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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.

May Showers in 2018 ... will they lead to June Sun?!

Tropical Storm Alberto led many news stories this week across the U.S., at least. Florida experienced a very dry winter and early spring such that we had almost no April showers ... though the latter half of May has reversed the dry season! Now, we are hoping for a bit of sunshine to even out the weather and drop us back into the summer patterns of a little bit of rain here and there. As you read in this issue, we have plenty of opportunities for folks to join DCP in the field - through our SFE program and our Eco-tours to both Bimini and Roatan. We'd welcome the chance to share with you exactly how we collect our data and what we are learning about dolphins! We also have a new spotted dolphin available to receive a Name in our dolphin ID catalog. In addition to weather and field work, another theme in this issue relates to DCP's age. Check out page 7 for more details! And, I hope you enjoy reading this issue and that you have a splendid summer season!

Cheers!

Kathleen



In this issue

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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!

Thank you to: Nicole (Master's student), J.P., (Short Field Experience Intern), Nat (Summer Intern), and Shelly (volunteer). Your assistance in the office and the field is so valuable!

Internships

If you are interested in interning with DCP in the field THIS summer, apply for an SFE internship. Please note, most other internships are office-based and do NOT include field work. Check out the web site before contacting us at info@dcppmail.org.

Come Join Us!

Time is running out to join our August program.

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

Next Session: 26 - 31 August, 2018

Only four spaces left!

\$1,875.00 per person

Program 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 (for hotel & boat staff)

Email us if you'd like to reserve your spot! info@dcpmail.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). Only 5 spaces remain!

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! **Only 2 Rooms (2 people per room) Left!**

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

Hill Standard Room: \$900.00 per person - **ONLY ONE** space remaining! - on the hill above the resort, no AC. **Only 1 Space Left (shared occupancy)!**

Deposit: A 50% payment will hold your space on DCP's 2018 Eco-tour program, with the final payment 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.



Sign up to join DCP and Kathleen on Roatan today!

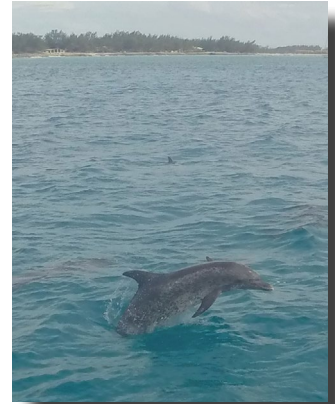
<http://dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/get-involved/ecotours/roatan>

Great Start in Bimini!

Submitted by Kelly Melillo-Sweeting

Do you remember turning 16? Was there a lot of hype? Did you start to drive? Did you think you were so old and wise?

This Bimini research season is my 16th. Quite frankly, I'm not sure how to feel about that! But, I do know that it has been great so far. Though we haven't actually had a ton of time on the water, searching for dolphins, DCP Master's student Nicole did return in April right before we welcomed back Dr. Stephen Turnbull. Dr. Turnbull was one of DCP's first Bimini field classes and, after a few years off, he once again brought students from University of New Brunswick Saint John (UNBSJ). This group was amazing! What a refreshingly nice and focused group of students. And despite the raging wind forecast, the weather was great. The course content covered much about the marine environment, so the students also got to snorkel several reefs, view Caribbean reef sharks and southern stingrays, snorkel around mangroves and, of course, see dolphins. There was so much going on that we didn't even get a chance to do our beach clean-up! Thankfully, an island wide clean-up was organized on UNBSJ's departure day, so although we did not get to help out, the beach still felt the love. Now: to stop the litter in the first place...



Atlantic spotted dolphin gives UNB students a fun leap!

May was quiet in terms of dolphin observations, but even though I wasn't able to join their boat trips, I had an absolutely wonderful visit with Bimini Adventures' mid-May guests. Sharing information about dolphins and hearing the guests' experiences and questions is truly invigorating. Their time and their support were so wonderful!



Sulfur checks out the UNB crew!

