

## 20 dead dolphins wash up in Texas

*by UPI*

GALVESTON , Texas - U.S. officials said finding the reason why 20 bottlenose dolphins were found dead on Texas beaches could prove difficult. The discovery of the dolphins, which occurred Monday in Galveston and Jefferson counties, follows a similar find near the same date last year, when 70 dolphins washed up in Galveston County, the Galveston Daily News reported Tuesday. Blair Mase, coordinator of regional efforts involving stranded marine animals for the U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, said that in both cases, the dolphins were decomposed, making testing the dead tissue problematic. She said many of the dead dolphins were newborns and elderly. Those groups "are the most vulnerable of the population that are succumbing to whatever's going on out there," Mase said.

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