

## VA Pound Net Fishery

**Fishing gear type:** Pound Net

**Current category:** Category II\*

**Basis for current classification on the LOF:** The total annual mortality and serious injury of bottlenose dolphins (Western North Atlantic [WNA] stock) in this fishery is greater than 1% and less than 50% of the stock's Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level.

**Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed (a<sup>(1)</sup> indicates those stocks driving the fishery's classification):** Bottlenose dolphin, WNA coastal<sup>(1)</sup>.

**Estimated number of current participants:** 41

**Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery:** Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan (BDTRP), 50 CFR 229.35.

**Year added to the LOF:** 2001

**Category when originally listed:** Category II

**Basis for original classification on the LOF:** This fishery was categorized as a Category II based on evidence of coastal bottlenose dolphin mortality in pound nets, especially in the Virginia portion of the Chesapeake Bay. NMFS proposed to list the fishery to cover the entire mid-Atlantic; however, it was limited to Virginia because of where interactions occurred. Other pound net effort was incorporated into the Category III "U.S. mid-Atlantic mixed species stop seine/weir/pound net fishery." Using stranding data only (therefore minimum estimates) from 1993-1997, 2 (or 0.4 animals/year) bottlenose dolphin carcasses were found with marks consistent with pound nets, which was 1.6% of PBR (PBR=25). One other stranding in the area was suspected to be from an interaction with pound net gear.

**Estimated number of participants when originally listed:** 187

**Past names, if any:** None.

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**Gear description/method for fishing:** This fishery uses stationary gear. Pound net gear includes a large mesh lead posted perpendicular to the shoreline and extending outward to the corral, or "heart," where the catch accumulates.

**Target species:** Weakfish, spot, and croaker.

**Spatial/temporal distribution of effort:** Effort in this fishery occurs in nearshore coastal and estuarine waters off Virginia. This fishery includes all pound net effort in Virginia state waters, including waters inside the Chesapeake Bay.

**Levels of observer coverage each year<sup>†</sup>:** There has not been observer coverage in this fishery.

**Management and regulations:** The fishery is managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission under the Interstate Fishery Management Plans for Atlantic Croaker and Spot, and is an affected fishery under the BDTRP.

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\* The fishery is classified based on mortalities and serious injuries of a marine mammal stock greater than 1% and less than 50% (Category II) of the stock's Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level.

<sup>†</sup> Observer coverage levels include the latest information reported in the most current final Stock Assessment Report (SAR).

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**History of Changes on the LOF**

2010 LOF: Estimated number of participants updated from 187 to 41.

2006 LOF: Added a superscript “1” in Table 2 after bottlenose dolphin (WNA coastal), indicating that it is driving the categorization of this fishery.