We've had a good start to observing the Bimini Adopt-A-Dolphins. So far, we've seen Romeo (#10), Juliette (#12), Tina (#14), Lil' Jess (#35), Cerra (#38), Niecey (#48), Tim (#69), Leslie (#80), Vee (#101), Sulfur (#102), and possibly Noodle (#94). We're still reviewing photos and video to confirm Noodle and to see if there were other confirmed sightings! On 22 May, I also welcomed J.P., our first Short Field Experience Intern, to the island. J.P. first met DCP and Bimini during a field course with Sacred Heart University. He's already been hard at work! Just one day later, Nicole returned to help supervise J.P.'s work, collect data and ensure that our May eco-tour guests have the best experience possible.

The eco-tour guests began arriving on Friday 25th with our first boat trip scheduled for Saturday. We have some challenging weather due to Tropical Storm Alberto. TS Alberto is not predicted to directly impact Bimini, but the surrounding weather system is kicking up wind and bringing rain. The eco-tour group is still on Bimini as this Gazette issue headed to your inbox. It's been great to have familiar faces back on-island and meet new friends and supporters.

As always, you can keep tabs on our field work off Bimini by following along with our blog. Each blog post is visible on www.dolphincommunicationproject.org and via Facebook and Twitter. If you are interested in joining us in Bimini, check out page 2 for details on our August 2018 Eco-Tour (aka Research Experience) and page 6 for our remaining Short Field Experience Internship openings. These are amazing opportunities and all help DCP with our research!

Cheers

-Kel

Name-A-Dolphin

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

Wondering where the Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphins get their names? Well, wonderful and generous DCP supporters name them! And, you can be the next person to name a wild dolphin through DCP's Name-A-Dolphin program!

DCP ID#110 is a juvenile, female Atlantic spotted dolphin. DCP has been observing her off the coast of Bimini, The Bahamas, since 2015, when she was already independent from her mom. She is a "clean" dolphin, meaning that like many of the dolphins in this study area, she does not have any major nicks or scars. Even without scars, DCP researchers can recognize her, year after year, thanks to her unique spot pattern. As she comes by the boat and our cameras, we get the chance 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). This past spring, we even saw her in the Bimini harbor with Paul (#99) and Vee (#101). Who will she be with later this summer? 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 #110, what name do you think suits her best? The cost to give a name to #110 - a rare and unique opportunity - is \$750 (USD). If you've got a name in mind, you can purchase your name-a-dolphin kit today!

<https://dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/shop/name-a-dolphin/name-110>



What happens when you Name-A-Dolphin?

We'll get some information from you: Is this a gift? In honor of someone? Which book (from listed options) do you want? A t-shirt or mug? Then, we'll get to work. Making #110's video and your personalized Name-A-Dolphin kit. Once the kit is ready, it heads your way (or to the recipient, if a gift).

Next: #110, with her new name, becomes part of the Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin program and the general public can adopt "your" dolphin! But, no one else can name her.

Short Field Experience Internships

Two positions are still available!

We are currently seeking two Short Field Experience (SFE) Interns for THIS summer. These internships have field components only. For these remaining spaces, only female applicants can be considered.



Interns are responsible for sighting logs during dolphin trips

DATES:

Session A: Arrive 25 June - Depart 7 July

Session B: Arrive 13 July – Depart 25 July

Responsibilities

- Travel to and assist for 12 nights at our Bimini research site
- Assist gathering data (general observations, photographs) during 4-6 hour/day boat excursions (weather & 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

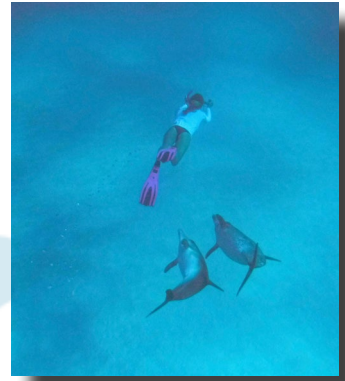
Successful SFE interns work well in a small team, are comfortable on boats and in the water, have a strong attention to detail, and solid general computer skills. Housing is provided for a \$600 fee (includes utilities and drinking water). Transportation to Bimini and food are not included.

