

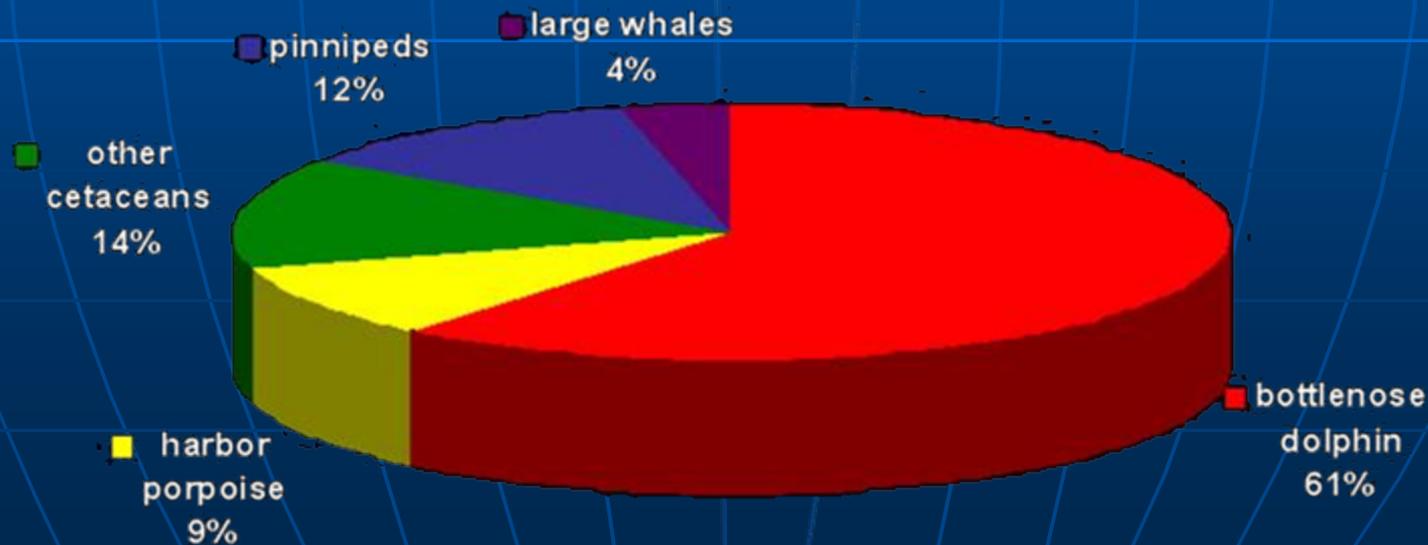
Overwintering Bottlenose Dolphins in Virginia

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Virginia Stranding Response

- 100-125 marine mammal strandings per year in VA
- ~90% of strandings are dead animals
- Bottlenose dolphins most frequent species to strand (60-75 per year)



