

# The Dolphin Gazette



Newsletter of the  
Dolphin Communication Project



volume 7, issue 2  
July 2003

## *A Successful Season in Japan - May & June 2003 Dudzinski returned to Mikura Island, Japan for 6 weeks*

Arrival on Mikura on 25 May 2003. Departure from Mikura on 3 July 2003.

Each season represents a continuation of my research on communication among bottlenose dolphins around Mikura Island, Japan. Dolphins are long-lived social mammals: to best understand their social structure, the affect of kinship on interactions, and use of signals to communicate requires long-term studies. The data gathered this summer add to the information already possessed by both the MIK and DCP.

The duration of my field season this summer included 3 trips in May, 17 trips in June, and 1 trip in July. I gathered data on video whenever at sea. I worked on dolphin identifications from video with fellow researchers when sea conditions pre-empted boat trips. I was glad to visit the Mikura School on several occasions to speak English (and Japanese) with students. We also gave a few workshops while in Japan with the Mikura events listed below.

We confirmed 101 individual dolphins from 8 of the 12 videotapes that were recorded. The last four tapes will be analyzed for dolphin identifications during the summer and fall months at my MA&IFE office/lab. Dolphin ID numbers with respective age categories and sex determination(s) are from the Kenkyukai (ICERC Japan & MIK) database. Summary data for this summer are presented below and throughout this issue of the *Dolphin Gazette*.

Data are collected on videotape while swimming among dolphins. Where and when each group was sighted and recorded are documented for each video sequence. Copies of these sighting records and DVD copies of DCP's data will be sent to MIK before fall, 2003. A list of ID's confirmed from Dudzinski's videotapes will be included as an excel file. Early details of the data gathered this summer are presented below. At least 101 individual dolphins were identified this summer from my videotapes: 32 FA, 17 FS, 9 MA, 33 MS, 4 FJ, 6 MJ. During my tenure on Mikura this year, we documented 6 new calves from the following females: 028FA, 035FA, 080FA, 083FA, 086FA, and 314FA. Our first documented third generation calf was observed - from 083FA. Sadly, 028FA's calf was not seen the last several observations with its mom and therefore is likely to have died.

***Remember we've moved!  
You can find us at the  
address below ...***

**Dolphin Communication Project  
at**

**Mystic Aquarium/Institute for Exploration  
55 Coogan Blvd.  
Mystic, CT 06355**

**[www.dolphincommunicationproject.org](http://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org)**

**[www.mysticaquarium.org](http://www.mysticaquarium.org)**

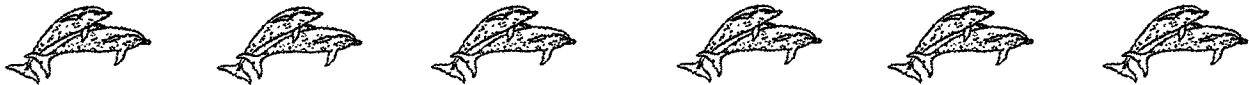
14 June 2003 - Dolphin Workshop for Mikura Island's Junior High (9 students) and Elementary School (21 students) children, and other interested visitors or residents. The program was divided into morning and afternoon sessions with age groups split for more direct application to each group. We had a blast and a video is being created to showcase the workshop and the children's message from Mikurajima.

15 June 2003 - Dolphin Festival was a huge success - much trash was collected and an awesome afternoon of watching and swimming among dolphins was had. There were 6 children on our boat and we all enjoyed observing the dolphins. It was great to see the smiles of the children who live with dolphins near but this was the first time they saw them underwater!

