

# Meet the Locals Clues & Answer Key

Read the below clues one at a time to the students after they have finished #1-6 on the Meet the Local Sentinels Worksheet. You may need to repeat the clues a couple times for groups to identify their dolphin. Students should fill out the table on #7 with the necessary information (underlined below). Use the picture, Dolphin Card number and Photo ID number on the right side to check their answers.

## Clue #1

This bottlenose dolphin has been sighted 56 times throughout the Charleston and Stono estuaries. The age is unknown but it is at least 16 years old since it was first sighted in 1994 and most recently in 2010. The sex of this dolphin is a female and she has had at least one calf. Researchers have noticed severe entanglement marks. The dorsal fin is very unique with its atypical shape, a big portion of the trailing edge missing between the middle third and upper third. Also, the apex of the fin is notched with a slight bump on the lower third of the leading edge. Due to her very unique dorsal fin shape, researchers have nicknamed her Cap, but her Dolphin ID number is 3000.



**Dolphin Card number: 6**  
**Photo ID: C3**

## Clue #2

This bottlenose dolphin has been sighted just 8 times in a 4 year period and only in the Stono estuary. Researchers do not know much about this individual dolphin except that the dorsal fin has a small notch in the middle third of the trailing edge as well as a wavy texture on the bottom third of the trailing edge. In addition the dorsal fin has several scars of unknown origin. This dolphin's ID number is 7423.



**Dolphin Card number: 1**  
**Photo ID: E2**

## Clue #3

This bottlenose dolphin has been sighted 40 times between the years of 2004 and 2017, so it is at least 13 years old. All 40 sightings happened within the Charleston estuary. Researchers have spotted this individual as a calf with a mom, but not with a calf of its own so its reproductive history is unknown. The dorsal fin on this individual is clean with no significant injuries but potentially small rake lines on the top and middle third between the leading and trailing edges. The dolphin's ID number is 12835.



**Dolphin Card number: 3**  
**Photo ID: C4**

## Clue #4

This bottlenose dolphin has been sighted 49 times. Its age is unknown but it is at least 19 years old as the earliest sighting was in 1998 and the most recent as in 2017. Researchers are not positive on the sex, but believe they saw this dolphin with a calf. Due to this, they would hypothesize it is a female. This dolphin has been seen almost exclusively in the Charleston estuary but was witnessed twice in the Stono estuary. The dorsal fin is unique with a notch found in the middle third of the trailing edge. Otherwise it looks to be a clean fin. This bottlenose dolphin's ID number is 7083.



**Dolphin Card number: 4**  
**Photo ID: D3**

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## Clue #5

This bottlenose dolphin has only been sighted along the coast, but was sighted 13 times between 2004-2008. The dorsal fin of this individual has several notches along the entire trailing edge with the largest on the bottom third. Researchers think this could potentially be from an entanglement but are unsure. Additionally the dorsal fin has some mild scarring. This dolphin's ID number is 8134.



**Dolphin Card number: 2**  
**Photo ID: C1**

## Clue #6

This bottlenose dolphin is a commonly sighted one with 89 separate sightings between the years of 2002 to 2017. The sightings were along the coast and within the Charleston estuary. This dolphin is a female and researchers believe she is 20 years old. She has two significant notches which are both from tagging as well as a faint freezebrand (FB) number on her fin. A dolphin with a freezebrand number indicates it was an individual that was studied as a part of a health assessment in 2013. Freezebranding large numbers on the dorsal fin is a safe way to mark specific dolphins so researchers can tell who is who, even from afar. The FB number is 833 but her Dolphin ID number is 13023.



**Dolphin Card number: 8**  
**Photo ID: B1**

## Clue #7

This bottlenose dolphin is a male and has been sighted 46 times between the years of 2001 to 2017. All of the sightings occurred in the Charleston estuary. This dolphin's dorsal fin is very noticeable with a severe entanglement and/or boat strike injury that has healed. The top and middle third of the leading edge of the dorsal fin is not attached to the bottom third, which created his nickname, Flip. Flip's Dolphin ID number is 1020.



**Dolphin Card number: 5**  
**Photo ID: B4**

## Clue #8

This bottlenose dolphin was sighted 26 times from 2004 to 2009. Researchers sighted this male dolphin in the Charleston estuary and along the coast. This male has a very unique "chopped" dorsal fin because the top half is missing. Researchers believe this injury is due to a boat strike and/or a severe entanglement. There are also some scarring and several notches on the lower third of the trailing edge. This dolphin's ID number is 1028.



**Dolphin Card number: 7**  
**Photo ID: A3**