

Dolphin

Corvette

Massachusetts Privateer Sloop

(1) Commander John G. Scranton

29 November 1780-

(2) Commander John G. Scranton

27 November 1782-[20] February 1783

Commissioned/First Date:

29 November 1780

Out of Service/Cause:

[20] February 1783/captured by the British

Owners:

William De Luce et al of Boston, Massachusetts

Tonnage:

Battery:

Date Reported: 29 November 1780

Number/Caliber Weight Broadside

9/

Total: 9 cannon/

Broadside: 4 cannon/

Swivels:

Date Reported: 27 November 1782

Number/Caliber Weight Broadside

9/

Total: 9 cannon/

Broadside: 4 cannon/

Swivels:

Date Reported: 25 February 1783

Number/Caliber Weight Broadside

6/

Total: 6 cannon/

Broadside: 3 cannon/

Swivels:

Crew:

(1) 29 November 1780: 41 [total]

(2) 27 November 1782: 41 [total]

(3) 25 February 1783: 20 [total]

Description:

Officers:

Cruises:

Prizes:

(1) Sloop *Tryon*, February 1783

Actions:

Comments: Massachusetts Privateer Sloop *Dolphin* was commissioned on 29 November 1780 under Commander John G. Scranton of Boston, Massachusetts. She was listed as having a battery of nine guns and a crew of forty men. Her \$20000 bond was signed by Scranton and by William De Luce and Nathaniel Barber, Jr., both of Boston.¹ On 10 September 1781, Scranton

¹ NRAR, 272; Allen, *Massachusetts Privateers of the Revolution*, 118

was commissioned to the Massachusetts Privateer Schooner *Hero*.² Thus *Dolphin* was either under a different commander or out of service for a time. *Dolphin* was re-commissioned on 27 November 1782 with the same commander, battery, and crew. Her petition was presented by De Luce.³

Scranton patrolled in the waters around Long Island, evidently with some success. The 30-ton sloop *Tryon* was captured, about February 1783, and sent into Providence, Rhode Island. She was libeled there on 8 March 1783, with her trial set for 19 March.⁴

About 20 February *Dolphin* was off Blue Point, where she was captured by the combined efforts of some crews of oyster boats from New York, New York. She was sent in to New York, arriving there on 22 February. The British reported she was armed with six guns and had a crew of twenty men.⁵ She was tried and condemned in the Vice Admiralty court in 1783.⁶

² NRAR, 334, Allen, *Massachusetts Privateers of the Revolution*, 175

³ Allen, *Massachusetts Privateers of the Revolution*, 119

⁴ *The Newport Mercury*, Saturday, March 8, 1783

⁵ *The Royal Gazette* [New York], Wednesday, February 26, 1783; *The Connecticut Gazette and the Universal Intelligencer* [New London], Friday, March 7, 1783, datelined New York, February 25

⁶ HCA 32/309/22/1-5