## Specifics on data gathered on dolphins around Mikura Island, Japan.

### Research Effort

# of boat trips	21 (5/27- 7/2)
# of minutes "on effort" (searching)	43 hrs, 8 min (2,588 min)
# minutes of video	~372 min (on 13
# of sightings	100
# of water entries/	162



## *Changes in Latitude* from John Anderson

This year has been a year of change for me. I moved. I sold more images this year than any other. I traveled less this year than I have in the past six. I got a job. But, let's back up for a second. Number one and number three are kinda tied together. I didn't just move to the little house down the street 'cause the landlord raised the rent. This California boy, a 40+ year veteran of earthquakes, fires and mudslides, up and moved all the way across the country, to a little bitty town in New England that he knew virtually nothing about. A place with four distinct seasons as different as night and day. Mystic, Connecticut is a town - no, it is actually more like an area on the boarder between two other towns that sports an historic sea port and a population rivaling the size of some major universities. And, yes, this is the same town to lend its name to a famous, or infamous, pizzeria.

Now, if you're like most of the folks we've told about our move, including those who know us, you're probably thinking that I have made a navigational error and moved the wrong way. In the beginning even I wondered. My head started to reel when I began to pack up boxes and continued to reel thru a seven day drive across country with what turned out to be not one but two large commercial moving trucks. When one chooses to switch coasts, a phenomenon in your brain occurs - your internal compass points the wrong way. That magical little dial in my head that used to tell me which way to the ocean, now sends me off into the woods. I'm not prone to little voices in my head, but I think I hear a chuckle each time this happens.

## *Changes in Latitude ... continued*

I had planned on arriving here and being a kept man for a while. It was Kathleen's acceptance of a staff position with Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration that brought us here anyway, and I would continue my freelance photo and film work. In very short order unique photographic opportunities began to present themselves at the aquarium, leaving me no choice but to document them on film and tape. Well, it wasn't long before word got around and I was asked to come aboard as sort of the "cameraman-in-residence", keeping me much busier than I could have imagined. I still make time for myself to do things that I want ... like working on my Yankee accent. I still have a little trouble separating the Bahston, the New Yawk, and the New Joisey accents but I've got a handle on the Connecticut accent. I'm particularly proud when I can tell the dawg to get auff the couch and she listens, though I'm not sure that she appreciates my efforts.


Throughout my years of travel I have felt different emotions with regard to animals and elements ranging from minor disconcertedness to downright terrifying and none of them compare to packing up your life and moving off into the unknown. Diving in blue water or photographing sharks is no big deal, enduring 36 hours of 50 foot storm waves in the Southern Ocean definitely gets your attention but seeing the sun set over Connecticut on Long Island Sound, exactly where Santa Cruz island should be, really got something going in the pit of my stomach.

All things considered though, this was a great change. It has allowed me to collaborate with an organization and people who appreciate my work, something that I was never able to do in California. I am doing more photography now in days than I did in months. I am getting to know an area that I had previously only read about. In addition to the obvious geographical change in latitude, I may have grown just enough to have the mental latitude to embrace physical change.



*Please check check our MA&IFE website for more details about all of our programs.*

[www.mysticaquarium.org](http://www.mysticaquarium.org)

**MYSTIC AQUARIUM**  
  
**INSTITUTE  
FOR EXPLORATION**

# *Bimini - Summer 2003 Field Season*

Field Researchers:  
Kathy DeStefano & Kelly Melillo

Still recovering from the shock of being chosen as DCP's first undergraduate field research interns, we arrived on the scene at the tiny island of Bimini on June 22, and settled in surprisingly quickly and smoothly. We managed to get out on the water pretty much right off the plane and tried to pick up where DCP's previous researchers left off the summer before. But we had no idea what we were in for.

We spent the first week and a half at least pouring over photo IDs and trying to familiarize ourselves with the animals and the methods we would be using to collect data. By the end of week two we were into the research groove with our camera and clipboard as our third arms. It may have taken us three days to initialize the GPS, and we'll never forget Kelly wandering around the dock pleading with satellites to cooperate, but we figured everything out slowly and somewhat surely.

A day in the life of Kelly and Kathy consists of at least one 4-hour boat trip with Bimini Undersea out to the "Dolphingrounds" with anywhere from 6 to 12 eager passengers, all eyes to the horizon searching for anything remotely resembling a dorsal fin. We wander the boat, chatting with folks about the research and anything else they want to know. At the same time we're recording the boat's course, weather observations, and hopefully sighting and encounter times and positions. Once we find dolphins, we monitor their behavior, trying to judge whether or not the critters are willing to stick around once we enter the water. After a few bow rides to entice them to stay, we grab our gear and hop in.

