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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. Our mission is to promote the scientific study of dolphins and inspire their conservation.*

## Where did summer go?

I almost feel like I have whiplash! Didn't I just write the May intro note for that issue of the *Dolphin Gazette*?!! Summers always fly by for me. You'll see we've been busy with an update from the Bimini field season - what a productive, busy season it has been! And, we have reflections from DCP's two summer interns, Nat and Taylor (thank you for your help!). Marie Trone shares a bit of a summary from her field work in Peru and we provide some details about spaces available on DCP's eco-tour to Roatan next month and also on a field course for college students in January (see page 4).

When not in the field myself this summer, I worked on data analyses (video logs and behavior observations), writing papers - check out the publications page for an update on our scholarly productions - and attending conferences (e.g., ABS in Chicago). We are gearing up to create a couple of new videos for DCP to celebrate not only DCP's 20th anniversary but also DCP's Bimini dolphin adoption program.

I hope your back-to-school days are fun and productive!  
Happy Reading!

Cheers!

~Kathleen



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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 10)

### Thank You volunteers & students!

Thank you to Nicole (Ph.D. student) for her dedication and our summer interns Taylor & Nat. Your assistance in the office and the field is very valuable!

### Internships

If you are interested in interning with DCP in the field next summer, apply for an SFE or full summer 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](mailto:info@dcppmail.org).

# Bimini, The Bahamas

## Another amazing season

Submitted by Kel Melillo Sweeting, Bimini Research Manager

The 2019 field season - DCP's 19th and my 17th - began earlier than other years. Our Master's student Manon visited for 2 months, catching the start of our field course with University of New Brunswick Saint John. Soon after, Nicole and I welcomed Dr. Makecha and students from Eastern Kentucky University. That 12-night program included lots of great class sessions, exploration, food and of course, dolphins. We caught our breath before our final field course: Dr. Yeater and Sacred Heart University. Like UNBSJ, the SHU program is 6-nights, which means we really have to cram in the action! A huge thanks, as always, to [Sea Crest Hotel & Marina](#) for hosting and [Captain Al](#) for safely getting our group to each amazing spot.



As our field courses wrapped up, it was time to welcome back Dr. Kaplan and Dr. Maust-Mohl and students from Hunter and Manhattan Colleges. Though DCP does not run these courses, I give a lecture on photo-ID, guide the students on their quest for still photos and join a few boat trips. It was also time to welcome repeat summer intern Nat and first time intern Taylor. They were troopers as Bimini's electric company recovered from a major fire (= lots of power outages!) and put in a lot of hard work. You can read all about their experiences on pages 3 and 4. Nat, Taylor and I welcomed DCP's first ecotour group of 2019 - 14 awesome, enthusiastic

dolphin-seekers, including DCP's own John A. It was so much fun! A non-DCP tourist group followed and quickly it was already time to say goodbye to Taylor and Nat. That didn't mean the season slowed down much though, as I joined some of Captain Al's private charters and then led DCP's second ecotour group in August. It was a smaller group and included three pre-teens, which always creates a different dynamic and I'm happy to report that it was absolutely wonderful.

Over the course of this season, DCP completed 54 boat trips in search of dolphins and led or helped with seven beach clean-ups. Have you heard of our Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin program? Some of the dolphins we study get names and we make up really fun and educational "kits" that you can snag for just \$30 or \$35! From the adoption roster, we saw: Buster (#04), Romeo (#10), Tina (#14), 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), Paul (#99), Vee (#101), Sulfur (#102) and Weiloo (#110). And, we saw lots of "Lamda" (#104), the stranded, rescued, rehabilitated and released superstar! We have lots of photos and video to review to look for the others (like Poppy, Gigi, Seabeagle and Noodle) - and we'll do much of that this fall when we create a new video for the adoption kits.



Romeo checks us out!

If this update has inspired you to learn more, check out DCP's [home page blog](#), Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - and stayed tuned for our 2020 ecotour dates. We hope to have two groups again!

