

# Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins

## Community Meeting Summary: November 29, 2021

### Population: Three Stocks

Hawai'i Island: 617    Kaua'i/ Ni'ihau: 601    O'ahu/ 4 Islands: 355

### Hawaiian Spinner Dolphin Behavior

- Rest near shore during day, nurturing young, sheltering from predators
- Feed offshore at night

### Disturbance

- Disturbance caused by:
  - Wildlife viewing industry
  - Spiritual retreats
  - Self-guided tours
  - Individuals seeking interaction
- In some bays, dolphins exposed to human activities in close proximity (<100m) over 80% of the time
- Potential resident stocks at risk through habitat displacement or reduced fitness
- Rest period disturbance may result in distress behaviors and disrupt behavioral patterns

### Final Protective Regulations

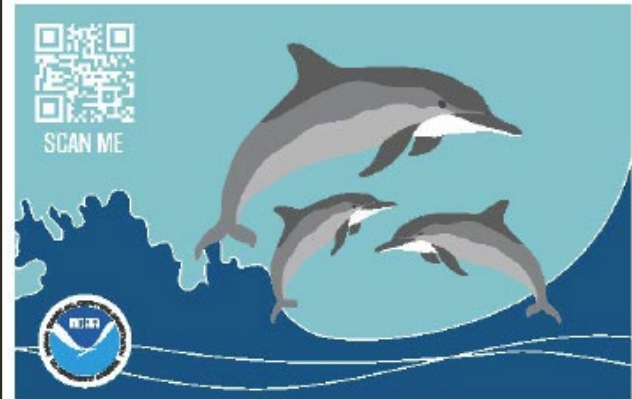
#### Final Rule Swim-with & Approach as of 10/28/21

- Prohibits swimming with, approaching, or remaining within 50 yards of Hawaiian spinner dolphins, in waters within 2 nm of the Hawaiian Islands and in designated waters bounded by Lāna'i, Maui, and Kaho'olawe
- Prohibits intercepting or placing a vessel, person, or object in the path of Hawaiian spinner dolphins, causing dolphins to approach a vessel, person, or object within 50 yards

#### Exceptions:

- Provided no effort made to engage/pursue dolphins:
  - Anyone inadvertently within 50 yards or approached by dolphins & immediately moves away
  - Vessels underway and approached by dolphins, with vessels continuing normal navigation
  - Vessels anchored or aground & approached by dolphins
- Vessels to/from a port, harbor, or restricted channel when 50 yard distance won't allow safe navigation
- Vessel operations necessary to avoid imminent & serious threat to people/vessels
- NMFS permitted authorized activities
- Necessary govt. vessels/aircraft, personnel, and assets during official duties
- Valid marine mammal authorized commercial fishing vessels accidentally taking dolphins during operations

## RESPECT THEIR SPACE



HAWAIIAN SPINNER DOLPHIN  
DISTANCE LAW

# 50 YARDS

### Proposed Protective Regulations

#### Proposed Rule

- Proposes mandatory time area closures (6am-3pm daily)
  - Hawai'i Island Bays – Kealakekua, Hōnaunau, Kauhakō, Makako
  - Maui – La Perouse Bay

#### Exceptions:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/marine-mammal-protection/questions-answers-proposed-rule-establish-time-area>

#### 90-day Public Comment Period:

- NOAA Fisheries public hearing December 9, 2021 5 p.m.–8 p.m. HST
  - <https://noaanmfsmeets.webex.com/noaanmfsmeets/j.php?MTID=mce215a9ffa3f601324ffeca0ddcbc1b8>
  - Password: "dolphin"
  - Phone: 415-527-5035
  - Access code: 276 477 10691
- Public comments accepted until 12/27/21
  - Electronic Submission:
    - [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and enter NOAA-NMFS-2021-0091
  - Mail:
    - Kevin Brindock,
    - Deputy Assistant Regional Administrator National Marine Fisheries Service
    - Pacific Islands Regional Office
    - 1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176 Honolulu, HI 96818

Report potential violations or marine wildlife emergencies to the  
NOAA Marine Wildlife Hotline:

**(888) 256-9840**

Email video and photo evidence to:  
[respectwildlife@noaa.gov](mailto:respectwildlife@noaa.gov)

