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The Dolphin Gazette

NEWSLETTER FOR THE DOLPHIN COMMUNICATION PROJECT

The Dolphin Communication Project (DCP) is focused on the dual goals of scientific research and education.

Do you Squidoo? We do ...

check us out online!!

DCP is now a registered charity with Squidoo, a site dedicated to getting your word out there, whatever that may be. On Squidoo, you can create a "lens" (Squidoo lingo for web page) about anything that interests you. Then, through programs like Google ads and Amazon, the royalties that your lens generates can go to charity! If you are already a Squidoo guru, why not choose DCP as your charity? Or, if you're looking for a new outlet to share what's important to you, check out www.squidoo.com.



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The *Dolphin Gazette* is available online via the DCP web site. Be sure we have your current email address on file!

To be removed from our mailing list, please contact us at: info@dolphincommunicationproject.org

Mailing Address

Dolphin Communication Project
P.O. Box 711
Old Mystic, CT 06372-0711
USA



Thank you!

Thank you to our volunteers: Binti for her tireless efforts keeping all the member and adoption records up-to-date.

Thank you to Tabby for your assistance with data analyses and classes as a DCP volunteer this autumn.

Internships

If you are interested in interning with DCP during an autumn, fall or summer semester, more information is available on our website. Please note, only a limited number of internships include field work. For more information, check out page 5 of this issue or visit the DCP web site and then contact us at info@dolphincommunicationproject.org.



Happy 2009!

DCP updates

A message from Dr. Kathleen Dudzinski, Director of the Dolphin Communication Project

Introducing Trudy, a manatee, puzzles & more ...

The Gazette is now fully, only electronic! Going green is the way to go!

It is hard to believe that January is almost over for 2009!! It seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the holidays and the new year. With 2009, DCP went even more paperless by making the *Dolphin Gazette* available in electronic format only. Not only does this make DCP more green and allow us to use less paper, but we save on postage as well. This means we funnel even more funds towards our research and education programs. Be sure we have your email address on file, or simply visit the Gazette page on the DCP web site to subscribe to our quarterly newsletter yourself.

This issue of the *Dolphin Gazette* is filled with updates and information on a new colleague, as well as a newly named dolphin. We even include details on a manatee in this issue of the Gazette. Because we have gained an extra page in each issue of our newsletter, we have decided to include some puzzles and, in future issues, we'll include a short "Science Corner" Column ... similar to the science quickie on DCP's The Dolphin Pod podcasts. So, if there is something you just have to learn about or some topic you'd like us to cover, send us an email at info@dolphincommunicationproject.org to let us know. We'll try to include all requests for knowledge.

Trudy, spotted dolphin ID#057 from the Bimini dolphin study population for DCP received the best Christmas gift in 2008 - her name, courtesy of Sharon Malhotra and her sister Cindy. Trudy is named for Sharon and Cindy's sister, Trudy Lynn, who passed away recently after a lengthy battle with cancer. Sharon and Cindy felt that naming a dolphin would be a great way to honor their sister who had a zest for life, loved the oceans and was very active outside whenever she could be. We are honored to add Trudy's name

DCP's Dolphin Gazette is green -- copies are available only electronically via our web site ... send us your email address to continue receiving each issue.

to our roster of Bimini Atlantic spotted dolphins. Watch future issues of our newsletter for updates on Trudy, and indeed all of the named dolphins in our adoption catalog.

Harold is a manatee who decided to visit Bimini and then to stick around for a while. Kelly Melillo, DCP's Bimini Research Manager, coordinated with officials from The Bahamas and the USA to observe Harold's behavior and then also helped when a satellite tag was attached to his back. Now, we can follow Harold to see where he spends his time on his Bahamian vacation. How he crossed the Gulf Stream is a mystery to me! Check out Kelly's update on page 3 of this Gazette for more details. You can also follow the history of Harold on DCP's home page with Kelly's Bimini field reports.

We hope to delight all readers with a word find and crossword puzzle in this issue of the *Dolphin Gazette*. In future issues, we'll keep the last page as our DCP puzzle page and will add a science corner column to an earlier page. Answers to the word find can be found online on the gazette page of the DCP web site. Try your hand at the answers before confirming if you are right ... or not!

As always, thank you for your continued support of DCP's research and education programs. We plan to expand DCP's reach for our education programs in 2009 ... so if you know of a teacher or a school which might be interested in learning more about dolphins, communication and the oceans, please pass along our contact information.