~Kel



# Intern Reflections: 2019

*Thanks to Nat & Taylor for their hard work!*

Returning to the Dolphin Communication Project this past summer has been another great and unforgettable experience. I again enjoyed every aspect of the internship and this time I got to enjoy it with the other intern, Taylor! I loved showing her how DCP inputs the data for the video logs during the office portion and then how to record the sighting data in the field on Bimini. My favorite part of the internship was going back to Bimini and seeing some of the same dolphins I saw last year. I love being able to recognize individuals in the field, and being able to see them two years in a row now is an unforgettable experience. Not only did I get to see some of the same dolphins, but I was to recognize more and more of the individuals. I loved shouting out each dolphin's number whenever we saw them and telling the guests each dolphin's name. This internship has given

me so many opportunities and experiences that I will never forget. The first summer interning was amazing, but the second time around was even better. Being an intern again solidified my love for dolphins and for scientific research and I can't wait to see where my career will take me in cetacean research. Without this extraordinary internship I don't think I would have found my love for scientific research and dolphins!

*Cheers,*

*Nat*

Speechless! I struggle to find the perfect words to describe my experience working as a first year summer field intern for the Dolphin Communication Project (DCP). This internship exceeded my expectations in so many ways. Now that I have finished both the office and field parts of the internship, I can see that the skills that I have gained have created a solid foundation for my future career as a marine biologist. Video logging both the dolphins from RIMS and Bimini, photo sorting, video recording, and data analysis were all skills that I was able to cultivate under the supervision of the DCP team. Leaving the U.S. for a month to go to their field site on North Bimini was my favorite part.

I had to be a good student during the boat trips, and I tried to pick up skills very quickly. My co-intern, Nat, was a second-year intern and she was well versed in identifying the dolphins based on their spot patterns or other little details. Nat would rush down to the bow and yell out dolphin identification numbers for me to write down in the sighting log. It got crazy sometimes when we had a whole lot of dolphins at the bow that could be identified! After much practice with the sighting sheet, I was able to enter the water with the dolphins to record video data. The first times I entered the water with these beautiful creatures was overwhelming. I could hear buzzes and whistles under the water, but I couldn't find their location right away.



*continued on next page!*

# Intern Reflections: 2019

Continued from previous page



.....I remember one time when I heard whistles that seemed to be right next to me. And sure enough, a group of dolphins was swimming right alongside me. Every time I entered the water with all my gear on, it was amazing.

After weeks of hard work, I was able to identify some of the more distinctively marked dolphins and better my skills of taking photos with the surface camera. The last underwater encounter was one of the best. It was a day where the wind picked up, and the waves grew larger. The dolphins were surfing the waves. As soon as I entered the water, three dolphins were surfing the waves straight at me and I was in their way. The dolphins made it seem as if they were going to crash right into me, but they ducked under

me at the last second. I felt the displaced water gently push my body backwards. This was one of my favorite moments with the Bimini dolphins and they will forever hold a place in my heart.

Cheers,

*Taylor*

## One Space Left!

### Join Kathleen on Roatan at AKR: 28 September - 5 October 2019

DCP returns to Roatan to collect data with eco-tour participants again in 2019! The program is scheduled for 28 September - 5 October, 2019. We have **ONE** space remaining!! Check with us if you are interested ... and check out the RIMS Eco-tour page (look under the Education tab) to learn more about cost (just \$915 pp!) and other details.

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

### CSU college-level field course with DCP to RIMS - check it out!

If you are a college student and want more than the eco-tour experience, check out the link below to a week-long field course offered by Colorado State University (CSU) in collaboration with DCP. The announcement for the course and the new honors section are detailed in the link. Students from outside CSU can apply through this website. The program will run from 28 December 2019 through 4 January 2020. You could spend the new year learning about dolphins with DCP in a tropical locale!

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

# The Dolphin Pod: It's Back!

Join hosts Dr. Justin Gregg and Laura Teasdale as they talk with scientists and experts about everyone's favorite marine mammal: the dolphin. With a sprinkling of comedy to season the science, The Dolphin Pod is an enlightening and entertaining deep dive into the world of dolphin science. The Dolphin Pod is family-friendly, teen-approved podcast fun! After a 10 year hiatus (so Justin could be a stay-at-home dad), The Dolphin Pod has returned with new episodes in 2019. If you love The Dolphin Pod, please consider donating to our GoFundMe campaign - all funds raised directly support production of each new episode of the podcast, and funds received are tax-deductable.

[Click here to listen to The Dolphin Pod](#)

[Click here to donate to The Dolphin Pod](#)

Email us at [info@dcppmail.org](mailto:info@dcppmail.org) to find out about your company sponsoring an episode (or more)



What are some of the topics covered on The Dolphin Pod? Click below!

