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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.

Summer Fun leads to Autumn/Winter Data Analyses!

As you will read in this issue of *The Dolphin Gazette*, we have had a very productive summer season! Kel oversaw 42 boat trips to observe spotted and bottlenose dolphins from Bimini and also welcomed DCP's 2017 summer interns! See pages 3 & 5 for their summer intern reflections. In addition to data collection, DCP also welcomed a newly named dolphin, Sulfur, to our adopt-a-dolphin roster (see page 6). DCP also welcomed students from Sacred Heart University to Bimini for a field course that went swimmingly! And, DCP welcomed 8 participants to Bimini for our first-in-a-few-years to Bimini Eco-tour! Many dolphins were seen by all and much fun had (see page 2 for Kel's update)!

Happy reading and Happy Labor Day to everyone!

Cheers!

Kathleen

P.S. In a few weeks, I'll begin posting updates related to our RIMS eco-tour and data collection scheduled for the first week of October! Stay tuned!



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FL Solicitation of Contributions
 Reg. #: CH42894 (also see page 8)

Thank You volunteers & students!

DCP would like to give a special thank you to volunteers, interns & students: Tori, Patrick, Kaiya, Nicole, Garion & Mathew for their assistance this summer. Well done and thank you! Our data collection and analysis this summer could not have happened without 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.

Busy Bimini!

Update from the field

As you read in the last issue of *The Dolphin Gazette*, DCP's 2017 Bimini research began in May. After collaborating with Research Associate Dr. Daisy Kaplan's field course, Nicole (DCP Master's student) and I welcomed DCP's own field course with Dr. Deirdre Yeater from Sacred Heart University (SHU). This 6-night field program followed a brief online course and was absolutely great! The students learned quite a bit about DCP's research, and helped collect surface observations and underwater photographs in a direct contribution to our data collection. They were also able to scope out some mangroves, the Bimini museum, complete a beach clean-up, and taste some local food (Bimini bread and conch, oh, yum!). It was a real pleasure having this group on-island and though SHU typically runs this program in alternating years, we're actually discussing not skipping 2018, because 2017 was great!



Juvenile Atlantic spotted dolphins often play with seaweed!

Soon after SHU's departure, Nicole and I prepped for the arrival of DCP's first ever 12-night field volunteers. Mathew and Garion were responsible for recording surface observations as well as underwater photographs and joined DCP's lecture to Dr. Kaplan's second field course of the season. We appreciated Mathew and Garion's contributions and hope it was a valuable experience for them both. DCP hopes to run a similar short-term field experience program in 2018, so stay tuned for application details.

There was no waiting around after Mathew and Garion departed, because Summer Field Intern Tori was hot on their heels. She arrived one day before fellow interns, Patrick and Kaiya, and all three assisted in Bimini for about 6 weeks. You can read their reflections on pages 3 & 5. With the intern field team in place, and with Nicole still on-island, we welcomed eight supporters for a rare DCP-led Bimini Eco-tour. This group was super fun and we had a really enjoyable, productive five dolphin trip program (and yummy meals!), completing another beach clean-up along the way. Like SHU, we're left wondering if 2018 should include another eco-tour! What do you think?

To date, we completed 42 dolphin trips this season, all with [Al Sweeting, Jr. of Bimini Adventures](#). Without his invitations to join dolphin trips, our research off Bimini simply would not happen. As such, we never want to miss an opportunity to thank him, his guests, and group leaders, as well as Sea Crest Hotel & Marina: Thank You! I also was thrilled to climb aboard the *Coral Reef II* (Shedd Aquarium) for three educational talks – thank you to the friendly crew, the great instructors, and the keen students from Shedd's High School Marine Biology program and Chicago City Day School. I'm already looking forward to next year.

We still have lots of data to process, but we already know we saw: Buster (#04), Romeo (#10), Juliette (#12), Tina (#14) with her calf, Split Jaw (#22), Lil' Jess (#35) with her calf, Swoosh (#36), Cerra (#38), Niecey (#48) and her calf, Prince William (#64), Tim (#69), Speedy (#78), Leslie (#80), Stefran (#82), Inka (#93), Noodle (#94), Paul (#99), Seabeagle (#106), newly named Sulfur (#102), and [new name-a-dolphin nominee #101](#) (see page 6 to learn how you can name her!). Hopefully, once we review photo and video data, we'll discover that we saw Freckles (#15) and the whole adopt-a-wild-dolphin line up will be accounted for!

