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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.

Busy summer yielding to busy fall!

Welcome to Issue 20.3! We hope you feel inspired by our newest initiative, *Pay It Forward for Conservation*. In particular, we felt a responsibility to share the plight of the vaquita with you, our supporters. It is not too late to save this elusive mammal. We are also accepting deposits for our winter field course at RIMS and scheduling Online Classroom Connections for the fall semester! Check out John Anderson's reflections on his first time swimming with the spotted dolphins of The Bahamas. And, of course, Kel has been busy at our Bimini field site and shares a report. We welcome two long-time partners, Nicole Danaher-Garcia and J. Daisy Kaplan, into new, more formalized DCP roles. ... Happy Reading!!

Cheers!

Kathleen



In this issue

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FL Solicitation of Contributions
 Reg. #: CH42894

Thank you Volunteers & Interns!!

DCP thanks Nicole Danaher-Garcia, for your on-going help. Without your assistance, DCP's data analysis and processing could not run so smoothly. Well done and thank you!

Internships

If you are interested in interning with DCP during a fall, spring or summer semester, more information is available on our website. Please note, most internships are office-based and do NOT include field work. Check out the web site before contacting us at info@dcpmail.org.

Pay It Forward for Conservation

DCP's newest initiative supports ¡Viva Vaquita!

Our Program

As you may have noticed, DCP has been expanding and growing, with our mission statement reaching farther than ever before. DCP has been fortunate to gain the support and interest of so many people, which was evidenced in our recent matching fundraiser in June—surpassing our fundraising goal of \$2,000 by more than 15%! Feeling so grateful about the support received, DCP has decided to give back in its own way. To that end, DCP has started a new program to pay it forward to a conservation organization in two ways. First, one of DCP's board members will commit to a financial contribution directly to that organization. Second—and this is the fun part for you—DCP will also commit to telling the story of that organization to all of you, to build awareness about immediate conservation issues, and to build partnerships among organizations with shared goals. We hope this will be an annual event that we will all look forward to!



Everything in the ocean is connected. As such, supporting worthwhile conservation efforts outside our own will continue to drive DCP's mission to promote the scientific study of dolphins and inspire their conservation.

The first recipient organization for DCP's *Pay It Forward for Conservation* Program is ¡Viva Vaquita!



¡Viva Vaquita!

www.vivavaquita.org

¡VIVA Vaquita! is a coalition of like-minded scientists, educators, and conservationists, who strive to increase the attention given to the vaquita, the World's most endangered marine mammal species. Their goals and mission are to generate awareness of the vaquita and to promote a healthy Upper Gulf of California ecosystem. They conduct research, public awareness and education activities to bring this about. Ultimately, they aim to help save the vaquita from extinction, and to do so in a way that also provides long-term benefits to the fisherman and other residents who live around the Gulf of California, Mexico.

What is a vaquita?

The vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*) is a small species of porpoise that lives only in the upper Gulf of California, in northern Mexico, just south of the border with the United States. The species' numbers have dropped precipitously, from about 550 in 1997 to just 60 in 2015, a 92% reduction in the core area in less than 20 years! This makes them the most endangered marine mammal species on the planet, and they are heading towards extinction in the next couple of years if rapid progress is not made. CBS's 60 Minutes highlighted the vaquita's plight on 22 May.



Vaquitas are extremely rare and shy; few photos of them exist. Photo: T. A. Jefferson / ¡VIVA Vaquita!.

These cute, little mammals are being decimated by accidental catches in a particular type of fishing net called a gillnet. The nets are now illegal within the range of the vaquita, but demand for fish swim bladders in China is driving an illegal fishery, which involves clandestine night-time operations, cross-border smuggling, and even the participation of Mexican drug cartels.

The world may be about to lose one of only seven species of porpoises, members of the mammalian group Cetacea (whales, dolphins, and porpoises), which are among the most beloved of all animals on Earth! Learn more at www.vivavaquita.org.

