

U.K. man fined for harassing dolphins

by UPI

BANFF, Scotland -- Sheriff's officials in Banff, Scotland, have levied Britain's first fine for harassing dolphins against a 22-year-old jet-skier. Banff Sheriff's Court heard testimony against Nicol Wood from several witnesses about the incident June 24, 2006, when Wood was seen traveling at high speed in Moray Firth on Scotland's northern coast, The Times of London reported. Last week, Wood entered a plea of innocent, but the court found him guilty Tuesday and fined him \$1,000, the report said. Witnesses said Wood stopped when he spotted the school of dolphins and began smacking the water and splashing to attract them. When they began breaking surface, he began cutting high-speed tight circles among them, witnesses said. Two witnesses familiar with the waters and local marine life described the dolphins as behaving erratically and apparently agitated, the Banffshire Journal reported.

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