Neither one of us had ever swam with dolphins before, and it was extremely difficult the first few times not to lose concentration and focus on what we were supposed to be doing. It's quite an incredible experience to be staring into the eye of a dolphin as it whistles and swims circles around you at less than arm's length away. After getting over the initial exhilaration of our first experiences, we were able to focus in on getting good video data and as many photo ID shots as we could.

Back at the "Lab," we sit bent over our laptops, squinting at the screens trying to identify each dolphin of the day. We note the behaviors of each dolphin, the overall behavior of the group, and any other significant information. As of the end of July, we have about 5 hours of video data and two rolls of new photo IDs to be developed when we return to the states. We've reidentified about 20 animals from the catalogue and have at least one addition - a youngster missing his right pectoral fin which we have dubbed Nemo.

Despite the persisting bug bites, the often unbearable heat, the layer of salt permanently crusted on our skin, and all the challenges that come along with being the new kids, we think the research is going relatively well. For more info, be sure to check out the field reports.



## *Roatan, Honduras Fall, 2003*

Field Researchers:  
Kathleen Dudzinski &  
Robin Paulos

Follow along via our field reports and daily updates this fall as we begin our new field study on a group of 17 bottlenose dolphins at the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences (RIMS), at Anthony's Key Resort, Roatan, Honduras. We will conduct the first observations of captive and wild dolphins following the same exact protocol for data collection. (Preliminary results from our pilot study comparing captive & wild dolphin behavior will be available in manuscript form later this fall.) Not only will we record dolphin behavior and sounds underwater and from the surface, but we will also set up experiments to gather details on the directivity of dolphin echolocation clicks while recording behavior and sounds with Kathleen's array, and a second surface recording system (laptop and omni-directional hydrophone). Also, in conjunction with two fellow researchers at the Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration, we will coordinate with RIMS to take blood samples to better understand the genetic relatedness of the RIMS dolphins. A very exciting start to a new

## 2003 Ecotour Updates

DCP still has openings on our ecotours to Anthony's Key Resort where we will be establishing a new research program on a group of bottlenose dolphins at the Roatan Institute for Marine Science. Details are available on DCP's web site on the ecotour page.

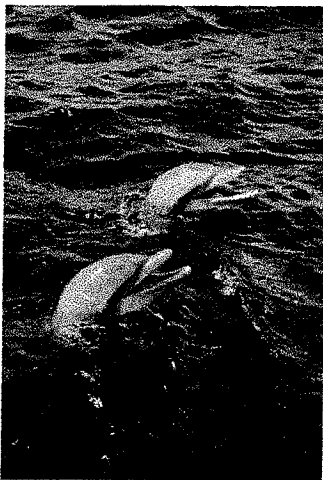
One-week trips are available: one in September, & two in October.

Bill Sperling is handling details.

You can reach him at [bsperling@idyllwild.com](mailto:bsperling@idyllwild.com) or at P.O. Box 2400, Idyllwild, CA 92549.

[www.dolphincommunicationproject.org](http://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org)

## Roatan, Honduras Fall, 2003

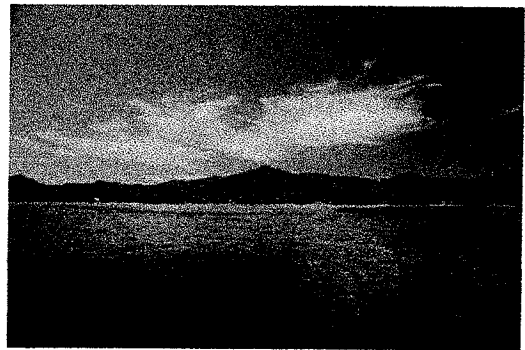


bottlenose dolphins!

Join us  
this  
fall  
and  
learn  
more  
about  
dolphins!



a  
great  
resort  
in the  
near  
tropics!