Enjoy the season and 2009!
Cheers,

Kathleen
Director, DCP



Bimini Update - Harold the Manatee!

The "Manatee" Communication Project?

Not quite, but we've been enjoying making observations of Bimini's visiting manatee!

On 28 November 2008, DCP Researcher Kelly Melillo looked out her window to see a strange, dark shape in the water traveling along the beach line. It wasn't the right shape to be a shark, at least not any shark she'd seen before. Out came the binoculars and then, sure enough, this mystery animal took a breath...it was a manatee!

She didn't think anyone was going to believe her. You see, the last recorded manatee in Bimini was 1998. The following day, however, a call came in to the house, "Hurry to the dock! The manatee is here!" The skeptics were no more. Bimini had its 2008 manatee. Kel soon decided she needed some advice from the experts, so has been working closely with biologists from US Fish & Wildlife, US Geological Survey (USGS) and the Miami SeaQuarium. No one knows why the manatee is here, or where it came from, but odds are good the animal wandered from south Florida. With approval from the Bahamas Department of Marine Resources, USGS kindly came to Bimini and outfitted the animal with a satellite/radio tag and confirmed the sex – it's a male! We are now able to track "Harold's" movements in real time by VHF radio and over time with satellite and GPS data. There is plenty of sea grass for Harold to feed on here, but his fresh water source is still a mystery. Harold is approximately 9 feet long and likely weighs 1200 pounds!

You can stay up to date on Harold's activities by following along with field reports from Bimini: - go to our web site and follow this path: www.dolphincommunicationproject.org > Keep in Touch > Field Reports > Bahamas > Bimini 2008 and 2009



photo courtesy of Al Sweeting, Jr.



Name-A-Dolphin Updates

Meet "Trudy"
and
Two more dolphins who need names

Trudy, Sf ID # 057, was named by Sharon Malhotra in December 2008. Sharon and her sister Cindy named this adult female spotted dolphin for their sister Trudy Lynn Laczek Kuehn who recently passed away. Trudy, the dolphin can be recognized by the hook-shaped scar in her dorsal fin; she is tranquil, serene and a good mom. We thank Sharon and Cindy for their support of DCP's research and for their heartfelt honor of their sister, Trudy, who had a zest for life, the ocean and all animals.

As individual dolphins living around Bimini are sighted more regularly, and we are able to recognize and identify them with ease, these dolphins are entered into our permanent ID database. Initially, new dolphins are assigned a number, but as we get to know them a bit better and their actions reveal their unique personalities, we occasionally offer the public the chance to give these dolphins a name of their own. Two wild Atlantic spotted dolphins identified from our study population in Bimini, The Bahamas, need names.

Spotted dolphin #078: This juvenile male was first seen in 2004 and was already independent from his mom. He was seen in both 2005 and 2006, often in the company of Finn (#09) and Split Jaw (#022). At first, he was recognized by the large spot on his belly, so researchers really appreciated it when he rolled over! He's an active dolphin who seems mildly curious about swimmers and is very interested in playing with his dolphin friends.

Spotted dolphin #084: This female is the calf of DCP ID #057, Trudy. She was seen for the first time in 2006, never far from her mom. She is the lucky survivor of what looks like a shark attack that left her with a serious scar on the left side of her peduncle. This was well healed by the time researchers observed her with a new, more superficial wound to her right side. In 2008, we observed #084 independent from her mom, usually swimming with other juveniles. She had two new injuries, but again these were not life threatening. Researchers can't wait to see her continue to grow and hopefully stop getting banged up!

To name 078 or 084, go to our web site and then to Shop --> Name-A-Dolphin ... details are provided on the web.





Atlantic Spotted Dolphin Word Find



Because DCP's newsletter, the Dolphin Gazette is now available electronically, we have a few new features added ... all because we have that extra page at the back. On the last page of this issue, and in all future issues of the Gazette, you will find a puzzle page. To launch this feature, we include a word find here, and then a cross word puzzle on the last page. Answers to the crossword can be found on DCP's web site on the gazette page.