[Dolphins in hot water](#)

[Dolphin Science Quiz: Laura vs Laura](#)

[The classic \(& goofy\) Dolphin Species Song](#)

Why would my company want to sponsor an episode?

With over 1 million listens/views of our podcast content since we first launched, The Dolphin Pod offers your company a platform to speak directly to a large number of potential customers who have an interest in dolphins, the ocean, and the marine environment. Even if your company isn't environmentally focused, your customers are likely to appreciate your commitment to the ocean. Our podcast sponsors are given industry standard advertising/sponsorship placement within the podcast episode, including a 15 second pre-roll (i.e., before the start of the show) and 60-second mid-roll spot for the host(s) to read supplied or improvised ad copy. These ads will be permanently embedded in the podcast audio. Our current rate for an exclusive podcast episode sponsorship package is \$500. In addition to audio ad placement, your company will be listed as a sponsor in our social media (Twitter, Facebook), on the episode's page of the Dolphin Pod section of the DCP website, and on blog postings promoting the episode.



# Belated Update from the Amazon River!

Due to technical difficulties, we weren't able to share Dr. Marie Trone's update as she prepared for another research season on the Amazon River. Still, we hope you enjoy hearing about her preparations for and arrival to the field - and stay tuned for another update soon!



*Equipment set out in the Amazon Dolphin Acoustics Lab*

I have been preparing for my 2019 research season in the Peruvian Amazon. As such, my Orlando house is now shuttered in case there is a hurricane while I am away and my car put into storage. I arrived in the Amazon on May 19th, purchased a few toiletries in Iquitos, and went hunting for hose clamps to be used to secure the HumminBird side scan sonar system to a motor bracket. Harbor Freight is just around the corner of my Orlando home, but I did not have time to stop there. So, on the 5th small hardware shop I came to in Iquitos, I finally found the hose clamps I had been looking for. Next time I will stop at Harbor Freight.

I traveled the 50 miles down the Amazon River to arrive at my research lab, Amazon Dolphin Acoustics Lab. I promptly set about inventorying the supplies I had left behind last August when I returned to Orlando for the academic school year. I set about assembling equipment, and soon I will be out on the mighty Amazon and its associated quebradas and lakes, striving to develop methods to acoustically count pink Amazon River dolphin populations.

*Cheers,*

*Marie*

## Dr. Marie Trone and the Amazon River dolphins

Marie is a Professor of Biology at Valencia College, Kissimmee, Florida.

Her current research topics include the abundance and acoustics of Amazon River dolphins.

Amazon River dolphins are also known as the boto or pink river dolphins.

<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/10831/50358152>



# Ideas for Giving to DCP

## 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 [DCP Online Classroom Connections](#)

### Do you want to help DCP and reduce your IRS tax bill at the same time ? Consider the following:

Everyone aged 70.5 and older is required to take an annual distribution from their IRA accounts (RMD). All or part of this RMD can be directly transferred to DCP as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to help continue the research and programs featured here and on the DCP website. As an added benefit, the RMD will not be included as taxable income to you in the year the donation is made. It is important to speak with your financial advisor and tax professional before deciding if this option is right for you. This information is not meant to be considered as tax advice as there are additional rules and regulations to consider.

### Become a DCP Member!

#### Annual Memberships

Easy: Pay one time

Meaningful: Shows your confidence in DCP  
Flexible: Choose what fits your budget & family

Starting at just \$20/year, our annual members provide DCP with an influx of financial support, allowing DCP to cover unexpected expenses.

#### Sustaining Membership

Convenient: Automatically billed!

No Risk: Cancel anytime!

Customize: Choose what fits your budget

Starting at just \$5/month, you can become a Sustaining Member of DCP. This helps DCP count on a steady stream of membership donations.

<https://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/shop/membership-program>



# DCP's 20th Anniversary

*Celebrating Dolphin Research & Education ... by welcoming your memories!*

*Calling on your memories  
of DCP!!*

2020 will be a good year for DCP! It will be DCP's 20th Anniversary! We are planning some special events and materials to share our history with you, our supporters! And, we want to hear from you! Send us your memories, your photos, your stories about your interaction with DCP and DCP team members over the years!

