

Dolphin pod dies trapped in ice off Canadian coast

March 17 2014



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Canadian fisheries officials twice visited the area around Cape Ray, Newfoundland where the animals were reported to have been trapped on Sunday and again Monday morning.

"All but three animals have died," ministry spokesman Larry Vaters told AFP.

"The remaining dolphins appear to be in extremely poor condition and current weather conditions of [high winds](#) and whiteouts in the area are not helping matters," he said.

The dolphins would have struggled for air as the [ice](#) floes crushed in around them, becoming exhausted and eventually drowning.

It is not uncommon to see dolphins, as well as porpoises and [beluga whales](#) swimming in the ice off Newfoundland waters during the spring thaw, officials noted.

The area's "unique geography and currents" tend to form so-called "whale traps" whenever the ice is heavy, Vaters noted. Six [blue whales](#) were driven ashore by ice and died here in 1987.

It is "very unfortunate" when marine animals become trapped in ice, Vaters said. But authorities, except in rare cases, will not intervene to rescue wild animals in distress.

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Citation: Dolphin pod dies trapped in ice off Canadian coast (2014, March 17) retrieved 10 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-03-dolphin-pod-dies-ice-canadian.html>

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