University Field Course @ RIMS

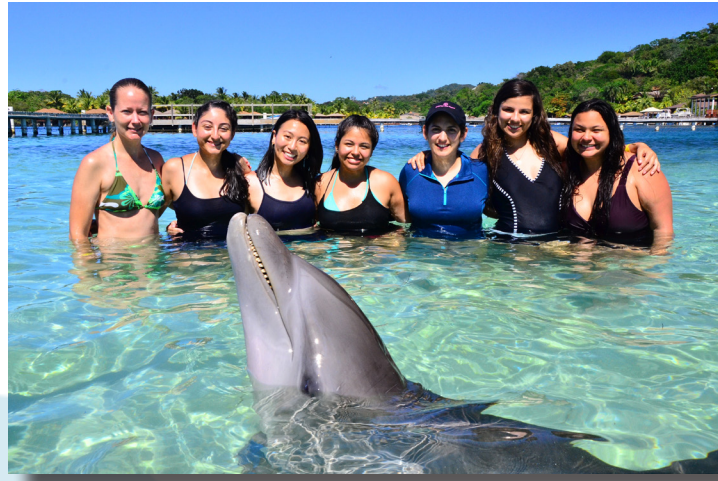
Join Kathleen for this exciting program!

Animal Behavior & Physiology Field Course

31 December 2016 - 7 January 2017

Now taking deposits!

I am excited to be collaborating with Dr. Shane Kanatous, an Associate Professor at Colorado State University, for our latest RIMS field course. Students will be introduced to the study of animal behavior and the behavioral assessment of physiology using a combination of lectures, readings, discussion, and hands-on research with a dolphin population in managed care.



Spring 2016 students had a great field experience, meeting dolphins & collecting data!

I hope you'll join us!

Cheers,

Kathleen

College-level students will be given first option to sign up. Anyone over 18 and fluent in English is encouraged to apply. Contact Kathleen (info {at} dcpmail {dot} org) for more details!

Total cost of field program: \$1,500.

Includes: Accommodations, meals & class sessions.

Does not include: Airfare or tuition.*

Submit your \$250/per person, nonrefundable deposit today!

*Full payment is due 15 October 2016.

Though course credit is not included in the cost of this program, documentation of your participation is available. If you will be seeking academic credit, please discuss this with your home university and DCP prior to submitting your deposit.

RIMS Eco-Tour 2016

We are thrilled to announce that our upcoming eco-tour to RIMS (October 2016) is full! This is sure to be a fantastic research session, filled with dolphins and all the other exciting activities Anthony's Key Resort & RIMS have to offer.

Stay tuned to www.dolphincommunicationproject.org for blog posts from Kathleen & the 2016 crew!

Seeing Spots

A reflection

Submitted by John Anderson

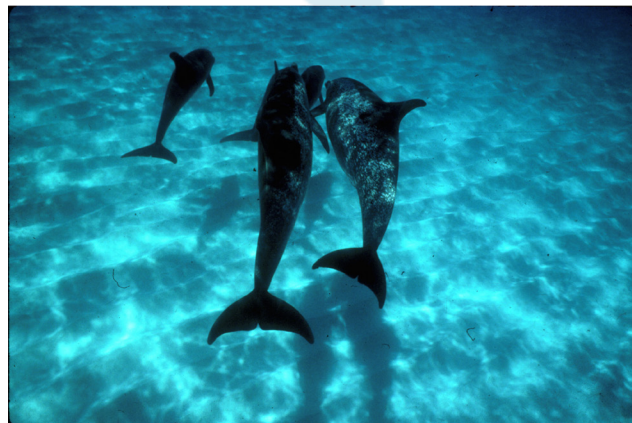


John Anderson of Terramar Productions is a DCP board member and lifelong supporter. Every veteran was once a rookie and here, John reflects on his first experience swimming with wild dolphins. Enjoy!

“What did you see?” ... HUH??? ... uh! uh! ... “What did you see?” I was asked again by the researcher. As I stood on the boat’s swim step, all that I could recall were spots and eyeballs ... and lots of ‘em! Normally, I’m relatively observant and reasonably eloquent when I speak, but I failed to demonstrate either of these attributes once I had returned to the back deck of our 68’ Bertram. All I could remember were a few fleeting thoughts: each alternating with “WOW!” I had just had my first swim with wild dolphins.

The Little Bahama Bank is home to an estimated 150 Bahamas’ Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*). These friendly aquatic beings first took notice of humans in the late 60’s when treasure hunter Bob Marx and his team of salvagers first found and started salvage work on the Spanish treasure galleon *Nuestra de la Señora Maravilla*. It wasn’t until the late 1970’s/early 80’s, however, that the public were made aware of these Bahamian gems. Since then, numerous dive operations and snorkel/swim programs have tapped into this natural treasure. In fact, most have come, and gone! During my first visit, the Bahamian m/v *Hanky Panky* (Really, that’s the boat’s name!) served as the research platform for Kathleen Dudzinski. At the time, Dudzinski personally conducted eco-tours lasting seven days each: each trip focused on educating passengers by including them in the research. Even back then, Dudzinski was studying the behavior and communication of dolphins by recording them, and their sounds, with a special underwater video camera affectionately called “The Array”.