Some of you might remember the original DCP logo - above to the right. A little-known secret ... it was drawn from one of Kathleen's early photos of two Atlantic spotted dolphins sharing a pectoral fin contact! This was DCP's logo for half a dozen years ... before we shifted to the current logo, to the right, lower.

We are developing a special 20th Anniversary logo that will use both images. The special logo will allow us to remember our history and celebrate the research and education programs into our future.

We look forward to celebrating with all of you!

So, please send us (by email or by snail mail) your stories and memories!

We look forward to hearing from you and to taking a stroll down memory lane with the DCP team!

Email  
info {at} dcpmail {dot} org

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



*3 Atlantic spotted dolphins playing*

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





# WANDERER<sup>TM</sup> BRACELETS



## Dolphin Bracelets from Wanderer Bracelets make great gifts!

Wanderer Bracelets are a refreshing, burden-free alternative to jewelry made from precious stones, metals or ivory.



Made from domestic water buffalo, these bracelets give new life to bones that might otherwise go to waste. Domestic water buffalo are never killed for their bones. Every Wanderer Bracelet helps preserve a unique cultural and artistic legacy for the next generation.

Wanderer Bracelets has just released a video of their dolphin bracelet and chosen to **give 10% of sales to the Dolphin Communication Project**. We are extremely grateful for their support - and the support of each and every person who purchases a dolphin bracelet!

## Are you a gift shop owner?

Wanderer Bracelets are available at wholesale rates for brick & mortar retailers. Just think: your store could feature these awesome dolphin bracelets!

If you are interested in selling Wanderer's dolphin bracelet, reach out to the Wanderer Bracelet team today:

<https://wandererbracelets.com/pages/wholesale>

See the video here: <https://www.facebook.com/512544298881474/posts/640433169723212>  
Visit [www.wandererbracelets.com](http://www.wandererbracelets.com) to order yours today!



*Dog not included.*

# “Not all who wander are lost...”

-Tolkien

# DCP Announcements!

## Talk & Publication Updates

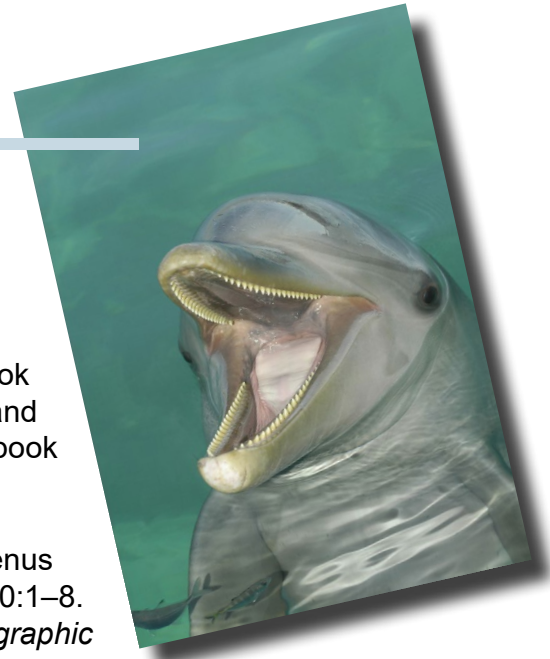
On 10 Sept, Kathleen will give a talk at the joint meeting of the International Marine Animal Trainers Association (IMATA) and the Association of Zoos & Aquariums in New Orleans. Her talk is part of a symposium related to the book “Scientific Foundations of Zoos and Aquariums: Their Role in Conservation and Research “ in which Kathleen and MaryEllen Mateleska have a chapter. The book was published earlier this year from Cambridge University Press.

P. Carzon, F. Delfour, K. Dudzinski, M. Oremus, & É. Clua. (2019) Cross-genus adoptions in delphinids: one example with taxonomic discussion. *Ethology*. 00:1–8. DOI: 10.1111/eth.12916 (*This article was recently featured in a National Geographic news story - look for it on social media!*)

Danaher-Garcia, N, Melillo-Sweeting K, Dudzinski, KM. Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) off Bimini, The Bahamas, exhibit long-term preferences in association (2003-2016) (In Revision). *Acta Ethologica*.

Eierman, L, Laccetti, K, Melillo-Sweeting, K, Kaplan, JD. Interspecies pectoral fin contact between bottlenose dolphins and Atlantic spotted dolphins off Bimini, The Bahamas (In Revision). *Animal Behaviour*.

