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The Dolphin gazette

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NEWSLETTER FOR THE DOLPHIN COMMUNICATION PROJECT

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

Happy Belated Valentine's Day! Happy President's Day!

Growing up, February always equated to snow, ice, and cold weather to me. As a Florida transplant, February now means sunshine, warmth, and maybe a dip in the ocean! I hope you each find a comfy spot (by a toasty fire or on a sun-dappled beach) to read this issue of the Dolphin Gazette. It is filled with updates (RIMS field courses, Dolphins), Bimini and RIMS Eco-tour offerings for 2018, and some new and fun information (Hill and Yeater article, puzzle page). DCP also has incuded details about our Summer Internship program that features both office time and field time (to Bimini). Applications are being received now! And, if you check our page 4, you can select a snazzy new DCP t-shirt to wear when you read future issues of our newsletter, or maybe even visit us in the field!



Kathleen

P.S. Check out page 10 to be one of the first to read about DCP's forthcoming 20th year anniversary and how you can participate!!!



In this issue

2018 Field Opportunites | Summary of RIMS field courses | Get your shirt on! | Field Internships | Chicken Soup for the Soul | Dolphins to Belugas | Activity

Mailing Address

Dolphin Communication Project P.O. Box 7485 Port St. Lucie, FL 34985 USA

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

Thank You volunteers & students!

Our students & volunteers are a crucial part of the DCP team: thank you! You can assist with DCP's work through field courses, internships and eco-tours. Keep reading!

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{at}depmail{dot}org.

Come Join Us!

With different dates and locations, we've got you covered!

Bimini, The Bahamas Come experience wild dolphin research (& have a lot of fun)!

Session 1: 26 - 31 May, 2018

Session 2: 26 - 31 August, 2018

\$1,875.00 per person, per session

Each session includes:

*5 nights' accommodation (double occupancy; single available for fee)

*5 boat trips (weather dependent)

*All meals (private cook!) plus boat snacks & drinking water

*Rental snorkel gear (if needed)

*DCP talks (optional to join)

*Bahamian tax (VAT)



Not included: Transportation to/from Bimini, Transportation between airport/arrival port and hotel, Gratuity

Email us if you'd like to reserve your spot! info{at}dcpmail{dot}org. For more info, visit http://dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/get-involved/ecotours/bimini Cheers,

Kel







Roatan, Honduras Fall 2018

Keep reading for details on joining Kathleen this fall!

Join Kathleen at RIMS: 2018

Where: Roatan, Honduras

When: 29 September - 6 October 2018



We are now accepting sign-ups for our next field session at the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences (Anthony's Key Resort) in Roatan, Honduras. Our fall 2017 trip was a great success and we're now looking forward to 2018! Every member of our group gets personal exposure to DCP's research as well as free time to explore Roatan, both on land and under water. Learn more about this great program (including the new accommodation options*) on DCP's Roatan Eco-tour Page (under Get Involved).

Cheers,

Kathleen

*New Room Options!

Eeny, meeny, miny, moe

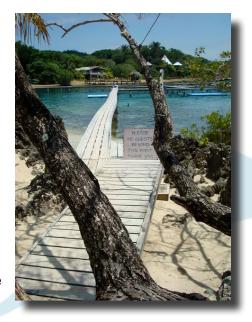
DCP has a three-tiered approach in 2018! Your cost depends on your lodging choice! We have a limited number of each room type reserved and they are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up today!

Key Superior Room: \$1,230 per person - on Anthony's key with air conditioning and a small mini fridge!

Hill Superior Room: \$1,015 per person - on the hill above the resort with air conditioning and a small mini fridge!

Hill Standard Room: \$900.00 per person - ONLY ONE space remaining! - on the hill above the resort, no AC.

Deposit: A \$200 USD/person nonrefundable deposit holds your space on DCP's 2018 Eco-tour program. After receiving your deposit, 50% of the remaining balance is due by 31 March 2018. Final balance payment is due by 30 June 2018.



Also: These costs are based on double occupancy and include lodging, three meals a day and more (see website - it's a loooooong list!). Contact DCP for more details about trip logistics. Bottled water, alcohol, and soda are available for a small fee.

Airfare and Honduran departure taxes are NOT included.