Hopefully, I might get the chance to join a few more dolphin trips before the year is over, but even if our season stops at 42 trips, it was a great year. Data collection and processing were productive and though the to-do list is still long, I'm pleased with our accomplishments this year. Thank you to everyone who supported our research through our adopt-a-wild-dolphin program, t-shirt sales, eco-tours and field courses, educational talks, and by following our blog!

~Kel

Reflections from Summer Interns

Submitted by "The Trio"

Tori, Patrick, and Kaiya, quickly dubbed "The Trio," were this year's summer field interns. Read on to hear their individual thoughts on their experience! Interested in applying to be a summer intern? Keep an eye on our website and social media in early 2018!



Tori (L), Kaiya (C), and Patrick (R) aboard "Renegade"

When I (Tori) first contacted Kathleen Dudzinski and the Dolphin Communication Project in the fall of 2016, I was seeking an opportunity to get involved with an organization that not only made a difference in the marine science field and an impact with its research, but was an organization that I could fully support, and had a mission I believed in. After being welcomed into the DCP organization as an office volunteer, and learning more about the ins and outs of everything DCP does and why, I was proud to devote my time to its progress, and grateful for such a wonderfully enriching experience. Beginning with dolphin ID's and video logging, I quickly came to thoroughly enjoy the data analysis side of the research, and when the opportunity arose for an internship, and a chance to go out into the field in Bimini, The Bahamas, I was encouraged by Kathleen to apply for a position, so that I might experience the other side of the coin - the data collection side of the research.

After completing a spring semester internship with DCP, I was elated to have been granted a position as a summer intern for 2017, and to be able to learn first-hand what working in the field entails, as well as to enhance my understanding of the entire research process. This is something I consider to be invaluable experience for someone aspiring to join the marine science field. As a marine biology major, I could think of no better way to spend my summer than on an island in The Bahamas, working towards a cause I believe in, and searching the clear blue waters for dolphins to swim alongside and study. Having the opportunity to work under Bimini Research Manager, Kel Melillo-Sweeting, and Master's student, Nicole Danaher-Garcia, and learn how everything comes together in this field and what it takes to be successful, was one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had. It is an experience that rewards you with knowledge, skill, understanding, and professional and academic contacts in the field you wish you join. I also made memories to last a lifetime. Joining the DCP organization has been one of the best decisions of my life, and I will continue to proudly devote my time to representing them.

~Tori



Patrick collecting underwater data with a group of Atlantic spotted dolphins

I (Patrick) was born and raised in Kentucky, but my family would take frequent trips to Florida when I was a kid. My love for the ocean and dolphins was seeded in me very early in my life, but I never thought it was possible to actually be a marine biologist. But, that changed when I found the Animal Studies program at Eastern Kentucky University. I soon found out about a study abroad trip to the Bahamas to study dolphins, and thankfully, I was able to make the trip last summer. What I discovered my first time in Bimini was my passion; I found what I have to do with my life and I discovered it was actually possible. I immediately rediscovered my childhood love of dolphins. I was also so intrigued by their individual personalities and the research process. I found myself checking DCP's website for the internship application nearly every day after the trip. When it was posted, I applied, and I couldn't believe I was about to have the opportunity of a lifetime. It began with me making

to road trip down to Port Saint Lucie, Florida, to work with Kathleen in the DCP office, and to meet Kaiya and Tori! We spent the month watching videos of the RIMS dolphins, creating video logs, working on pectoral fin contact data, and studying "our" spotted dolphins we would soon see in Bimini! I loved meeting and working with Kathleen, and I tried to soak up as much knowledge and expertise as I could from her.

