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ZULULAND OBSERVER

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DOLPHIN DIES IN SHARK NETS

Dave Savides

THE death of yet another endangered Humpback dolphin entangled in shark nets at Richards Bay on Monday has once again brought into focus this controversial means of bather protection.

The Zululand Observer was coincidentally at Alkantstrand on Monday morning and witnessed a Sharks Board crew removing a large Humpback from the net at Newark Beach.

It was taken to the Sharks Board premises and transferred to a cold room for later transport to the Oceanographic Research Institute in Durban.

Indications were that the dolphin had been snared earlier that morning.

Although figures were not made available, it is understood a number of Humpbacks have met a similar fate over the past year.

'We share the concern over the mortality rate,' said Sharks Board HOD: Operations, Mike Anderson-Read.

'We have met with the City of uMhlatuze, for which we are a service provider, to discuss proposed changes to the shark net installation. Hopefully they will respond positively.'

'Quite simply, we need to not catch dolphins.'

He stressed that shark nets were not compulsory by law, and that the ultimate decision rested with the municipality, with whom they have a service level agreement.

Bather protection versus environmental tragedy as yet another endangered Humpback dolphin is entangled

better understanding and co-operation in solving the shark net dilemma.

'Shark nets are killing sharks and dolphins to protect bathers from shark

attacks, which is quite an old-fashioned approach.

'It is tragic when such a magnificent creature like a dolphin dies.'

'We have inherited a difficult, controversial situation and we need to prevent these kinds of tragedies (dead dolphins, dead sharks) without causing other kinds of tragedies, like shark attacks.'

'It's time for a new approach and we think that the way to start is to involve all the people who are interested in and affected by sharks and shark nets.'

'We want to gather all these parties to sit together, understand one another's points-of-view and figure out some ideas that are worth testing here in Zululand,' said Atkins.



The Sharks Board crew remove a dead adult Humpback dolphin from the nets at Newark Beach on Monday

Dave Savides

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SETTLE YOUR DEBT IN 18 MONTHS OR LESS

How an Empangeni man cleared half a million Rand in debt.
Local resident from Empangeni *Mr Abdul saw himself fall into debt of nearly R500 000

Nearly half a million Rand in the red, it would have taken him a lifetime to try and pay off this astronomical amount. And, due to a tarnished credit score, he still would never again have been able to buy a house for his family or replace an old car.

*Mr Abdul, desperate to take control of his life, saw a local newspaper advert for Money & Legal Matters, and approached owner Anba 'Paddy' Padayachee for help.

Money & Legal Matters managed to reduce Mr Abdul's court judgement of around R500 000 to just below R80 000, with an affordable fixed monthly instalment of R1 500.

The best news is Mr Abdul's name has been cleared. He is now free to buy a house for his family.

This is just one of Paddy's many success stories, whose Empangeni based company, Money & Legal Matters, has been helping people out of their debt for the past 17 years.

Paddy says Money & Legal Matters differ from other debt review companies in the fact that they drastically reduce the client's total debt, enabling the client to pay it off within an average of 18 months, at an affordable rate.

The problem with debt is that it quickly becomes unmanageable. Reckless lending to people who cannot afford it, has caused millions of South Africans to land in financial trouble.

'Debt becomes a trap that most people don't know how to get out of,' says Paddy.

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