

Donate to Hubbs study of 2013 Indian River Lagoon dolphin die-off

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2013 was a bad year for Indian River Lagoon dolphins. Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute wants to know why, and you can help (<http://www.hswri.org/donate-now>).

The environmental nonprofit is more than halfway to its \$14,000 fundraising goal to finance a study of what caused the massive dolphin die-off, which research scientist Megan Stolen said was actually two events.

Cetacean morbillivirus, (<http://bit.ly/1MCfO5Q>) akin to measles in humans, was blamed for an event that killed more than 1,000 dolphins between New York and Florida. It's still a mystery what killed 78 lagoon dolphins in an earlier die-off (<http://bit.ly/1CR8iLc>).

“The first event was happening around the time that manatees and pelicans were dying (<http://bit.ly/1SoGBq5>) in the lagoon,” Stolen said. “Right now we’re kind of back to the drawing board, looking at ecosystem effects that may have caused the dolphins to become emaciated.”

Full story available to subscribers only.