BIMINI ATLANTIC SPOTTED DOLPHINS

J	X	A	N	I	E	C	E	Y	M	V	U	F	F	J
O	Z	B	M	X	N	B	U	S	Y	D	O	Q	F	P
B	A	I	E	I	L	S	E	L	W	B	I	E	P	J
W	T	R	E	T	S	U	B	J	U	O	O	A	J	T
S	M	A	I	L	L	I	W	E	C	N	I	R	P	X
R	I	O	G	X	R	V	S	P	L	I	T	J	A	W
T	I	N	A	H	S	O	O	W	S	O	Q	K	S	S
M	U	Q	E	K	R	A	T	S	E	N	O	L	F	S
G	Z	A	R	T	A	P	O	E	L	C	M	U	T	E
C	J	U	L	I	E	T	T	E	A	S	E	M	F	J
E	F	T	N	A	R	F	E	T	S	P	N	P	F	L
R	I	B	U	L	M	R	O	M	E	O	O	Y	C	I
R	N	L	K	V	F	R	E	C	K	L	E	S	L	L
A	N	W	H	I	T	E	B	L	O	T	C	H	T	X
I	E	D	W	T	N	E	C	N	I	V	H	S	V	Z

BUSTER	CERRA	CLEOPATRA	FINN	FRECKLES	JULIETTE	LESLIE
LILJESS	LONESTAR	LUMPY	NEMO	NIECEY	PRINCEWILLIAM	ROMEO
SPLITJAW	STEFAN	SWOOSH	TIM	TINA	VINCENT	WHITEBLOTCH



Billy



Cleopatra



Leslie

DCP Wish List

Like other non-profit organizations, DCP very much appreciates donations and the assistance of our supporters.

We also realize in these hard economic times that funds are often tight. In-kind donations are always welcome. A sample of some of the items on our wish list is below. Donations can be sent to our address in Old Mystic, CT.

DVD burner (TV)

Hand-held marine (waterproof) VHF radio

Software license ~ CS4 or InDesign

"Rite-In-The-Rain" paper

DVDs, CDs - print-on variety

AA, 9V batteries

LCD projector adaptable to PC or Mac computers



Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities are available throughout the year, once you have completed a Volunteer Training Session. Anyone wishing to assist DCP may do so in a variety of ways: on an ecotour, on data analyses at the DCP office, or on various topics pertaining to other programs ongoing at DCP. Check us out online!

Bimini Dolphins ~ Update

DCP's Bimini spotted dolphin adoption program features several of the individuals we have come to know well around Bimini. Our Bimini Dolphin Research Manager - Kelly Melillo - is based on the north island of Bimini year-round and provides a recent update on the antics of some of the dolphins seen most recently.

While our Connecticut, USA, office has been covered in snow, there is no sign of freezing temperatures at our Bimini field site. Winter is a quiet time of year here, but that gives Kelly Melillo (Bimini Research Manager) time to play catch up. In this issue, she gives an update on an old favorite, White Blotch, and the dolphin population's new addition.

White Blotch (ID# 029)

White Blotch continues to be the "unofficial matriarch" of the Bimini Atlantic spotted dolphin population. Rarely seen without her own calf in tow, White Blotch is often seen with the calves of other dolphin moms! In 2008, we continued to observe White Blotch with her most recent calf, which turned 4 years old mid-summer. We expect this calf to soon be independent, but we are hoping she'll develop some darker spots before she leaves mom's side. This will allow us to give this young female dolphin an ID number like her mom. White Blotch was most recently observed on 29 December, the 11th observation we had of her in 2008.

The Newest Arrival

Kelly, along with some lucky dolphin boat passengers, was also able to observe a

newborn Atlantic spotted dolphin on 29 December 2008. Newborn dolphins are called neonates and, for several weeks after they are born, have creases that run vertically along their bodies called fetal folds. Also, for the first 24 to 48 hours, a neonate's dorsal fin lies flat along its back and the flukes are bent. Well folks, this neonate's dorsal fin was anything but upright! Unfortunately, the youngster did not come close enough for us to identify its mom, but we were thrilled to not only see a new calf, but such a young one at that. Welcome to Bimini!



White Blotch - Bimini's Spotted Matriach



Travel Courses for College Students to Bimini

DCP is pleased to offer a setting and logistical support for a college-level field course in cetacean ecology. This field class takes place in Bimini, The Bahamas. Spaces are open on the course scheduled for **JUNE 1 - 11, 2009**. Information on this exciting new opportunity is available on the education section of our website (go to: www.dolphincommunicationproject.org & then click on GetInvolved >> EducationPrograms >> Bimini Field Course).

So, if you are a university student looking for a new and exciting way to participate in field work and learn about an interesting animal species and habitat, then contact DCP today (info@dolphincommunicationproject.org).