Kaplan, JD, Goodrich, SY, Melillo-Sweeting K, Reiss, D. Behavioural Laterality in Foraging Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*). (In Revision). *Royal Society Open Science*.



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 flash cards \* GoPro \* Handheld GPS \*
- \* Office supplies - paper, pencils, erasers, rechargeable batteries, toner \*
- \* Frequent flyer miles \* Laptop \*
- \* Video camera \* Hydrophones \*



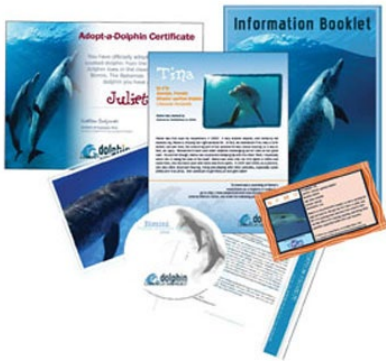
*DCP's Florida Solicitation of Contributions registration number is CH42894.*



# Adopt a Wild Dolphin

[www.adoptawilddolphin.com](http://www.adoptawilddolphin.com)

## What's in your Adoption Kit?



An official adoption certificate

Photograph or PDF photobook of your adopted dolphin

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

Link to video of the Bimini dolphins

Biography of your adopted dolphin

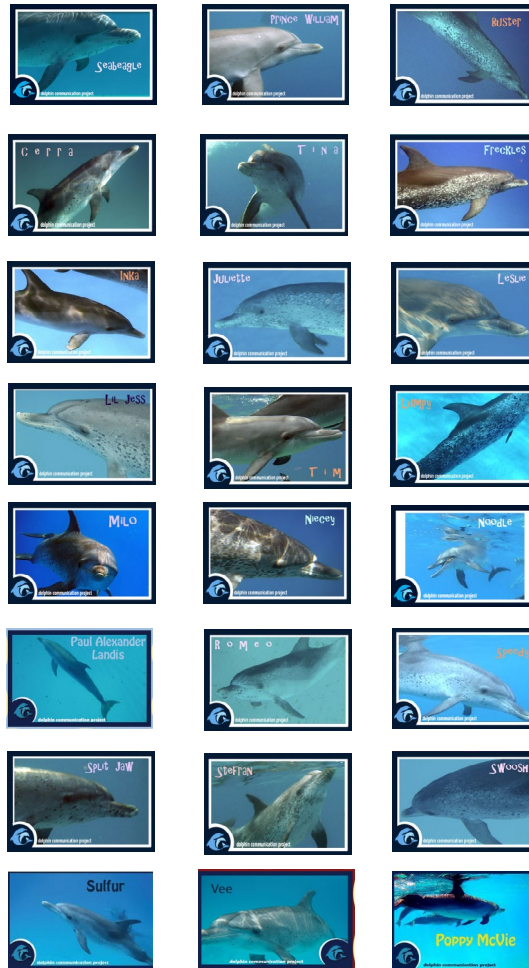
Welcome letter and registration info

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

Dolphin trading card sample (hard copy only)

Holiday gift ideas  
[www.cafepress.com/holidaydolphin](http://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 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

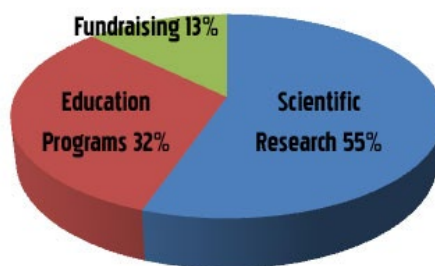
Classroom education programs for school-aged children including DCP Youth Program, Dolphin Research Trainee, Classroom Connections

Volunteer, ecotour and internship opportunities for the public

Weiloo is now available for adoption too!



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



Adopt-a-wild-dolphin t-shirts  
[tinyurl.com/y1fx44v](http://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](http://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](http://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org)

Please **SEND** my adoption package to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

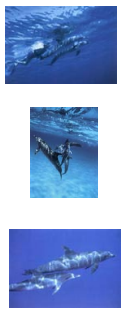
If this is a gift, please note gift **GIVER** address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## Postcards

\$1.00 each/ 3 for \$2



## Iruka Gear

To purchase Iruka gear visit [www.cafepress/irukagear](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