Bottlenose dolphin strandings in VA

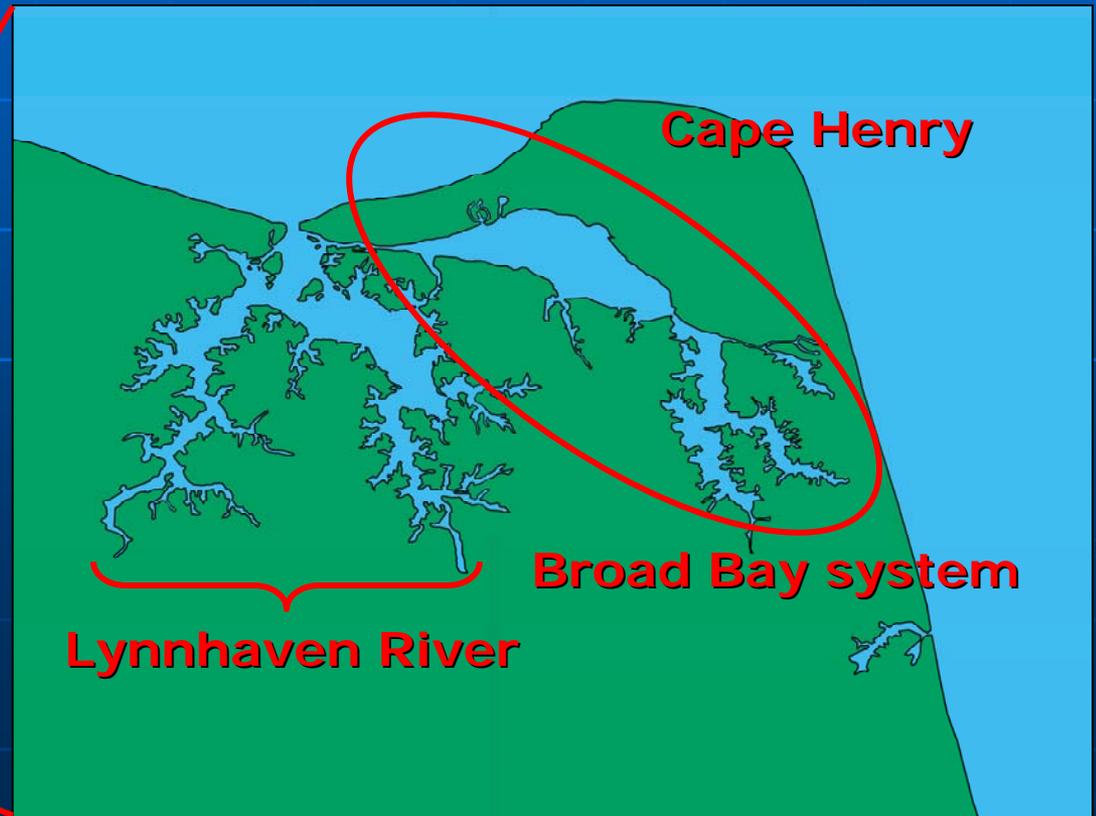
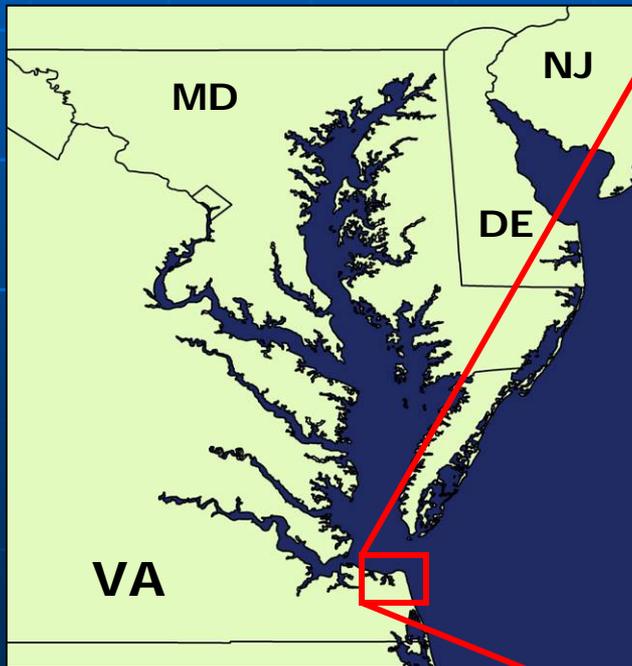
- Bottlenose dolphins strand in warm months



- Probable causes of death
 - Complications at birth (perinatal)
 - Fishery interaction
 - Parasitic/other infection (pneumonia; malnutrition)