New Team Member

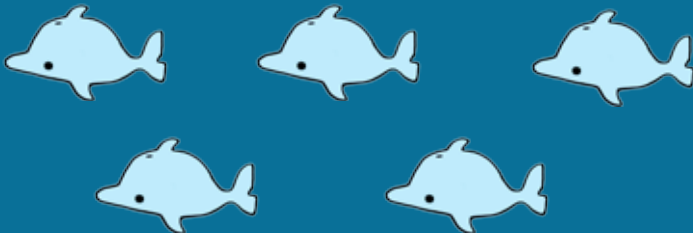
Elizabeth Hawkins, Ph.D. joins DCP as a post doctoral research based in Australia

Since 2000, Dr. Elizabeth Hawkins has been researching the intricate and fascinating lives of dolphins. Elizabeth's research focuses on their behaviour, social dynamics and communication. Her honours research, completed in 2002, examined the behaviour and acoustics of a group of provisioned dolphins at Tangalooma, Moreton Island, Australia. In 2007, Elizabeth completed her PhD research with the Southern Cross University Whale Research Centre. Her thesis examined the population dynamics, ecology, acoustic communication and influence of human activities on coastal dolphins in the Byron Bay region of New South Wales, Australia. This research has only increased Elizabeth's fascination of these animals, particularly how aspects of their acoustic communication facilitates the complexities of their social living.

Her intrigue towards dolphins and whales began early in life when she would spend many hours observing them from the headlands of her island home. In 2000, Elizabeth completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in Coastal Management. During her studies, Elizabeth was volunteered with the Cape Byron Whale Research Project and undertook a small research project on the migratory patterns of humpback whales. Following the completion of her degree, Elizabeth was a research assistant at the C.S.I.R.O. Marine Research Station, Queensland where she had the opportunity to work with a team of inspirational environmental scientists.

Elizabeth also has a passion for educating the general public and community groups about the biology of cetaceans and marine conservation issues. She has made many public presentations on both her research and marine conservation issues to a variety of community groups and developed education materials for education. Elizabeth is one of the lecturers for the Southern Cross University undergraduate subject Biology of Marine Mammals. She is also an education officer and scientific advisor for Whales Alive, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to promoting the conservation of cetaceans throughout the South Pacific.

Currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the SCU Whale Research Centre, Elizabeth is continuing her research into the communication and behavioural ecology of coastal dolphins. In 2008, Dr. Hawkins and DCP joined forces in a collaboration that will surely result in uncovering some more mysteries of the dolphin world.



Roatan 2009 Eco-tour to RIMS in MAY

DCP is returning to RIMS in May 2009 - Be sure to join us for another exciting field season!

We will continue in May with data collection on the dolphins at RIMS. We hope you can join us to better understand the social behavior and communication among dolphins. Also, Anthony's Key Resort (home of the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences (RIMS)) has launched a few new adventures for their guests.

The dates for DCP's RIMS ecotour are: **9 - 16 May 2009.**

The price for this week long eco-tour is: **\$1,695.00**
(price does not include airfare, alcohol, tips. AC is optional, single rooming is also optional - both for an additional fee.)

For details, pricing and contact information, check out our web site on the RIMS ecotour page, or send an email inquiry to us at: info@dolphincommunicationproject.org

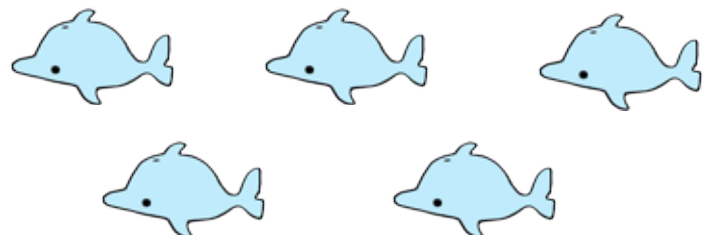
Papers & Reports

DCP had a scientific paper published at the end of 2008. The abstract is below. You can download the full manuscript from the Publications page of the DCP web site.

Dudzinski, K.M., et al., (2009). A comparison of pectoral fin contact between two different wild dolphin populations. *Behav. Process.* 80: 182-190.

Abstract

Contact behaviour involving the pectoral fin has been documented in a number of dolphin species, and various explanations about its function have been offered. Pectoral fin contact can take a variety of forms, and involves a number of body parts and movements, likely differing depending upon social or ecological context. For this study, we compare the pectoral fin contact behaviour of two species of wild dolphins: Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops aduncus*) from around Mikura Island, Japan, and Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) from The Bahamas. The two study populations exhibit surprising similarity in the ways in which pectoral fin contacts are used, despite differences in species and environmental conditions at the two sites. Differences in contact rates for calves between the two sites suggest that calf-focused aggression from adult dolphins is more prevalent at Mikura than in The Bahamas. Our results suggest that pectoral fin contact behaviour seems to be driven primarily by social pressures, and may be similar in function to allogrooming described in primates.