Field Opportunities 2018



January 2018: Roatan, Bay Islands, Honduras

Option A
Colorado State University
6 - 13 January 2018

Option B
University of Rhode Island
13 - 20 January 2018



For general course information, visit:

<http://dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/get-involved/college-courses/rims-dolphin-behavior>

Kathleen and DCP will return to Roatan next year for two weeklong field courses merging animal behavior and physiology topics! Kathleen will co-instruct the programs with Dr. Shane Kanatous (CSU) and Dr. Justin Richard (URI). Contact DCP for more information to join these field courses! Email us at “info {at} dcpmail {dot} org”



August 4 - 11, 2018: DCP & St. Mary's University

DCP will return to Roatan in August 2018 with Drs. Hill and Karlin for a weeklong field course merging animal behavior and conservation biology! Contact DCP for more information to join this field course! Email us at “info {at} dcpmail {dot} org”

For general course information, visit:

<http://dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/get-involved/college-courses/rims-dolphin-behavior>

Bimini, The Bahamas: Summer 2018

DCP is still finalizing our 2018 field programs. Please stay tuned for news on university-level field courses, an eco-tour, and our short-term and full summer internship programs.

Contact DCP at “info {at} dcpmail {dot} org” if you are interested in joining us.

Hope we'll see you in Bimini!



Summer Intern Reflections

Continued from Page 3



Patrick, Kaiya & Tori making surface observations of bottlenose dolphins

Before I knew it, we were off to see Kel in Bimini! It took at least a week before I could come to terms with myself that I was actually back on the island. I was very eager to get back on the boat and see the familiar spotted dolphins. This time was very different from last summer though; I was much more involved with the research, and working with Kel instead of just being a student to DCP. I was hoping this experience would justify my sudden change in career aspirations from last summer, and it did in every way. I loved being a part of the scientific process and becoming more familiar with the dolphins, in and out of the water. I also loved every second of my five weeks living on the island, experiencing the culture, and meeting the friendly people everywhere we went. I can't thank Kathleen and Kel enough for giving me this amazing opportunity and allowing me to gain this valuable experience. I'm thankful to have them as resources as I continue my journey to graduate school next year. I look

forward to seeing what my future holds with dolphins and with DCP!

~Patrick

When I (Kaiya) participated in a Dolphin Communication Project field course in the spring of 2015, I expected it to be a once in a lifetime experience. While I was in Bimini, I remember asking Kel about the internship, but sort of dismissed the idea as my life was headed in a different direction, or so I thought. As it turns out, my experience with DCP was a catalyst that began the shift of my career path. Two years and change in college majors later, I was thrilled to find myself preparing to return to DCP, this time as a summer intern.

Starting in DCP's office with Kathleen was an excellent way to begin the summer as I was able to learn more about the organization's history, and its founder, while simultaneously expanding my knowledge and skills in the area of data analysis. Kathleen was an excellent mentor, graciously sharing both her expertise and passion (as well as her adorable beagles!). The office portion of the internship was wonderfully informative, passed in a blur, and left me eager for my time at DCP's Bimini research site.



Kaiya at the bow of "Renegade"

Arriving in Bimini, I was in a bit of disbelief. How did I manage to get myself back to this beautiful island to not only enjoy the dolphins, but in a way that is helping with marine conservation efforts? Just like my time with Kathleen, working with Kel, Nicole, Tori, and Patrick seemed to end as soon as it started. However, my time in Bimini was full of learning, growth, fun, and renewed passion. My experiences ranged from swimming with Atlantic spotted and bottlenose dolphins to spending hours in the office IDing spot patterns and dorsal fins, enjoying the tropical waters and the mesmerizing life they contain to observing a march led by the people of Bimini fighting to save their mangroves from destruction, making friends to enjoying peaceful sunsets, and everything in between. It is hard to find the words to describe the gratitude that I feel for the past nine weeks, for Kathleen and Kel, for the work that DCP is doing, and, of course, for the wonderful dolphins of Bimini.

~Kaiya

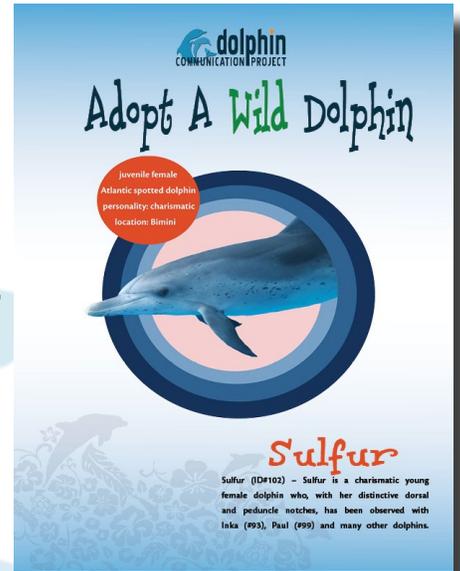
Meet Sulfur

The newest named Atlantic spotted dolphin, now available for adoption!!