Submit your \$200/per person, nonrefundable deposit today! http://dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/get-involved/ecotours/roatan

Back to Back Field Courses in Roatan

Submitted by Kathleen Dudzinski, PhD

It was almost as if I'd never left! I returned to Roatan on January 6th, a mere 90+ days after our fall eco-tour ended!

The two weeklong programs were university-level field courses in association with Colorado State University (CSU) and Dr. Shane Kanatous from 6-13 January and with the University of Rhode Island (URI) with Dr. Justin Richard. Each week had a full program with 11 and 12 students, respectively. The students were all enthusiastic, engaged in the topic (research, dolphins, and the water), and gungho to participate and learn. Our discussions were both informal chats (often from swinging hammocks) and formal lectures (in a classroom characterized by numerous photos, shells, and more).



The CSU group with French and Ronnie! Go RAMS!

The CSU group was focused on understanding the dynamic interplay between exercise physiology and behavior. Could they identify a dolphin

behavior indicative of some physiological parameter? The students were charged with completing and discussing assigned readings, participating in my data collection sessions (yes! at 6:30 AM every morning for both groups!), and developing a research question on which they would all participate for data collection.



Ronnie and French from Kathleen's view with the MVA.

The CSU week also included three established female scientists: Dr. H. Hill (St. Mary's University), Dr. M. Botero (Sam Houston State University), and Dr. D. Yeater (Sacred Heart University) who were joining our week to collect data on dolphin creativity and also collaborate on a beginning comparison study looking into tactile contact exchange between dolphins as compared with how chimpanzees share contact. Dr. Botero's research focuses on chimpanzee contact exchange. Dr. Yeater and Dr. Hill are in psychology with projects focused on dolphins, other social animals, and sometimes even humans. (Stay tuned for more on these developing projects and collaborations in future issues of the Dolphin Gazette.)

The CSU students developed a program to look at the number of tail beats (aka strokes) per respiration. They collected data on Bill and Ritchie when each was alone to facilitate identity confirmation and to have all students spread around the dock to not miss any movements!

The first week definitely received the bulk of better weather for these January programs! We had sunshine each day and rain! each night. The weather shifted on Saturday: the change-over day when CSU students went home and the URI group arrived! The wind increased(!), the water current increased(!), and the rain increased! Do you sense a theme here!?! It was the first week ever for me that on two days we could not even really The URI group on our last day of observations in the dock at Bailey's Cay because the current was so strong. Still, we spent time in both informal and formal discussions. And, the URI



morning! Hurray for the Sun's participation!

students helped log video footage and really got to know the dolphins with this analysis and ID confirmation with naturally occuring scars and marks... continued on page 7

You're going to look sooooo gooooood!

Pre-order your tee or tank today!



It only happens once a year (ish): Your chance to get a DCP shirt! Choose from adult short sleeve (4 colors), youth short sleeve (2 colors), adult long sleeve (white only) and - for the first time! - trendy women's tanks (3 colors).

This special order period ends on March 7. Shirts and bundles are expected to ship on or before April 2nd. We know that sounds like a long time to wait, but by pre-ordering your shirt, you help DCP reduce the overhead of placing the shirt order with our printer (insert sigh of relief and gratitude).



Visit www.dolphincommunicationproject.com to order today!

It's not as pretty, but here's the direct link:

http://dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/shop/t-shirt-fundrasier



These flowy, women's tanks are already popular (Kathleen, Kel & Nicole have reserved theirs!). These blend tanks have a relaxed, drapey fit with side seams. In white, mint and teal, you'll look great no matter what the spring or summer activity!

And, the classic long-sleeve will keep the sun and bugs at bay or keep you warm on a cool night!
Insider tip: Kel finds the sleeves to be a bit short. Did they shrink or does Kel have really long



arms? Join the Bimini eco-tour and you can measure them!

Remember: This is a pre-order. Choose & pay for your shirt now, see it shipped by 2 April. We know this is a long time to wait, but **your support now ensures we can cover the cost of our order!** Thank you!

Accepting Internship Applications

Summer internship applications are due 28 February

We are currently seeking two interns for the summer of 2018. These internships have field and office components, both of which are mandatory, and total 9-12 weeks, depending on DCP's schedule.