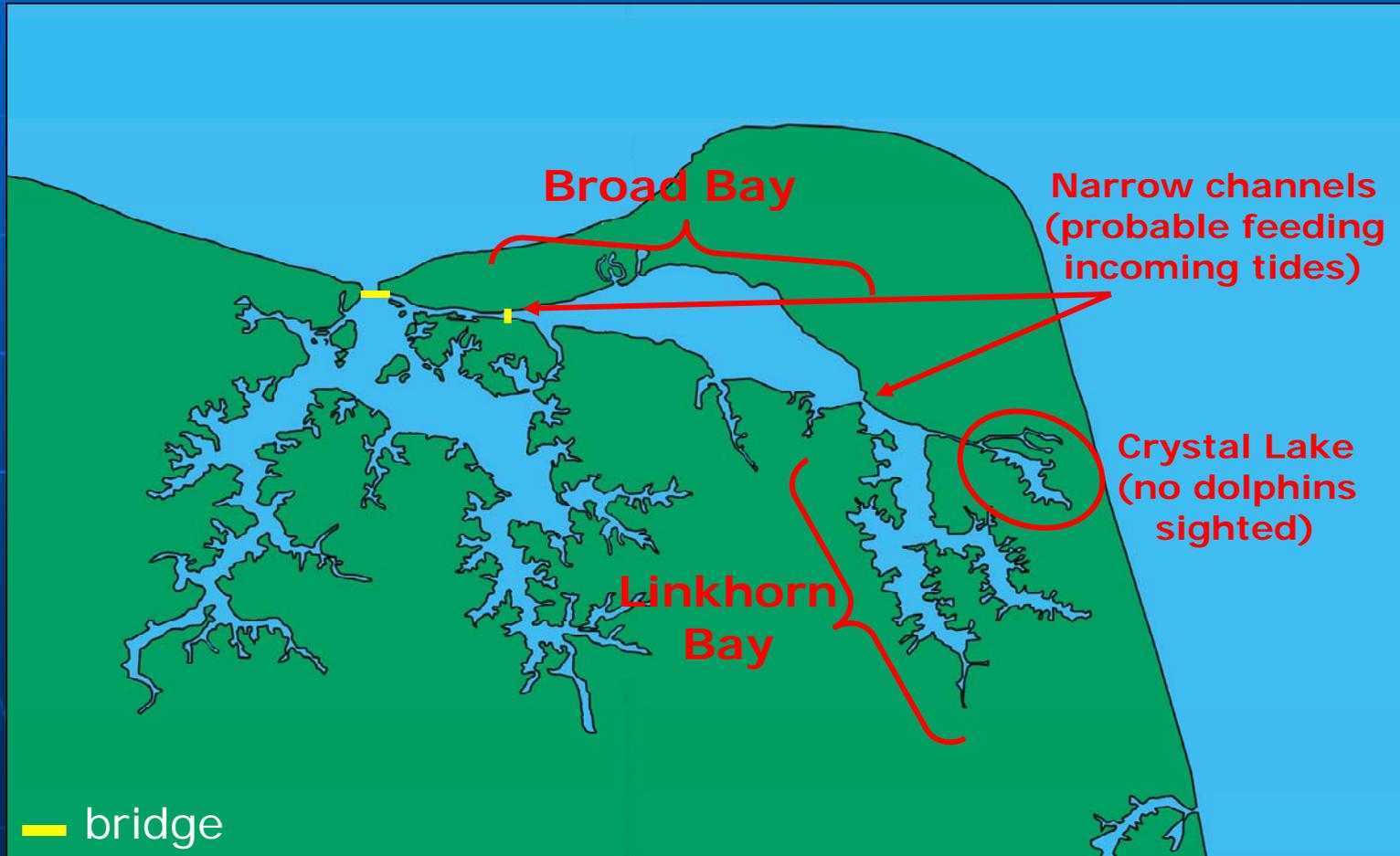
History of overwintering dolphins

- All known events were in the Broad Bay system off the Lynnhaven River in Virginia Beach



Broad Bay System

Tidal, brackish water system (10-15ppt), 3-6ft deep



Timeline of overwintering dolphins

- **Winter 1984-85** a single dolphin appeared. It was captured and moved to ocean (few details).
- **Winter 1988-89** a single dolphin, thought to be a juvenile, appeared and was 'adopted' by local dive shop. NOAA, VIMS & dive shop disagreed on action. VAQS asked to monitor '*Rascal*.'
 - Herding attempt(s) using pipes-unsuccessful
 - One unsuccessful capture attempt organized by dive shop
 - Successful capture in Feb
 - Relocated to Sea World for rehab
 - Released in FL with brand, not re-sighted