## Adopt-A-Dolphin

We all love dolphins. We love their grace, their speed, their playful natures. We are drawn to them. DCP offers Bimini Atlantic spotted dolphin Adopt-A-Dolphin and Name-A-Dolphin Programs. These programs will help fund our Bahamas dolphin research and education programs.

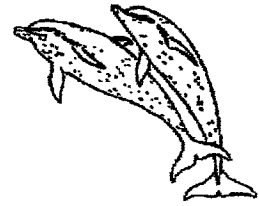
Each adoption costs \$30 and lasts for one year. Each name purchased for a dolphin goes into DCP's permanent database and costs \$200.00. The adoption & naming packet includes a certificate, a photo of your adopted dolphin, a spotted dolphin fact sheet, biographies of our named dolphins, a DCP flyer, & a copy of our most recent issue of the *Dolphin Gazette*.

**Become a spotted dolphin parent today & support valuable scientific research!**

*for more information about adopting a spotted dolphin, look to the back page of this issue of the Gazette OR contact DCP at [www.dolphincommunicationproject.org](http://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org)*



DCP's membership programs: Join us to learn about exciting new programs, research eco-trips, & member discounts.



### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

The following list defines the benefits of each level of membership with DCP.

- **\$15 Student:** welcome packet
- **\$25 Individual:** welcome packet
- **\$35 Foreign:** welcome packet
- **\$45 Family:** 3 notecards, 3 postcards, & welcome packet
- Note: Family memberships consist of 2 or more individuals living in the same household.
- **\$75 Supporting:** 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of *Dolphins* video (while supplies last, then the *DCP Season Summary* or *Dolphin Spirit*) & welcome packet
- **\$250 Contributing:** 1 DCP tank top, 1 DCP t-shirt, 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of *Dolphins* video (while supplies last, then other) & 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* video (while supplies last, then other) & welcome packet
- **\$1000 Benefactor:** 25% discount for individual members 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* video (while supplies last, then other) & welcome packet

#### Welcome Packet

Membership card, 1 packet of 5 bookmarks, welcome letter, DCP flyer, one-year subscription to the *Dolphin Gazette* (DCP's newsletter), and a 10% discount on merchandise from DCP.



Support D.C.P. with your purchases of ...

2001 or 2002 Bahamas' Summary Videos, *Dolphin Spirit*, or *Dolphins* (the film)  
cost varies depending on video.

bookmarks -

remember us each time you sit down with a good book  
cost per bookmark packet: \$1.25

D.C.P.  
memberships  
see above for details.  
sign up today!

note cards & postcards

notecards: \$2.50 each    postcards: \$1.00 each  
packet discounts available



shipping fees not included in price.  
for shipping arrangements,  
contact DCP.



Check out our website for views of  
items, ordering options,  
membership information, &  
details on our ecotours.

**Yes! I want to become a member of the Dolphin Communication Project.**

Please enroll me at the level checked.

- New member                       Renewing member                       Gift membership
- \$15 Student                       \$75 Supporting                       I would like to offer an additional gift  
of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- \$25 Individual                       \$250 Contributing
- \$35 Foreign (outside USA)                       \$500 Patron
- \$45 Family                       \$1000 Benefactor

*Memberships to the Dolphin Communication Project are for one year.*

- My check made out to Dolphin Communication Project is enclosed.
- You may also use your credit card to pay for your DCP membership online at the member page.  
A \$1.00 handling fee will be added

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ if gift, note gift recipient at left & **your** name  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ & address here: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ I want to receive newsletter via  email or  postal mail .

Your gifts support DCP and are tax-deductible. For more details, see [www.dolphincommunicationproject.org](http://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org)

**Yes! I want to adopt a dolphin.**

- Freckles**
- Split Jaw**
- Swoosh**
- Juliette**
- White Blotch**

**Circle the name you want to adopt, fill out the above information and send \$30.00 per adoption packet.**

Dolphin Communication Project  
 at Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration  
 55 Coogan Blvd.  
 Mystic, CT 06355 USA