My first meeting with Dr. Dudzinski was in Bimini in 1997 during the filming of “Dolphins” a large-format film produced by MacGillivray Freeman Films for IMAX theaters. Dudzinski was involved as science consultant and main on-screen talent. It has been through her eyes and contact that I have been fortunate enough to keep a finger on the pulse of the dolphin community. I have even helped her research by participating in some of DCP’s trips and contributing observations and photos. (Well, okay, not from my first swim with dolphins!) If this sounds hard to do – you’re wrong – read on.



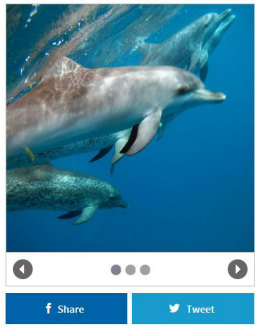
The Bahamas is a magical place and just a short 30 minute flight from Miami, Ft. Lauderdale or Palm Beach, Florida. After landing in Freeport and clearing customs, I was only ten minutes away via taxi (with Tony the taxi driver) to the marina where the *Hanky Panky* is docked. Captain Peppie is a real character! Trained in Switzerland as a chef, the meals are awesome and we never went hungry. Peppie is also an expert boat captain and local naturalist and is almost always the first to spot dolphins. The boat ride north, to the Little Bahama Bank is usually very pleasant and our hour-long watches are established upon leaving port. Blue water and warm breezes graced our trip. After a short fuel stop at West End, now called Old Bahama Bay, we were pleasantly surprised to find our first group of spotted dolphins near Sandy Cay. IF the dolphins approach the boat to bow ride, or play in the stern wake as they almost always do, then we prep for a swim. IF the dolphins stay as the boat slows, and conditions are safe, then Dudzinski jumps in with her array. As Peppie watches, confirms that the dolphins are gonna stick around, he gives the ‘okay’ for folks to enter the water. It sounds like a long, complicated process – which lasts about 20 seconds!

Continued on page 6...

Double Down on DCP

and other fundraising updates!

DOLPHIN COMMUNICATION PROJECT INC'S FUNDRAISER: DOUBLE DOWN ON DCP

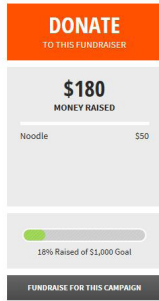


Thank you early donors!
June 11, 2016

So happy to see donations beginning to come in - thank you! Just this past Thursday, we were able to observe a big (big for Bimini!) group of *Sperm*.

BENEFITTING: DOLPHIN COMMUNICATION PROJECT INC
THE STORY:
If you donate \$8 to DCP this month, the Dolphin Communication Project's board will match* it, turning your \$8 into \$16. Donate \$22 and it becomes \$44. Donate \$107 and you really give \$214. DCP relies on the financial support of our supporters and now, you can have an even greater impact that you thought possible. Why does DCP need your money? DCP has just begun our annual research season studying wild Atlantic spotted and bottlenose dolphins off Bimini, The Bahamas. Each year we record these dolphins - via photographs, video and

[See More](#)



Double Down on DCP

In June, DCP supporters stepped up to the plate and helped us not only reach, but surpass our monthly fundraising goal. We set our hopes on \$1,000, the amount that would be matched by two DCP board members.

Including the generosity of these board members, DCP raised \$2,340! Thank you to everyone who supported this effort - with donations or shares on social media!

The Classic DCP Tee!

This spring, DCP gave you the chance to pre-order classic white tees - short-sleeved, long-sleeved and UPF50 rashguards. With a hearty pre-order in place, we made our bulk order and couldn't have been happier!

Kel has since been able to offer the shirts to folks on Bimini - students and tourists alike scooped them up. We're sure they were sported all over the US and the world!

We hope this t-shirt offering will be an annual event, so stay tuned for details in winter/spring 2017!



Cpt Kat lookin' good in her rash guard!

Back to School with DCP!

Support DCP and learning in your child's classroom

Sponsor an Online Classroom Connection for your child or loved one!

