-beaked common dolphin in an advanced state of decomposition. The Navy confirmed the use of high frequency sonar shortly before, and in the vicinity of, the stranding location.

The fact that the animal was in an advanced state of decomposition at the time of discovery precludes a determination of the likely cause(s) of the stranding or death of the animal. Because the available information does not support a causal connection between the Navy's HSTT training or testing and the death of this animal, NMFS concludes that this event does not warrant any actions pursuant to 50 CFR 216.106(e) or 50 CFR 218.78(c).