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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.*

## Summer is Here - field-season-wise!

There was really no spring weather to speak of in FL and there was seemingly no spring where our research was concerned! We jumped right from data analyses into data collection with several field courses to Bimini! Check out Kel's update on page 4. And, if you want to experience DCP's research first hand, visit page 2 to get details for signing up for a Bimini or RIMS eco-tour with DCP! We also have a newly named dolphin, #108-Gigi to add to our dolphin adoption roster. Meet Gigi on page 7. And, Manon, our winter/spring intern to the DCP office and Bimini shares her perspective on collaborating with DCP! DCP researchers have been busy and you'll see a few publications pending release or in review in our announcements section. And, calling on your memories - please share with DCP your memories from over the years - John is putting together a celebratory video and we'll compile stories to share with everyone. After all, 2020 is DCP's 20th anniversary!

So, kick back, put your feet up on the lounge chair and enjoy!  
Happy Reading!

Cheers!

~Kathleen



## In this issue

2019 Bimini & RIMS Eco-Tour Opportunities | Introducing #108-Gigi | Bimini Field Update | The Dolphin Pod | #104-Lamda Update | An Intern's Perspective | Announcements | Adoption Options

### 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 Manon (M.S. student) for your help in the office! Also, thanks to Nicole (Ph.D. student) for her dedication and new intern Taylor (summer intern). 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).

# The Field Is Calling You!

A 2019 experience for everyone



## For Fun in the Wild - 2 program options!

Both programs include: 5 nights' accommodation at a locally owned and operated Bimini hotel, 5 boat trips in search of wild dolphins, snorkeling opportunities, DCP talks, rental snorkel gear, Bahamian tax (12% VAT), and more..

**Dates: 30 June (1st boat trip) - 5 July (departure day) 2019 only ONE Space left!**

**6 Aug. (1st boat trip) - 11 Aug. (departure day) 2019 - just added!!**

*Session 1:* Includes all meals, prepared by the group's private cook + Boat snacks + Drinking water

*Session 2:* Minimum group size is 5. With group of 5 – 9 participants, no food or drinks are provided; however, shared kitchen space is. With a group of 10 – 14 participants, all meals, snacks & water are provided.

For More Details: <https://dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/get-involved/ecotours/bimini>

Registration Deadline: Sooner the Better!



## For Fun in Roatan

Kathleen is excited to lead DCP's annual eco-tour to Roatan, Honduras, where supporters can assist with surface observations of bottlenose dolphins - when they aren't SCUBA diving, snorkeling, kayaking, meeting the dolphins first hand or enjoying one of the many other activities available at Anthony's Key Resort on Roatan, Honduras.

**Dates: 28 September - 5 October 2019 - a few spaces still available!**

For More Details: <https://dolphincommunicationproject.org/index.php/get-involved/ecotours/roatan>

Registration Deadline: Sooner the Better!



# My Time with DCP

## DCP's spring semester intern - meet Manon

*As a master student in ethology in France, looking for a five-month internship on marine mammals in a foreign country was not easy. I had heard about the Dolphin Communication Project a couple years ago and, after putting my head back into their research, I decided to apply. When I got Kathleen's answer, I could not believe it. I was about to share my time between Port Saint Lucie at DCP's office with Kathleen and Bimini Island for a two month's field experience with Kel, helping DCP on IDs and video logs, and working on my own project.*

*My internship started at DCP's office this past January. I had worked with dolphins before and spending my days looking at RIMS's and Bimini's dolphins, surrounded by two friendly beagles, was very satisfying. I have learned a lot about them and their personalities (including beagles!). But overall, it was all the exchanges with Kathleen, from discussions on our project to her personal experiences, that were the most enriching.*

*My field experience took place in the middle of my internship. I have traveled before, but arriving somewhere for one-week holidays and arriving for two months, living and working in a place like Bimini are two different things. I was grateful to have Kel guiding me during my life on this beautiful island and sharing hers with me. And nope, I can tell you, you never get used to these wonderful changing watercolors!*

*During my time there, I continued working on my project, analyzing videos but also helping DCP in every way I could. But overall, I was here to finally meet our spotted dolphins for real. That only happened during my last weeks on Bimini, but what an experience! It started with a nice afternoon with Swoosh (#036), Romeo (#010) and some juveniles riding the bow of Renegade and ended a few days later with a long and amazing encounter with Vee (#101) and Romeo (#010). As an extra, we also went out to look for stingrays and sharks, that was impressive! I have enjoyed every moment on Bimini, from kayaking in the mangroves to meeting some nice (and helpful!) residents of Bimini.*

*I am back in DCP's office and now that I have only three weeks to go, I can say my time with DCP was an amazing experience and I highly recommend it to everyone interested in research and dolphins! Kathleen, Kel and Nicole are wonderful people always happy to help and share their experiences, and I really hope to come back!*

Cheers,

*Manon*



Above: Romeo (top) and Vee (bottom)  
Bottom: A spotted eagle ray swims below Manon on a snorkel.

