

b. Hemorrhagic syndrome

c. Diseases including bacterial meningitis, septic peritonitis, pleuritis, or

25. **The Barataria Bay dolphin study is questionable.** Finally, Dr. Boesch refers to a published paper by Schwacke et al. (2014) on bottlenose dolphin health in Barataria Bay, Louisiana (Boesch p.39). There are reasons to doubt this study.<sup>15</sup> For example, the United States' own witness, Dr. Amy Merten, testified to an important discrepancy in this published paper (Schwacke et al. 2014) when compared to the corresponding field forms taken by the NOAA research team for this NRDA work plan (Exhibit 11771, Merten deposition, p.126; Figure 1 of Schwacke et al. (2014), Exhibit 11772, Merten deposition, pp.139-149). Schwacke reports that five dolphins in Barataria Bay were significantly underweight. However, Dr. Schwacke herself observed that 3 of these 5 dolphins (60%) were actually in ideal condition when observed in the field.<sup>16</sup> In addition, Schwacke's comparison of the Barataria Bay population to Sarasota Bay is inappropriate for many reasons, including the fact that Barataria Bay is a far more contaminated and compromised environment (unrelated to the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill) than Sarasota bay.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> See, e.g., Lucinda A. Jacobs, "Consent on Health of Common Bottlenose Dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) in Barataria Bay, Louisiana, Following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill," Environmental Science & Technology (2014).

<sup>16</sup> Three of those 5 dolphins, as identified by a specific, known blood identification number on their dorsal fin, and on the field-written field forms (Exhibits 11771, Merten deposition, p. 140) during this project are listed under their "Physical Exam, True Body Condition Index (p. 5)" as "Ideal."

<sup>17</sup> Merten deposition, pp.140-145. In addition, researchers are much more likely to capture sick dolphins in Barataria Bay than Sarasota Bay, where healthy dolphins are familiar with researchers. Merten deposition, pp.140-145.