Interns are responsible for sighting logs during dolphin trips

Responsibilities

In the field:

- --Travel to and assist for 4-6 weeks at our Bimini research site (exact dates TBD, likely beginning in late June, following the office component)
- --Assist gathering data (general observations, photographs) during 4-6 hour/day boat excursions (weather and schedule dependent)
- --Complete photo-identification of dolphins from still photography and video as well as other data entry and analysis tasks
- --Assist with on-board and outreach education as well as web-based projects
- --Represent DCP in an enthusiastic, responsible, mature and respectful manner

At the office:

- --Travel to and assist for approximately 4 weeks at our Port Saint Lucie, Florida (FL) office (exact dates TBD, likely prior to field component, beginning in late May)
- --Process and analyze data, including, but not limited to: photo-identification of individuals from other DCP research sites, event sampling from video data for behavioral analyses,

and acoustic analysis of dolphin sounds

--Assist in the development and implementation of education programs for schools and the general public, if needed

Requirements, Expenses & Fees are outlined on our website.

Interested applicants should review information at this link: http://dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/get-involved/internships Please read this page thoroughly before applying or emailing questions.

Send a completed application (downloadable and detailed at the link above) to kelly[at]dcpmail[dot]org. Applications are due 28 February 2018. Due to field schedules, only electronic applications will be accepted. Interviews (via telephone or Skype) will be arranged for selected candidates in early March.



who is studying whom

Interns often collect still photographs of dolphins, for photo-ID efforts



Chicken Soup for the Soul: Humane Heroes

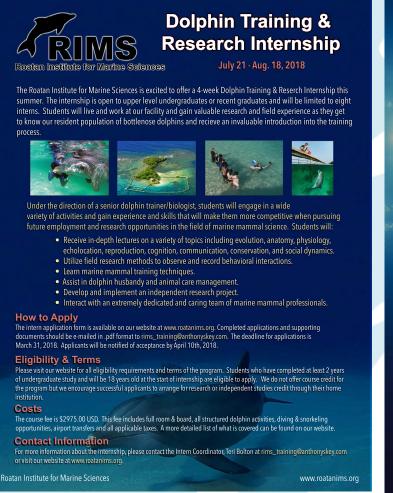
Free e-book series, a project from American-Humane, is now available on Amazon.

Volumes I: 4th grade reading level & above Volume II: 7th grade reading level & above Volume III: High school reading level & above

DCP likes letting our supporters know about new, accessbile books out there. But, it's not a direct endorsement!

RIMS INTERNSHIPS

Check out these neat Internships from RIMS - see their web site for more details





Field Courses on Roatan ...

continued from page 4 ...

The URI group also learned that with these dolphins we can use the rake marks for individual recognition because our data collection is within the time frame for when those marks heal and fade. The URI students were focused on completing portfolios as their program was a J-Term course meaning it began two weeks prior to the field course portion with DCP and me.

Both groups got to participate in boat snorkel sessions to see the reef and fish. Both got to meet the dolphins through our daily research and during



their own encounter and swim programs. Overall, we collected about 4.5 hours of video data and got to observe several detailed interactions - and, even though the weather was iffy, the underwater visibility was exceptional! I look forward to coordinaiting with Drs. Kanatous and Richard for next year's January college-level field courses to Roatan with DCP!

Cheers

-Kathleen

From Dolphins to Belugas

A note from Dr. Heather Hill and Dr. Deirdre (Dee) Yeater based on their experience with dolphin research which they are now applying to a related species, the beluga!

Hello Gazette Readers,

We spent the first part of our careers studying bottlenose dolphins - their development, play, cognition, social interactions, care behaviors, and observational learning, etc. We began our study of bottlenose dolphins at MarineLife Oceanarium in Mississippi although several years apart. Dee went on to study rough-toothed dolphins off of the coast of Utila and at a facility in Florida. Heather continued to study dolphins at other facilities between California and Texas.

About 10 years ago, Heather transitioned to studying belugas at a facility in Texas and Dee followed shortly thereafter at a facility in Connecticut. Taking our experiences with the dolphins, we began to follow beluga behavior. WOW! We were unprepared for the major differences in size, speed, and proximity to one another. It was like watching a movie in slow-motion, but it was real-time for the belugas. After a few years, we managed to adjust to the much larger and slower scale of belugas.

