



NMFS Permit #24033  
Photographer: L. Transue

Seasonal resident of the May River, Lois, with her neonate.



Alyssa Marian (left), Caroline Tribble (middle), and Lindsey Transue on a dolphin survey in Chechessee River.



Lindsey Transue pulling up an acoustic recorder in the Colleton River.

## Meet our new student



Kelly driving the boat on a dolphin survey in Tampa Bay.

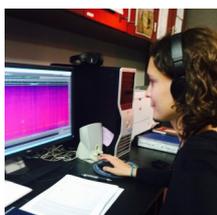
Meet our new College of Charleston graduate student Kelly Cusick! She got two bachelor's degrees in Biology and Environmental Studies from Eckerd College in 2021. At Eckerd College, she studied the impacts of tropical storms on dolphin sound production in the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay. Before joining our lab, Kelly worked for the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program where she worked with the Sarasota Bay Listening Network to identify and categorize signature whistles of dolphins. She is interested in a wide range of topics involving soundscapes and dolphins. She received the prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship, which helps support students with their graduate education. We are so excited to welcome Kelly into our lab this year!

## Recent achievements

We are thrilled to congratulate lab member Lindsey Transue for accepting a position with the NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, MA. Lindsey will be working with the Northeast Passive Acoustic Group where she will be studying baleen whales! Lindsey graduated this past May with her master's degree in marine biology from College of Charleston where her thesis focused on the soundscape of Charleston Harbor. She has been a wonderful member of our team for the past 3 years and we are sad to see her go. However, we know that she is going to do big things and we wish her the best of luck as she moves forward in her career! Go help protect the North Atlantic right whale!



Lindsey taking pictures on a dolphin survey.



First author Aga Monczak, analyzing acoustic files.

We are excited to announce that we recently had a feature article published in Marine Ecology Progress Series which compared the seasonal sound production of fish to young-of-the-year (YOY) abundance collected through haul seines. The species we focused on were black drum, silver perch, spotted seatrout, and red drum. In years with longer fish chorusing seasons, we found high abundance of silver perch, spotted seatrout, and red drum YOY. This shows that passive acoustics may aid in monitoring fish reproduction in estuaries. Check out our article at: <https://www.int-res.com/abstracts/meps/v693/feature/>.

Vol. 693: 1–17, 2022 <a href="https://doi.org/10.3354/meps14109">https://doi.org/10.3354/meps14109</a>	MARINE ECOLOGY PROGRESS SERIES Mar Ecol Prog Ser	Published July 21
<b>FEATURE ARTICLE</b>		OPEN ACCESS 
<b>Sciaenid courtship sounds correlate with juvenile appearance and abundance in the May River, South Carolina, USA</b>		
Agnieszka Monczak <sup>1,2,#</sup> , Bradshaw McKinney <sup>1,#</sup> , Jamileh Souiedan <sup>1</sup> , Alyssa D. Marian <sup>1,3</sup> , Ashlee Seder <sup>1</sup> , Eva May <sup>1</sup> , Thomas Morgenstern <sup>1</sup> , William Roumillat <sup>4</sup> , Eric W. Montie <sup>1,3,#,*</sup>		
<sup>1</sup> Department of Natural Sciences, University of South Carolina Beaufort, SC 29909, USA <sup>2</sup> Institute of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB24 2TZ, UK <sup>3</sup> Graduate Program in Marine Biology, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29412, USA <sup>4</sup> Marine Resources Research Institute, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Charleston, SC 29412, USA		