For one week, your students can connect directly with our scientists, allowing students to ask dolphin-related questions – and get answers directly from the researchers! Through a series of field reports, an online Q & A post, and a internet phone connection your students can learn valuable information on the biology & behavior of dolphins, as well as see science in a way that extends beyond the classroom. Plus, teachers receive special access to online videos and resources to help explore the topic of dolphins in the classroom.

Connection 1: A welcome web post, specific to your school/classroom. This post will direct students to resources on the website, allowing them to build their web navigation skills, reading comprehension and dolphin-related knowledge base.

Connection 2: Your students send their questions & see our replies online! Up to 10 questions per classroom.

Connection 3: A real-time web chat with one of DCP's scientists. The recommended method is through Skype, a free video-enabled, web-based phone program. Students can expand on the topics covered in the search of DCP's website and their written Q&A session and typically lasts 20-30 minutes.

A full program is \$125 - consider sponsoring one today!

Learn more at <http://dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/get-involved/school-collaborators/classroom-connections>

Seeing Spots

Continued from Page 4...

As I enter the water with a splash, I always expect a chill from first water contact but none ever comes: the summertime water temperature averages 85°F. My usual stomach butterflies, however, intensify when I hear the first clicks, whistles and squeals of the dolphins. They often seem as inquisitive about us as we are about them and often approach us at what seems like mach-2 only to turn away at the last minute with a huge smile that says “Scared ya, didn’t I”. I can only wonder what they’re thinking; perhaps they wonder what such an ungainly, split-finned creature is doing, thrashing around in their home. With a lot of effort and a little practice, I can swim in short bursts of speed underwater. And, while nothing compared to them, they would take the cue and race by as if to say “Come on, let’s play.” Their behavior, their speedy circles around me, is not unlike my beagle, Umi, saying “let’s play” as she runs circles around me on beach walks. Orientation didn’t matter ... up, down, on my back, they were there, as long as I kept moving. They might leave momentarily to go check out something in the sand or chase each other but before long my spotted pals would be back and up to their old tricks of tag and keep-away. The dolphins propel themselves through the water effortlessly and at times with great speed, time lost all meaning to me. I was in another world, another realm. Before I knew it, I was in the water for 25 minutes and the dolphins had disappeared just as quickly and mysteriously as they had appeared. After a swim like this, I take a minute or two for “floating reflection” (and to catch my breath) before heading back to the boat. “Did I remember to use my camera, the purpose of my visit!?” As I handed my camera to one of the crew on deck and pulled myself up the swim step I heard a voice ask me “What did you see?”



AMAZON SMILE
<https://smile.amazon.com/>



How many of you shop on Amazon.com? We bet it’s a lot. What if, instead of starting at amazon.com, you could simply start at smile.amazon.com and poof! A percentage of your purchases could come to the Dolphin Communication Project as a direct donation. You’d say, “Sign me up!”

Well, it’s easy. Use your existing Amazon account. Find all your wishlists, registries and shopping carts waiting for you. On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, simply select Dolphin Communication Project as your charitable organization. Amazon will remember this and from that point forward, as long as you start at smile.amazon.com, every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation to DCP.

Thanks to Amazon for this great program - and thanks to you for selecting DCP! Happy Shopping!

Update from the Field

Bimini 2016: Mid-Season Report



2016 EKU group was amazing! And looked great in their Bimini blue class shirts, don't you think?

Have you changed in the last 14 years? I know I have. But one constant, for me, has been studying the dolphins off Bimini. The roof over my head has changed. The boats have changed. The research partners and students have changed. Of course, I've changed. And yes, the dolphins have changed. But, the first sighting of the year, the first sighting of each boat trip, remains exciting and mysterious. Who will it be? How long will we have the privilege of observing them? What will they do?

This year began with students from St. Mary's College of Maryland and their professors, including Dr. J. Daisy Kaplan (see page 8 for exciting info about Dr. Kaplan!). It continued with DCP's field course with Dr. Radhika Makecha and her students from Eastern Kentucky University. Excited-tourist trips and talks aboard the Coral Reef II kept the summer moving

before Dr. Kaplan returned to Bimini, this time with students from Hunter College and Manhattan College.