Like Kathleen and Kelly at DCP, we focus on the social interactions of the belugas. We are also interested in their spontaneous play behavior, development, and cognitive abilities. Called the "canaries of the sea", belugas are extremely noisy.



They have a number of calls and sounds that are particularly intriguing because they can manipulate their melons in unique ways as they vocalize. Like dolphins, our understanding of beluga calls is just brushing the surface. What we do know, based on work by Dr. Valeria Vergara, is that belugas have a contact call that is shared across the population but appears to have some individuality to it, similar to the signature whistles of dolphins. However, a lot of work is still needed to better understand the use of the contact call and how it varies between individuals.

Although we do not study beluga acoustics currently, we are recording their behavior and social interactions. One of the biggest surprises we experienced was that the female belugas in our facilities did not spend much time socializing with each other or with males, unless it was breeding season. Accustomed to dolphin social behavior, we expected belugas to interact with each other frequently, whether male or female. What our studies have shown us thus far is that adult males are more likely interacting with other adult males during non-breeding times and adult females are much less likely to interact with each other. This seems to be the case for all facilities studied thus far but does not seem to be the case for belugas in their natural habitat according to researchers working with different populations. However, the immature belugas do not seem to follow this pattern. Male and female immature belugas are as likely to interact with other immature belugas, whether male or female, much like dolphins do. Our best guess for the difference between the two settings for adult behavior is that either the wild belugas are not as well identified as the belugas in captivity or kinship is critical to social groupings and subsequent socializing by belugas. The adult female belugas in the facilities we collaborate with are generally unrelated, despite having spent a number of years with each other.

The minimal social interactions also make contact much less likely. In the 10 years of Heather's longitudinal study, adult females have been observed to engage in any type of contact (i.e., affiliative or agonistic) less than five times.

continued from page 8 ...

Most contact occurs between mothers and their calves, especially during the first year of life. It also occurs between calves and young animals. Pectoral fin contact occurs, but does not seem to be as critical to developing or maintaining relationships, as it appears to do so for dolphins. Rather than use pectoral fin contact to build and maintain relationships, belugas may use different types of contact. Males may use contact during socio-sexual interactions, especially pelvic thrusts, to manage their bonds with other males. Adult females may not use contact intentionally as frequently as their bonds appear to be looser than bonds between adult males. Juvenile belugas seem to use a variety of types of contact as they mature with males and females moving along different developmental paths - males more sociable and females less so. For example, immature belugas engage in a mouth-to-mouth social interaction that appears to be tug-a-war between belugas with their mouths. This behavior may be important for their development the more we observe it across different calves and facilities. We have just started to examine the role of contact in belugas and have much to explore before understanding their sociability.

This venture into sociability and the role of contact in belugas has set the stages for many future research collaborations with DCP. We have so many unanswered questions that will take as many years as it has taken Kathleen and Kel to uncover the contact mysteries of dolphins. We have also expanded our observational research programs to a variety of cognitive questions that we are excited to share more details about soon.

Cheers

-Heather & Dee

Dr. Heather Hill is an Associate Professor of Psychology at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX. Dr. Deirdre Yeater is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT.



Talking With Dolphins

Kathleen M. Dudzinski '89 Biological Sciences

Director of the Dolphin Communication Project, international marine mammal research organization

"Dolphins are long-lived social mammals with dedicated study into their communication, cognition, and culture really in its infancy.

Online Snippets!

UCONN asks alums: What does the future hold?

UCONN, Kathleen's alma mater, asked alums in various businesses what they think the future holds for their particular industry, be it education, finance, entertainment, or space exploration. Scroll down to the science section to read Kathleen's thoughts!

https://magazine.uconn.edu/2018/01/23/the-future-of-almost-everything/

Connect the Dots

Check out Coastal Angler Magazine Fort Myers Edition for a short article by Kel! DCP hopes that the Coastal Angler readers enjoy this introduction into DCP's work, particularly photo-ID and all the questions recognizing individuals allows us to ask.

https://coastalanglermag.com/connect-the-dots/





DCP Announcements!

Coming Soon: 20 Years of DCP!

A fast-approaching two-decade anniversary!