## Contact Us

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MarineNeuroLabAtUSCB/>

Website: <https://academics.uscb.edu/natural-sciences/faculty/eric-montie.html>

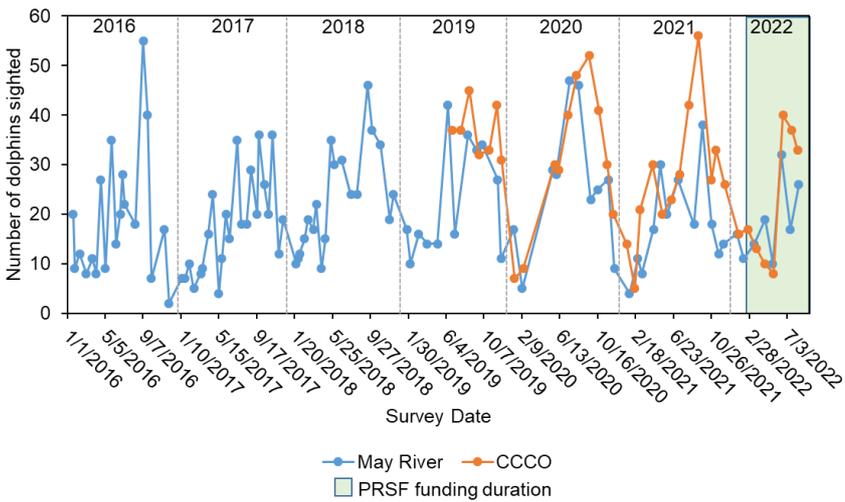
Website: <https://marinebiology.cofc.edu/about-the-program/faculty-listing/montie-eric.php>

## Meet our dolphins

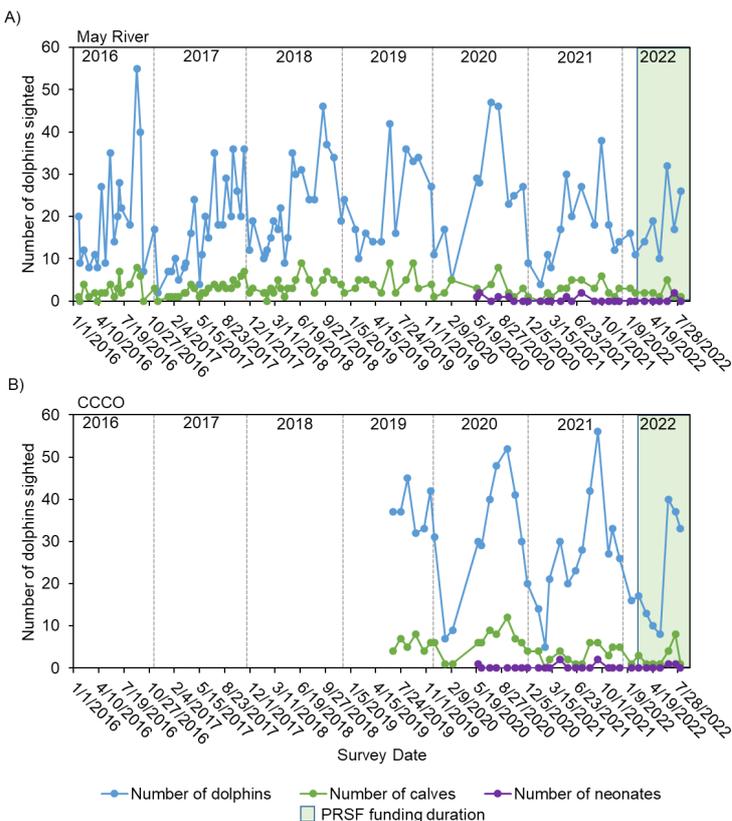


Meet Prop! We first sighted Prop in the Chechessee River, but in the past couple of months we have seen Prop in the May River as well. Prop is aptly named for the scars down the length of its tail that are likely from a boat propeller. Boat interactions are all too common for these animals and pose major health risks. Remember to be responsible when out on the water and to never pursue them. Give these animals their space (at least 50 yards), and if one approaches you please put your boat in neutral and allow the dolphin to pass freely.

## Bottlenose dolphin visual data



This figure shows the abundance of dolphins sighted on each survey in both the May River (blue) and Chechessee Creek, Chechessee River, Colleton River and Okatie River (CCCO) during 2016 to August, 2022. Surveys in CCCO began in June, 2019.



This figure shows the number of bottlenose dolphins, including the number of calves and neonates sighted in (A) the May River and (B) Chechessee Creek, Chechessee River, Colleton River and Okatie River (CCCO) from January 1st 2016 to August 31st 2022. Surveys in CCCO began in June, 2019. The Port Royal Sound Foundation funding period is highlighted in green.

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