I had the privilege to work alongside long-time volunteer/intern-extraordinaire, Nicole Danaher-Garcia (see her big announcement on page 8 too!) again this season. Together, we've logged over 30 boat trips in search of Bimini's wild dolphins and are looking forward to the final 10 or more trips on the 2016 schedule. We documented quite a few of DCP's Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphins, including Buster (#04), Romeo (#10, with a calf, we think!), Juliette (#12, very pregnant!), Tina (#14, also pregnant?!), Split Jaw (#22), Lil' Jess (#35), Swoosh (#36), Cerra (#38), Niecey (#48), Prince William (#64), Tim (#69), Speedy (#78), Leslie (#80), Stefran (#82), Inka (#93), Noodle (#94), Milo (#96) and Paul (#99) - and hope to confirm even more as we analyze video and photographs.

Some of the dolphins (and human friends) from 14 years ago may no longer be here, but with everything in life, there is always something new to see and learn - the dolphin research off Bimini is no exception!



This adorable young Atlantic spotted dolphin sure did pose nicely for an EKU student!

Kel

Your DCP Membership is Waiting!

Memberships go a long way to help DCP continue our research and education efforts and we are pleased to offer two ways to become a member: via a one-time donation or automatic monthly payments!

Sustaining memberships:

Choose your increment: \$5, \$7.50, \$10, \$15, \$20 or even \$100/month. Sign up once and your credit card or PayPal account will automatically be charged each month. No fuss. No muss.

One-time memberships:

With membership levels accessible for all budgets, this membership options allows you to make your entire annual contribution in one go.

DCP Announcements!

DCP strengthens our relationships with two long-time partners!

Nicole Danaher-Garcia

We are pleased to officially welcome Nicole as DCP's newest Master's student! Nicole has been part of the DCP family since 2012. From her time as an office volunteer, to a supervisory field intern, Nicole has been an asset to DCP and we cannot wait to have her continued presence at our Bimini field site as she works toward her Master's degree at UMASS Dartmouth. Stay tuned to future Gazette issues and blog posts for updates from Nicole on her research project.

J. Daisy Kaplan, Ph.D.

Daisy, currently a Professor at St. Mary's College of Maryland, is DCP's newest Research Associate! During Daisy's research for her Master's degree, she collaborated with Kathleen; Daisy's relationship with DCP strengthened as Daisy began utilizing Bimini for her Ph.D. work. As our collaborations grew, it became more and more apparent that we are better together! We look forward to more joint publications and education programs as well as a general cooperative interaction that means more data collection and more project results!



Name-A-Dolphin

Stay tuned this fall for the next opportunity!

DCP occasionally offers supporters the chance to permanently name a dolphin in our wild dolphin photo-ID catalog from Bimini, The Bahamas. These dolphins then become part of our Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin roster and are available for adoption by anyone! Dolphins Leslie (#80), her offspring Paul (#99), Lil' Jess (#35), Noodle (#94) and many other dolphins observed off Bimini got their names this way.

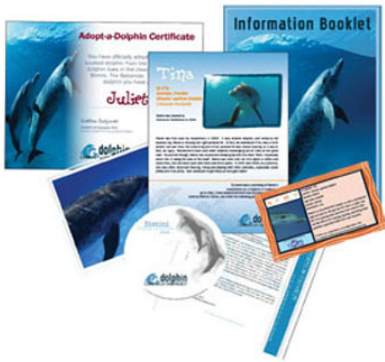
This fall, stay tuned for the next dolphin available for naming - maybe you'll be the one to name it!



Adopt a Wild Dolphin

www.adoptawilddolphin.com

What's in your Adoption Kit?



An official adoption certificate

Photograph of your adopted dolphin

Details on how to download dolphin vocalizations from the Bimini adopt-a-dolphins as a ringtone or audio file