Save our dolphin: Plight touches hearts, purses

Residents, VIMS officials spar over dolphin's fate

RASCAL AT BAY
A dolphin's duty

Dolphin may be a Navy Vet
Military may have trained Rascal, expert believes

**Diver Says Rascal Will Definitely Die If Not Moved;
Rawls Says Moving Him More Dangerous Than Anything**

Dive Center Raises \$1,000 To Aid in Rascal's Rescue

**VIMS opposed Broad Bay
plan to save dolphin**

**U.S. Fisheries Service
Bars move of dolphin**

Case for saving 'Rascal' futile scientist says

Agency halts dolphin chase
Decision blocks relocation effort

Rascal ailing?
Fla. Team will try to net dolphin

Should so much effort be
Spent to rescue dolphin?

Sea World rescues sick dolphin
Confused animal leaves chilly waters of VA behind

Timeline of overwintering dolphins

- **Fall 1996** lone dolphin, thought to be juvenile, seen in Broad Bay
- Dolphin monitored throughout winter
- **June 1997** lone dolphin had calf (not juvenile after all)
- 5 dolphins join mom & calf
- **Winter 1997-98** all 7 dolphins overwinter
- **Summer 1998** additional calf sighted
- Overwintered 1998-2000
- **March 2000** moms & calves leave
- **Fall 2002** remaining dolphins left