Interested applicants should review information at this link:

<https://dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/the-latest-buzz/field-reports-new/item/95094-more-field-intern-openings>

Please read this page, and the links, thoroughly before applying or emailing questions.

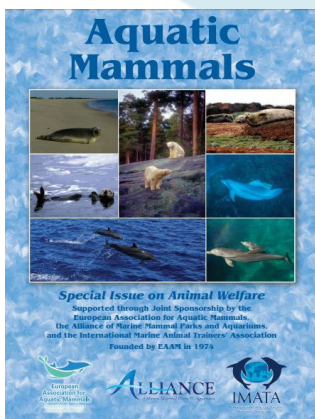
Send a completed application (downloadable and detailed at the link above) to [kelly\[at\]dcpmail\[dot\]org](mailto:kelly[at]dcpmail[dot]org). Note: only the following supplemental materials are required: cover letter, resume and one (1) letter of recommendation. Applicants must be 18 years old to apply and preference may be given to those applicants over 21 years old. *At this time, due to housing constraints, only female applicants will be considered.* **Applications are ASAP.** Due to field schedules, only electronic applications will be accepted. Interviews (via telephone or Skype) will be arranged for selected candidates in early June.



Sometimes we wonder who is studying whom



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



[Aquatic Mammals: Special Issue on Animal Welfare](#)

In March, *Aquatic Mammals*, the longest running peer-reviewed journal dedicated to research on aquatic mammals, published a Special Issue on Animal Welfare. Each PDF is available at no cost from the journal website (see the home page): <http://www.aquaticmammalsjournal.org/>

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

2000 to 2020 - DCP's anniversary approaches

Get ready to share your memories of DCP!

Time flies when you're having fun!

And, believe me, we've been having fun for nearly 20 years! As Kel mentioned on page 4, it is hard to know where the years have evaporated to, especially when the "work" one does is a complete blast! (My opinion, here, of course!) We are 1.5 years away from DCP's 20th anniversary in existence. Some of you might recall that DCP was born the same year that the DOLPHINS large-format film from MacGillivray Freeman Films premiered. Several of the film's dolphin stars were residents around Bimini and are in DCP's Bimini dolphin ID catalog. Several past and current human eco-tour participants just might remember some of those dolphins, as much as Kel and I do! DCP was established to provide an avenue to conduct research on dolphin communication and grew to include acoustics, behavior, cognition, ecology, physiology and more. Equally important to our research goal was the intent and aim to share our research results through a variety of engaging and entertaining educational programs. That is, DCP was formed with the dual goals of research and education - a perfect blend to promote conservation messages and offer opportunities for people of all ages to learn about and experience dolphins from our science-based perspective. And, we plan to keep following and promoting those goals into the future.

I could go into more detail here and wax poetic about DCP and how our programs have grown over the years, not the least of which is in partnership with at least 12 universities! But, this announcement about DCP's approaching anniversary is an alert to those of you with long memories and a penchant for sharing stories. Over the next 6-12 months, DCP would like you to send us your stories and any photos you'd be willing to share about your experiences with DCP, or any of the DCP team including the dolphins. Our plan is to put together a memory book with plans for making the book available in both electronic and print forms to share with our supporters. We might also be able to put together a short video narrative summarizing the past 20 years ... but more on that possibility in a future gazette (stay tuned!).

So, please ponder what DCP has meant to you and put some of those thoughts into writing to share with DCP. Send your essays and photos or just photos with a few notes to DCP either via email or via snail mail:

E-mail: `info {at} dcpmail {dot} org`

Note: if by email, please note we cannot receive attachments larger than 10 MB. So, if your photos are larger than a few MB, please send via a link (e.g., dropbox or wetransfer {dot} com)