DVD containing video of the Bimini dolphins

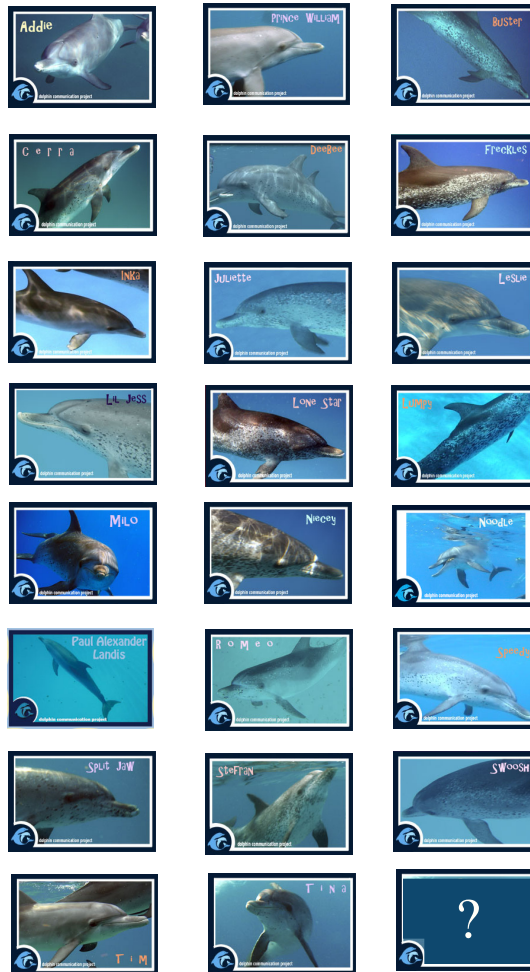
Biography of your adopted dolphin

Welcome letter and registration info

Information Booklet with Atlantic spotted dolphin fact sheet and info about the Dolphin Communication Project

Dolphin trading card sample

Dolphins currently up for adoption



Adopting a wild dolphin with DCP helps to fund:

The purchase of new research equipment (e.g., cameras, underwater microphones)

Conservation and education programs on Bimini, in the US and around the world

Publication and dissemination of DCP's research results to the scientific community and the general public

Maintenance of the DCP website, field reports, and our podcast The Dolphin Pod

Classroom education programs for school-aged children including DCP Youth Program, Dolphin Research Trainee, Classroom Connections

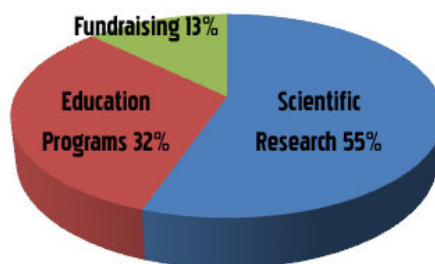
Volunteer, ecotour and internship opportunities for the public

Stay tuned for our next Name-A-Dolphin opportunity!

Holiday gift ideas
www.cafepress.com/holidaydolphin



Where does money raised from DCP's adopt-a-wild-dolphin program go?



Adopt-a-wild-dolphin t-shirts
tinyurl.com/y1fx44v



DCP's Adopt-a-Dolphin Program

DCP currently has ~25 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 and our research around Bimini and a dolphin video. They will also receive the most recent edition of the Dolphin Gazette, DCP's quarterly newsletter, announced quarterly by eblast. Be sure to send us your email address, or subscribe online at the newsletter page!

All dolphin adoptions through DCP help support our dolphin research throughout the world, and the creation and implementation of local, national, and international education programs for students of all ages.

Each adoption costs \$30 and 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.adoptawilddolphin.com
 Juliette | Niecey | Paul | Swoosh | Milo | Cerra | Inka | Tina | Lumpy | Lil' Jess | Freckles | Split jaw | Noodle

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 7485, Port St. Lucie, FL 34985. 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: _____



Postcards

\$1.00 each/ 3 for \$2



Iruka Gear

To purchase Iruka gear visit www.cafepress/irukagear



Membership

Sustaining Memberships:

Donate from \$5 to \$100/month to receive a DCP memo pad and information booklet!

Annual Memberships :

- Student: \$20
- Individual: \$30
- Family: \$45
- Supporting: \$75
- Contributing: \$150
- Patron: \$500

Supporting, Contributing & Patron Members receive a DVD copy of *Dolphins - The Lighter Side*. Contributing & Patron Members also receive a photo album featuring images and information about all of our adopt-a-wild-dolphins. All gifts subject to availability and may change.

Visit www.dolphincommunicationproject.org to become a member today!