DCP was founded in 2000! My how time flies when you're having fun! We are planning an anniversary compilation in two forms: a book with srtories and photos and a new DCP video. The video is still in the planning stages but will likely be conservation themed. The book will feature stories and memories from our supporters through the years! This means you! If you joined a DCP field program to any of our research sites, if you participated in an education program (DCPYP, DRT, field course, etc.), if you volunteered with DCP in the office or the field, we want to hear from you! If you have photos to illustrate your story, we want to see them!

During 2018 and the first half of 2019, DCP will be collecting these memories and stories - in print and electronic forms - and will put together a book that illustrates via images and prose DCP's history as well as our present and maybe some ideas for the future. We look forward to including your stories and memories. For more information, send a query to DCP at info {at} dopmail {dot} org

Stay tuned to future issues of the Dolphin Gazette, as we'll include more details as the book and video projects develop.

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-adolphins 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

Holiday gift ideas www.cafepress.com/holidaydolphin





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

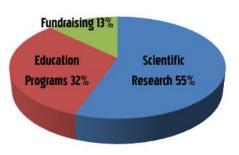
Maintenance of the DCP website, field reports, and our podcast The Dolphin Pod

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 the next Name-A-Dolphin opportunity!!

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



Adopt-a-wild-dolphin t-shirts tinyurl.com/ylfx44v





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 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 | Seabeagle | Sulfur | Vee

I would like to adopt a dolphin: \$35 for one year. I	Oolphin name:
•	k, to DCP at P.O. Box 7485, Port St. Lucie, FL 34985.
Credit card payment is available online through ou	r web site at www.dolphincommunicationproject.org
Please SEND my adoption package to:	If this is a gift, please note gift GIVER address
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
City: State: Zip:	City: State: Zip:
• ——— • ——	
Email:	Email:
	A

Postcards

\$1.00 each/ 3 for \$2







Notecards

\$2.50 each/ 3 for \$6







Iruka Gear

To purchase Iruka gear visit www.cafepress/irukagear



DCP Gear

To purhcase DCP gear, visit www.cafepress/dcpgear







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.

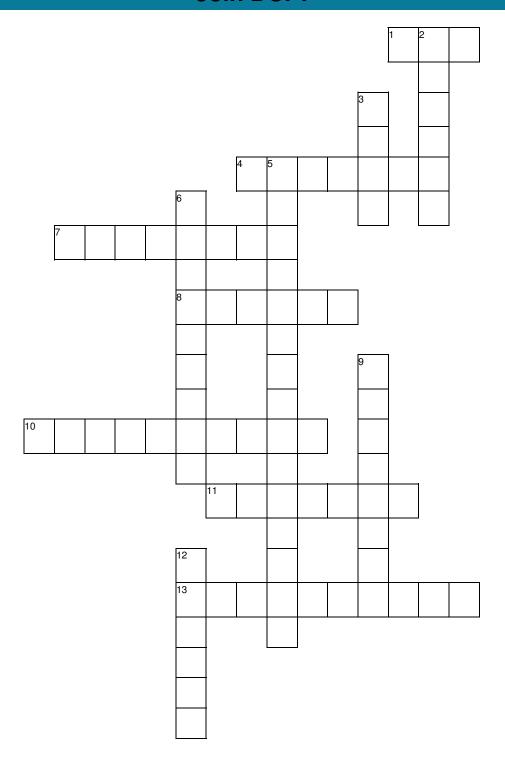
Visit www.dolphincommunicationproject.org to become a member today!

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.



Pop Quiz! How well do you know DCP?

Join DCP!



Across

- 1. The month of DCP's first 2018 eco-tour
- 4. Bimini is a part of this independent country
- 7. How DCP feels with your support
- 8. DCP will celebrate this anniversary soon
- **10.** The dolphins found at DCP's RIMS and Bimini field sites
- 11. a meaningful vacation involving nature
- 13. DCP is accepting applications until 28 Feb

Dowr

- **2.** The month of DCP's second Bahamas eco-tour this year
- 3. Roatan Institue for Marine Sciences
- 5. The smaller species at DCP's Bimini field site
- 6. The month of DCP's 2018 Roatan eco-tour
- 9. Roatan is an island in this country
- 12. DCP's Bahamas field site with wild dolphins