Sulfur, DCP ID#102, is a juvenile, female Atlantic spotted dolphin. DCP has been observing her off the coast of Bimini, The Bahamas, since 2013. She is recognizable even before we enter the water, as she has two distinct notches in the center of her dorsal fin. In 2013, Sulfur also suffered an injury to her peduncle. Though this injury healed very well, it has left a permanent scar. Neither of these markings slow her down though! She is a busy dolphin, seen in a variety of social groups. Like “Seabeagle” (ID#106), Sulfur has also been observed with fellow juveniles, Inka (#93) and Paul (#99).

Sulphur was named in 2017, by Rahul K. Sai as a gift for Snigda Sindhuri Sagabala.

[Visit www.adoptawilddolphin.com](http://www.adoptawilddolphin.com) to adopt Sulfur today!



Name-A-Dolphin

Bimini Atlantic spotted dolphin DCP ID#101 needs a name!



Intrigued by Rahul’s generous and unique gift to Snigda? You can be the next person to name a wild dolphin through DCP’s Name-A-Dolphin program!

DCP ID#101 is a sub-adult, female Atlantic spotted dolphin. DCP has been observing her off the coast of Bimini, The Bahamas, since 2012, when she was already a juvenile. She is a “clean” dolphin, meaning that she does not have any major nicks or scars. Because of this, researchers rely on her spot pattern to recognize her, year after year. Thankfully, she seems fairly interested in the boat and our cameras, which allows us to document her new spot development and associations over time. Through the years, she has been seen with younger dolphins, like Sulfur (#102), as well as older females, including Romeo (#10) and Juliette (#12). Who will she be with next year? And, when will she have her first calf? DCP will be watching the waters off Bimini to find out!

Now that you know a bit more about #101, what name do you think suits her best? The cost to give a name to #101 - a rare and unique opportunity - is \$750. If you’ve got a name in mind, you can purchase your name-a-dolphin kit today!

<http://dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/shop/name-a-dolphin/name-101>

Fancy Goat book donation

DCP to receive free books!

DCP will receive a number of copies of a brand-new children's picture book, *Fancy Goat!* We will be able to use these books for fundraising and giveaways. One of the authors of *Fancy Goat* is DCP's own Justin Gregg. Thank you to Outside the Lines Press for donating these copies! For more info about the book, or to order a copy, visit www.fancygoat.ca