Notecards

\$2.50 each/ 3 for \$6



DCP Gear

To purchase DCP gear, visit www.cafepress/dcpgear

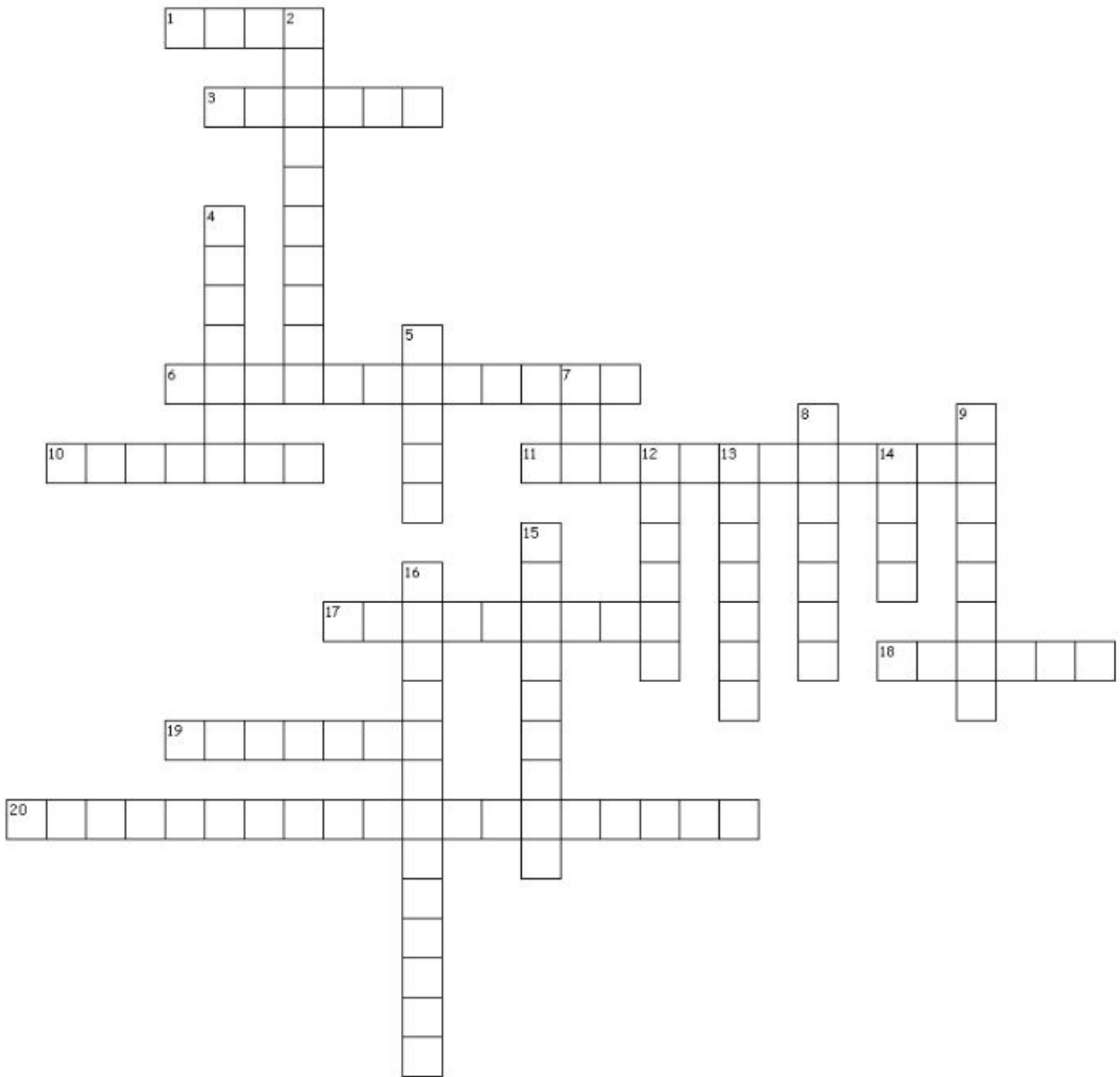


Support DCP's research efforts buy purchasing some of the many products that we offer for sale. All products seen here are also available on our website: www.dolphincommunicationproject.org All profits from the sale of these products will directly fund DCP's research and education efforts. DCP is a nonprofit organization.



Crossword for Conservation

Thank you to puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com for this puzzle making tool!



Across

1. about how many feet long a vaquita can grow
3. to use fewer resources
6. variety of life on earth or in a given environment
10. unintended animal caught during fishing
11. pay it forward for _____
17. contaminants that enter the environment and have a negative effect
18. approximately how many years a vaquita can live
19. critically endangered porpoise
20. critically endangered/functionally extinct river dolphin

Down

2. when a species is at risk for extinction
4. list from IUCN of species at risk of extinction
5. to use something again
7. number of years before vaquita go extinct if we do not act now
8. areas necessary for species to live
9. feeling the urge to do something
12. season when vaquita calves are born
13. to convert waste items into reusable objects
14. "Red List" comes from this organization
15. translation of vaquita from Spanish to English
16. change in global weather patterns that lasts for extended period of time