PA

NJ

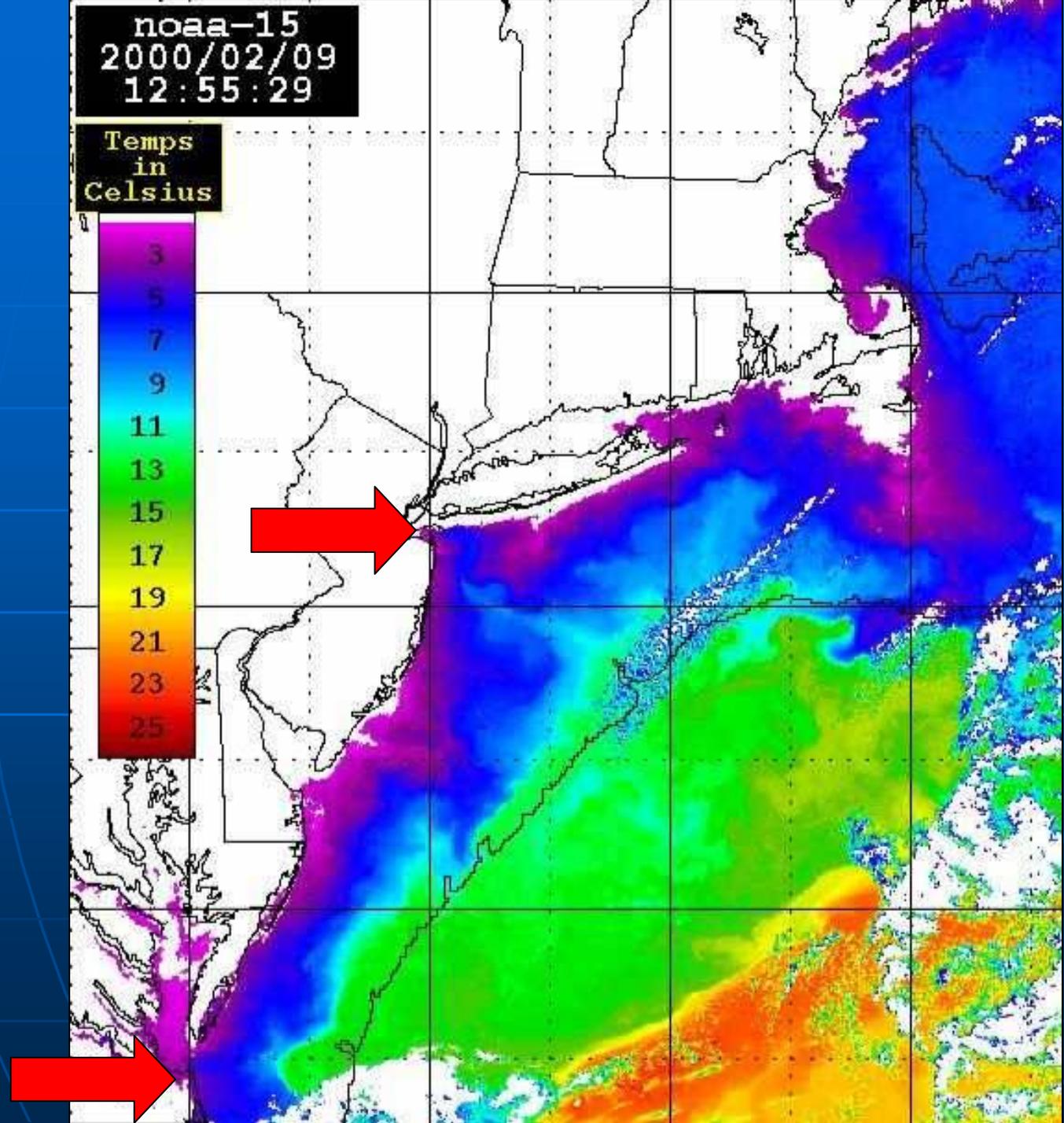
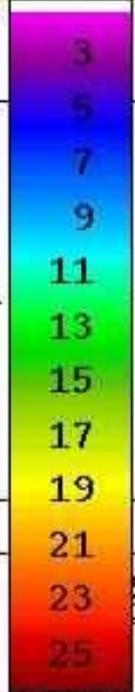
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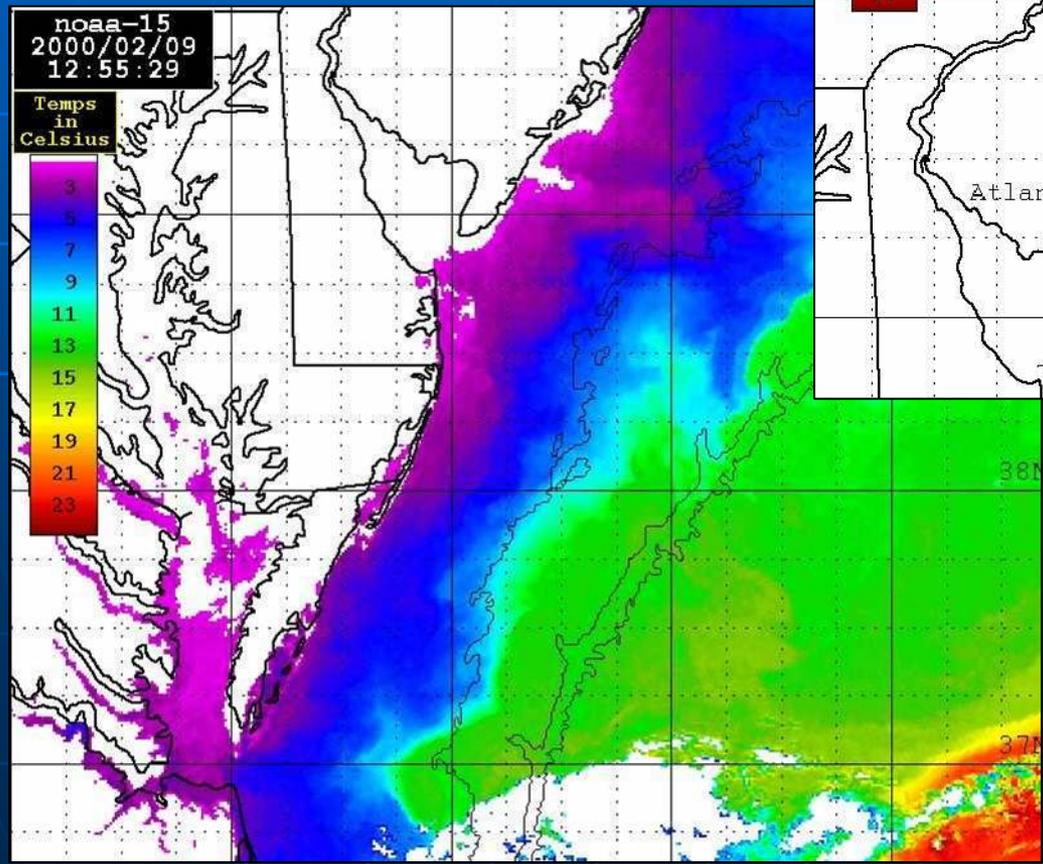
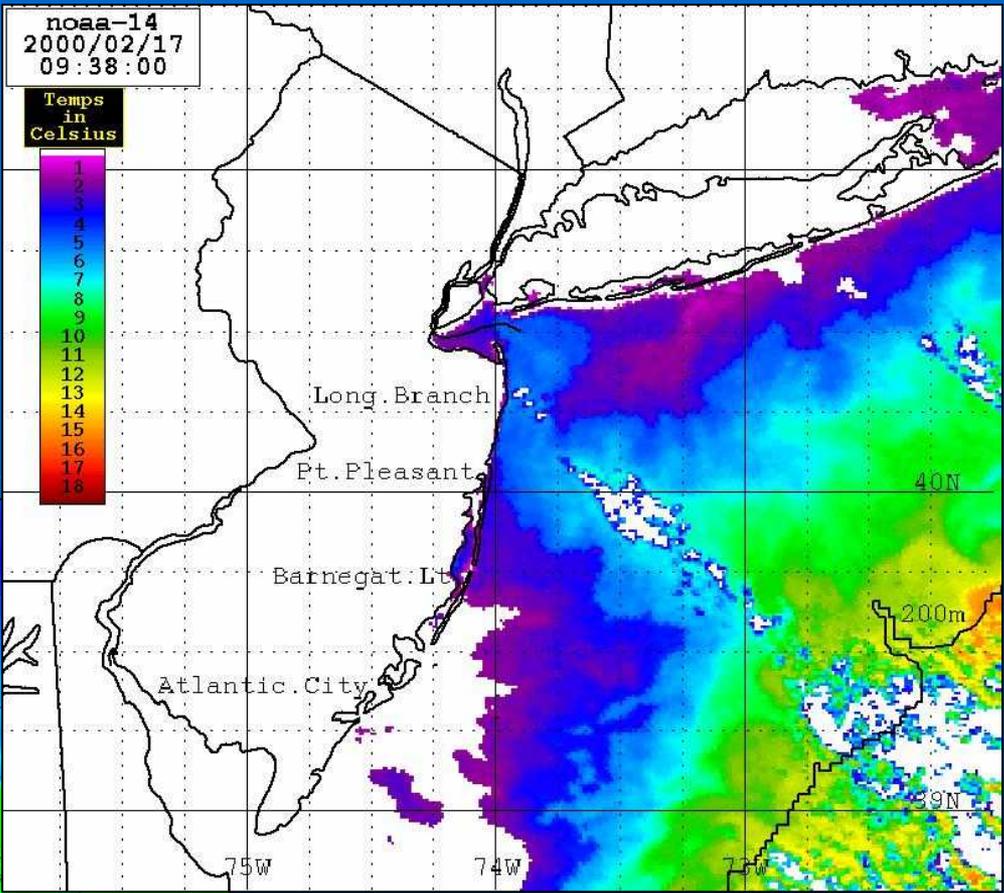
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VA

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Temps
in
Celsius





Future

- Reports of 1-2 dolphins in same area this season
- Monitoring, when possible
- Response if a stranding occurs