DCP's Adopt-a-Dolphin Program

DCP currently has ~20 dolphins from our catalog of Atlantic spotted dolphins residing around Bimini, The Bahamas available for adoption. While adoptive parents do not get to take their dolphins home, they will receive a certificate of adoption, a photo of their adopted dolphin, some facts about Atlantic spotted dolphins, information about DCP & our research around Bimini, & a dolphin DVD. They will also receive the most recent edition of the Dolphin Gazette, DCP's quarterly newsletter, with three more issues via notification in eblast over the one-year adoption period.

All dolphin adoptions through DCP help support our dolphin research throughout the world, as well as the creation & implementation of local, national, & international education programs for students of all ages.
Each adoption costs \$30, & lasts for one year. Become a spotted dolphin parent today & support valuable scientific research!

Yes! I want to adopt a dolphin! Some of our dolphins are listed below. For a complete list & all dolphin biographies, check out www.dolphincommunicationproject.org
 Juliette | Niecey | Trudy | Swoosh | Stefran | Lone Star | Tim | Tiny | Lumpy | Lil' Jess | Freckles | Split Jaw | Vincent

I would like to adopt a dolphin: \$30 for one year. **Dolphin name:** _____
 Please cut out and mail your order form, with check, to DCP at P.O. Box 711, Old Mystic, CT 06372-0711.
 Credit card payment is available online through our web site at www.dolphincommunicationproject.org

Please **SEND** my adoption package to:

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____

If this is a gift, please note gift **GIVER** address:

Name: _____
 Address: _____

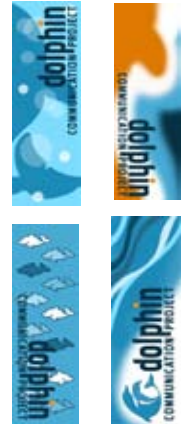
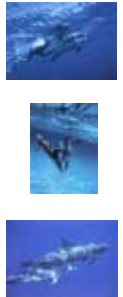
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email: _____

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Membership

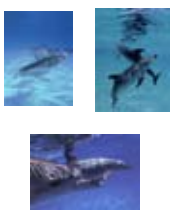


DCP Gear
 To purchase DCP gear, visit www.cafepress/dcpgear



- \$15 Student** welcome packet
- \$25 Individual** : welcome packet
- \$35 Outside US** : welcome packet
- \$45 Family** : 3 notecards, 3 postcards, & welcome packet
- \$75 Supporting** : 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of Dolphins The Lighter Side & welcome packet
- \$250 Contributing** : 1 DCP tank top, 1 DCP t-shirt, 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of Dolphins The Lighter Side & welcome packet
- \$500 Patron** : Limited edition matted print suitable for framing, 1 DCP tank top, 1 DCP t-shirt, 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of Dolphins The Lighter Side & welcome packet
- \$1000 Benefactor** : 25% discount for individual sponsors on a DCP Bahamas' Ecotour trip, Limited edition matted print suitable for framing, 1 DCP tank top, 1 DCP t-shirt, 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of Dolphins The Lighter Side & welcome packet