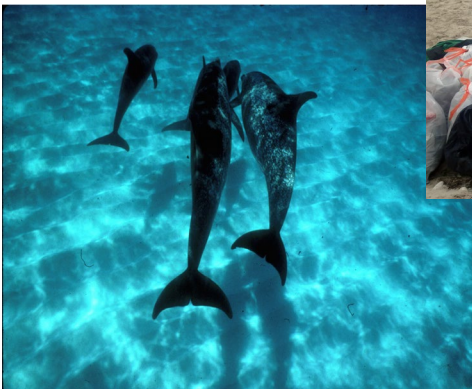
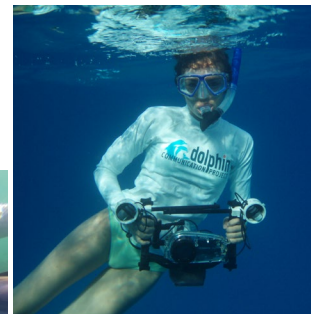
Snail mail: DCP, P.O. Box 7485, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34985

If you are sharing photos, please be sure to let us know who took the photo so we can identify that person and thank them in the acknowledgements section. Please also be sure to give DCP permission to include the photo in our 20th Anniversary Celebration Book!

Thank you for your support over the years and your continued support into the future!

Cheers

Kathleen



Dolphin Explorers?

Even after 17 years, dolphins still surprise us...

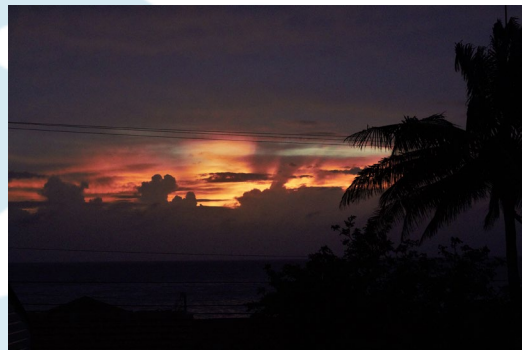
This spring, I received two separate reports of Atlantic spotted dolphins in the bay of Bimini. Keep in mind, DCP has completed 17 annual research seasons off Bimini (we're in the midst of our 18th - my 16th!). In all these years, the first confirmed report of spotteds in the harbor came last fall, soon after Hurricane Irma (FYI: those dolphins were very close to the opening of the bay/harbor and seemed to be just fine). So...what's up with coming into the harbor, dolphins?

The harbor groups included Romeo (#10), Leslie (#80), and an un-named adult female, with their calves, in the March explorer's club (thank you, Atmo & Amlas!). In late April, it was Paul (#99), Vee (#101), and un-named #110 (see page 5 if you want to give #110 her name!). All the dolphins were looking healthy and not stressed (but circling in an atypical area). As we keep the potential of spotted dolphins in the Bimini harbor in the forefront of our minds, we hope boaters, kayakers, and paddleboarders will be safe and respectful around the dolphins in this area (and everywhere, of course!) – meaning: cautious driving, no touching, no feeding.

Wild animals always keeping it interesting. Who'da thought?!

Cheers

~Kel



LEAVING YOUR SUNSCREEN BEHIND?

But what do you mean? I rubbed it in....



Did you hear the words oxybenzone and Hawai'i in the same news story this month? Wondering what it's all about?

Though you rub sunscreen into your skin, it's still getting into the environment when you go swimming. It's also getting into the marine environment via municipal, residential and ship water discharge. Researchers have found that one popular and effective ingredient, oxybenzone, is not only getting into the ocean, but it's damaging coral. According to their work, "oxybenzone poses a hazard to coral reef conservation and threatens the resiliency of coral reefs to climate change."

Interested in reading the science? Check it out:

Downs, C.A., Kramarsky-Winter, E., Segal, R. et al. Arch Environ Contam Toxicol (2016) 70: 265. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00244-015-0227-7>

If the Governor of Hawai'i signs the bill, non-prescription products containing oxybenzone will no longer be for sale in the state of HI as of Jan 21, 2021. Hmmmm....will your state be next?

Here's some local coverage of the ban: <http://www.staradvertiser.com/2018/05/01/breaking-news/bill-banning-chemicals-in-sunscreens-passes-in-state-legislature/>

DCP Announcements!