About the book

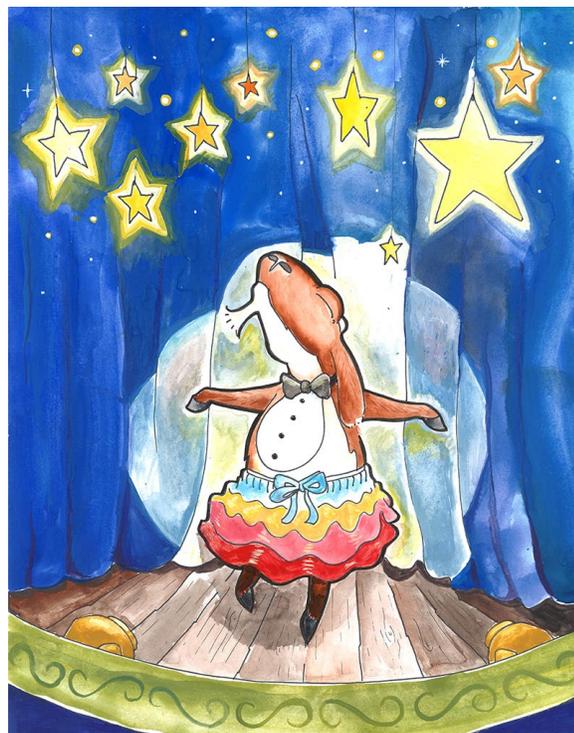
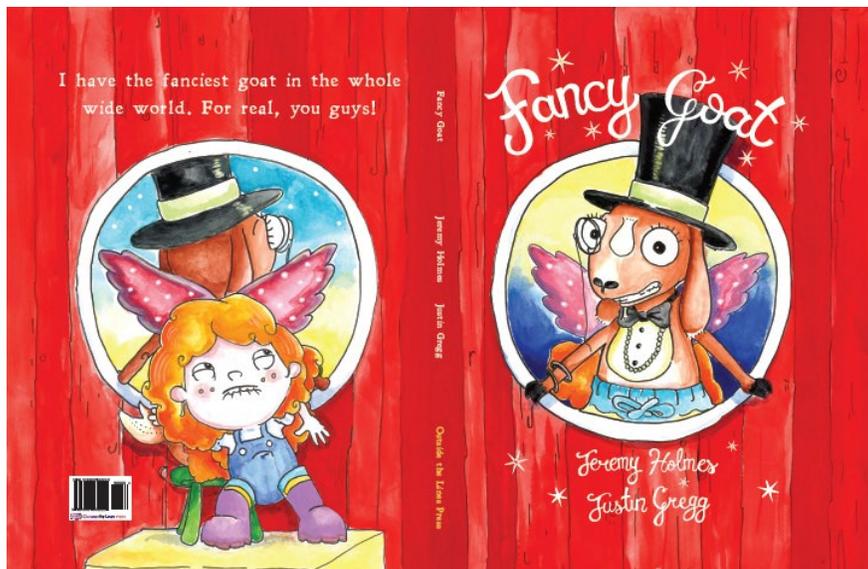
In *Fancy Goat*, a new children's picture book written and illustrated by Jeremy Holmes with co-author Justin Gregg, a young girl laments her pet's "need" for an extravagant lifestyle. From wearing cravats, top hats, and pearls to doing ballet, flying planes, and having his own masseuse, the hapless run-of-the-mill goat embarks on lavish adventures in the finest of wardrobes. In this world, there is no pink and blue - just fanciness and fun. This fanciness, of course, exists only in the eyes of the girl through her wild imagination and inventive spirit.

Why do kids need Fancy Goat?

The little girl in *Fancy Goat* is able to dress up her goat in whatever outfit she can imagine. In her world, there is not pink and blue - just fanciness and fun. The adults in her life allow her to express her creative side without telling her that "goats don't wear pearls". They encourage her to be who she wants to be - a message that resonates with both children and adults.

Being free to explore your creative side - whether it's fashion, art, or music - is vital to children's intellectual development. As an advocate for children's mental health, *Fancy Goat* author Jeremy Holmes has spent his career helping kids unlock their creativity, allowing them to find their voice in a world where the creative arts are becoming less and less valued. *Fancy Goat* is a story that reaffirms the value of letting kids be kids when it comes to creative expression, without imposing our adult biases and prejudices.

Author Jeremy Holmes has spent his career helping kids unlock their creativity. In addition to working with schools and health care organizations in Nova Scotia to provide music therapy and songwriting workshops to children, Holmes is also the founder of the children's songwriting act The Little Ditties. The group's debut self-titled album earned an East Coast Music Award in 2014 for Children's Recording of the Year.



DCP Announcements!

We've been busy with our collaborators!

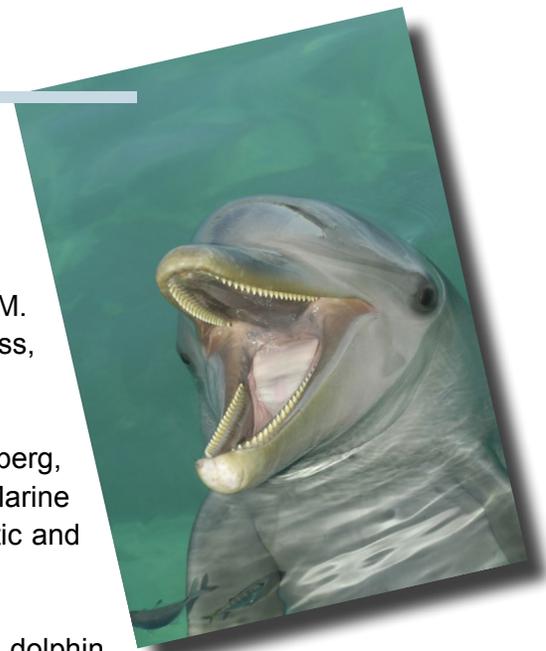
Check out these DCP publications:

Dudzinski, KM, Gregg, J 2017. Communication. In (W.F. Perrin, B. Würsig, H.C.M. Thewissen, eds) Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals, third edition. Academic Press, Inc. (pp. 210-215).

Dudzinski, KM, Charrier, I, Maust-Mohl, M, McFadden, S, Miksis-Olds, J, Reidenberg, JS, Thomas, J (in press) Chapter 11. Bioacoustical Studies on Aquatic and Marine Mammals. In (JA Thomas ed.) Vol. II Chapter 11 Bioacoustical Studies on Aquatic and Marine Mammals. Springer-Verlag.

Dudzinski, KM, Mateleska, ME (in press) Conservation and education through dolphin research and eco-tourism. In (AB Kaufman, MJ Bashaw, TL Maple eds). Scientific Zoos and Aquariums: Their Role in Conservation and Research. Cambridge University Press, UK.

Foundations of



Publications in Review:

Davis GE, Baumgartner MF, Gurnee J, Bell J, Berchok C, Bort Thornton J, Brault S, Buchanan G, Charif RA, Cholewiak D, Clark CW, Corkeron P, Delarue, Dudzinski K, Hatch L, Hildebrand J, Hodge L, Klinck H, Kraus S, Martin B, Mellinger D, Moors-Murphy H, Nieu Kirk S, Nowacek D, Parks S, Read A, Rice AN, Risch D, Širović A, Soldevilla M, Stafford K, Stanistreet J, Summers E, Todd S, Warde A, Van Parijs SM (submitted) Long-term passive acoustic recordings track the changing distribution of North Atlantic right whales (*Eubalaena glacialis*) from 2004 to 2014. Scientific Reports (*pending review*)

THE DOLPHIN COMMUNICATION PROJECT CHARITABLE SOLICITATION NUMBER CH42894, MEETS ALL REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED BY THE FLORIDA SOLICITATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS ACT. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, OR 850-410-3800 WHEN CALLING OUTSIDE THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

In-Kind Donations: Our Wish List

Do you have access to any of this equipment? Contact DCP to make an in-kind donation today! (Yup, in-kind donations are tax-deductible, too. Contact your account to learn how.)

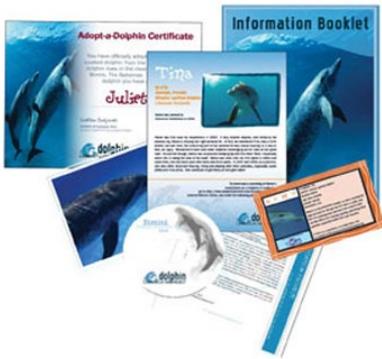
- * Compact HD Projector * Underwater still cameras * SD cards * GoPro * Handheld GPS *
- * Office supplies - paper, pencils, erasers, rechargeable batteries, toner *
- * Frequent flyer miles * Laptop *
- * Video camera * Hydrophones *



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

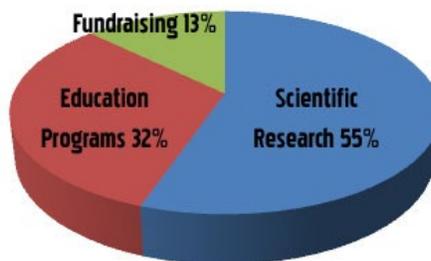
Volunteer, ecotour and internship opportunities for the public

See page 6 for details on how YOU can name ID#101!

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: \$35 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.



Name That Dolphin!

With the Bimini field season winding down, test your hand at identifying the individual Atlantic spotted dolphins below. And, remember to follow them on Facebook or adopting one today!

A



Sulfur

I just got my name! See page 6.

B



Noodle

Romeo

C



D



E



ID#101

You can name me! See page 6.

Tim