Notecards
 \$2.50 each/ 3 for \$6



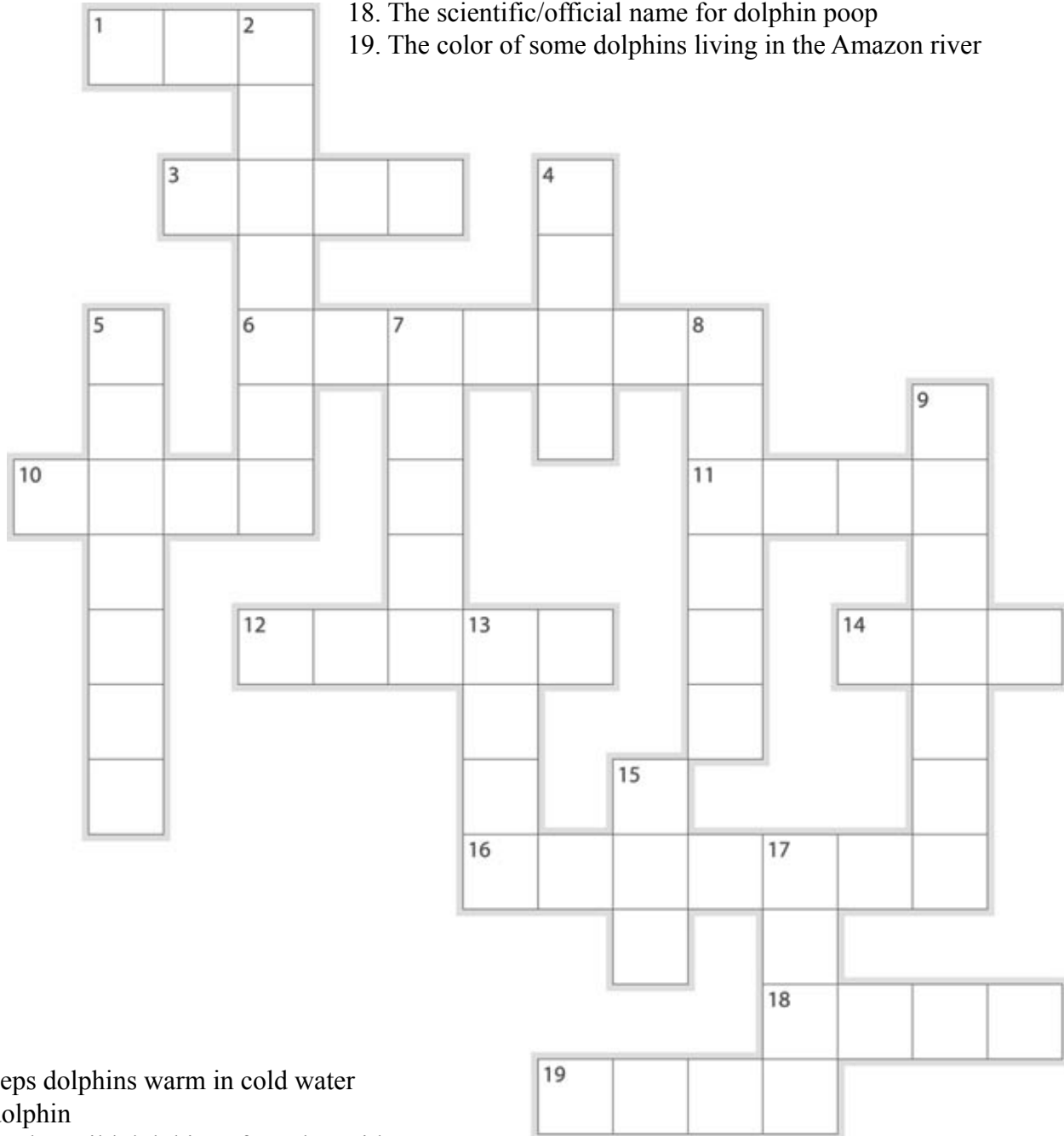
DCP has now partnered with eBay Giving Works. Anyone selling an item on eBay will now have the opportunity to donate between 10% and 100% of the profits from the sale directly to DCP. If you are an eBay seller, simply choose the Dolphin Communication Project as the charity to receive a percentage of the sale.



Support DCP's research efforts by purchasing some of the many products that we offer for sale. All products seen here are available on our website: www.dolphincommunicationproject.org. All profits from the sale of these products directly fund DCP's research & education efforts. DCP is a federal 501c3 nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

ACROSS

1. What dolphins sometimes do in the sand (besides hunting for food)
3. Something that dusky dolphins can do really really well
6. Something dolphins produce from their blowholes
10. Something that all mammals have, but is missing in most adult dolphins
11. Another name for the 'killer whale'
12. A sound dolphins create that is used for echolocation
14. The place on a dolphin's head where sound is most likely received
16. A kind of sound that dolphins make in order to communicate with each other
18. The scientific/official name for dolphin poop
19. The color of some dolphins living in the Amazon river



DOWN

2. What keeps dolphins warm in cold water
4. a baby dolphin
5. An object that wild dolphins often play with
7. A river dolphin species that was recently classified as 'functionally extinct'
8. A 'tool' that some dolphins use to help them hunt
9. A slow moving marine mammal that does not eat fish
13. What a human does with (most) food that dolphins do not do
15. What a dolphin uses to help steer in the water
17. What protrudes from a narwhal's head

visit the DCP web site on the Dolphin Gazette newsletter page, for puzzle answers