Coming Soon: Calendar Kathleen

Women Divers Hall of Fame 2018 Calendar

Kathleen (DCP's Director) is excited to be in the Women Divers Hall of Fame 2018 calendar. Stay tuned to find out what month! Visit <http://www.wdhof.org> later this year to purchase your calendar and support WDHOFF! WDHOFF is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the contributions of women divers.

KD's New Pub

The following paper is now in press in Aquatic Mammals journal. It is the first of a few papers (we hope) looking into dolphin creativity and innovativeness. Stay tuned to this section for future citations and additional reading material.

Dudzinski, KM, Yeater, D, Bolton, T, Eskelinen, H, Hill, HM. (in press). Defining creativity and confirming understanding of the concept in dolphins: research and training perspectives. Aquatic Mammals, 44(#), in press.



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.)

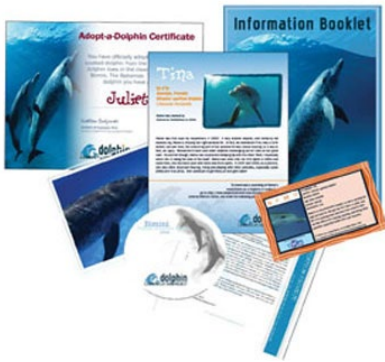
- * Compact HD Projector * Underwater still cameras * SD cards * GoPro * Handheld GPS *
- * Office supplies - paper, pencils, erasers, rechargeable batteries, toner *
- * Frequent flyer miles * Laptop *
- * Video camera * Hydrophones *



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

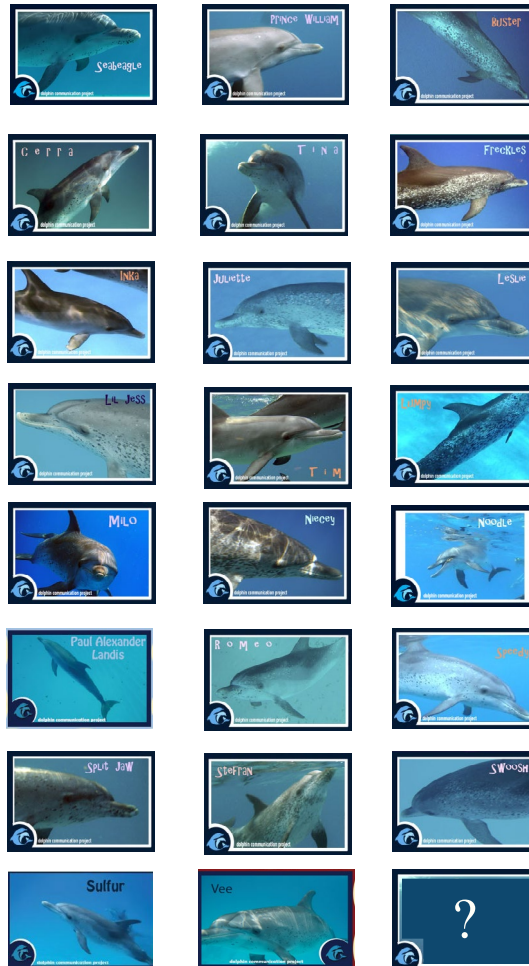
Biography of your adopted dolphin

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

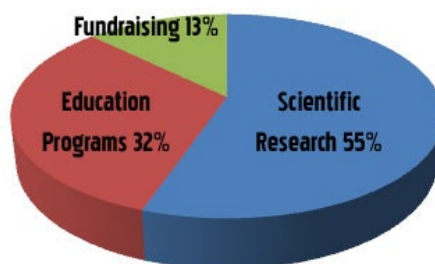
Volunteer, ecotour and internship opportunities for the public

See page 5 to learn how you can be the one and only person to name #110!

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 | Seabeagle | Sulfur | Vee

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:

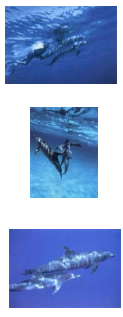
Name: _____
 Address: _____

 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.



Some Coloring Fun!