# Bimini Field Site: in Full Swing!

## Dolphins, Students, Interns ... and more!

*Submitted by Kel Melillo Sweeting, Bimini Research Manager*



*Join us in Bimini this summer and see these amazing creatures yourself!*

work around Bimini. What a great group! Over the course of their 6-night program, they battled rough waves and enjoyed calm seas as they observed bottlenose and spotted dolphins (including Romeo (#010), Vee (#101) and yes!! “Lamda” (#104\* – page 6). They snorkeled four shallow reefs and got up close and personal with Caribbean reef sharks, sharpnose sharks and southern stingrays. They got some really nice views of loggerhead turtles and some quick glimpses of green turtles. They visited a small mangrove island and filled their fieldbooks with species after species they saw. They gave back to the Earth and Bimini specifically with their beach clean-up. And, they managed to fit in lectures, exploration of Alice Town and yummy group meals. It was a packed program and I really hope Bimini and DCP made a positive imprint on each student. A huge thanks, as always, to [Sea Crest Hotel & Marina](#) for hosting and [Captain Al](#) for getting our group to each amazing spot. As you’re reading this, Nicole and I are busy with our 2nd field course: Dr. Makecha and her students from Eastern Kentucky University. Check out DCP’s [home page blog](#), Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates on how it’s going!

If you feel inspired by our updates from Bimini, we still have spaces for our 2019 eco-tours! You – yes, you! – can join me in Bimini, The Bahamas, THIS summer. Check out page 2 for details.

Cheers,

*~Kel*

\*Of course, DCP normally follows a non-invasive research protocol in Bimini – we do not tag, or even touch, the dolphins. But, Lamda presented an unusual opportunity to gain valuable tracking info on a previously seriously ill dolphin; data none of the researchers in the area have ever had before.

DCP has been busy in Bimini since the last issue of *The Dolphin Gazette*! On 1 March, DCP Master’s student Manon arrived to Bimini. We typically do not have students/interns in the field during the spring because we don’t have many boat trips. But, Manon could work on the data analyses for her project anywhere – so why not spend some time in Bimini?! You can read all about Manon’s experiences at DCP’s FL, USA office and Bimini, The Bahamas, field site on page 3.

Things really picked up on 27 April, when DCP’s PhD student Nicole arrived to help me prepare for our first university field course of the year: University of New Brunswick Saint John (UNBSJ). We were thrilled to welcome back Dr. Turnbull and TA Katherine as well as introduce a new crop of students to DCP’s



*UNBSJ’s beach clean up! And, above, on one of the boat trips! Well done!*

# 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@dcpmail.org](mailto:info@dcpmail.org) to find out about your company sponsoring an episode (or more)

# THE DOLPHIN POD



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.

# #104 (Lamda) Update!

**Backstory:** August 2018, DCP ID#104 (known as “Lamda” to Wild Dolphin Project) stranded far from Bimini. The Bahamas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, led by Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organisation, dispatched the rescue team from Atlantis. The outlook for Lamda (aka “Modern Miracle” or “M&M” to his rehab team) was not good. But, suddenly, it was. Coordination began, with approval from the Bahamas Department of Marine Resources to release Lamda near his Bimini home, in late October. Lambda was outfitted with a satellite tag\* from Sarasota Dolphin Research Program. Captain Al and I searched for him in December, finally getting a good look at him on 7 January 2019.

**Fast forward to 2 May:** DCP, along with our UNBSJ field course crew, sighted a dolphin with an unfamiliar, distinct, dark, circular scar on both sides of his dorsal fin. We contained ourselves until we could pull up photos and confidently yell from the rooftops that it was, indeed, #104, Lamda (yay!). His tag was off (yay!) and the injury from the tag was healing very nicely (yay!). He was interacting with about a dozen other Atlantic spotted dolphins (yay!), leaping and riding the bow of the boat (yay!). I know I speak for every member of his rescue, rehab, release & tracking team when I say it was very exciting (yay!). We are optimistic we’ll have more sightings of #104 this summer, so stay tuned!

\*As you know, DCP normally follows a non-invasive research protocol in Bimini – we do not tag, or even touch, the dolphins. But, Lamda presented an unusual opportunity to gain valuable tracking info on a previously seriously ill dolphin; data none of the researchers in the area have even had before.



# Introducing ... Gigi (#108)!!

GiGi, DCP ID#108, is a juvenile, female Atlantic spotted dolphin. DCP suspects she is the daughter of “Lil’ Jess,” DCP ID#035, which would mean that GiGi was born before 2013. She has a very distinct, damaged tail (fluke), but that doesn’t stop her from getting around. DCP researchers also pay attention to her unique spot pattern, which will continually change over her lifetime as she gets more and more spots. Through the years, she has been seen with Lil’ Jess (of course) as well as fellow juvenile females Weiloo (#110) and Poppy McVie (#112). For the rest of GiGi’s life, DCP researchers (& students & guests!) are looking forward to seeing how GiGi behaves, who she hangs out with, what she looks like, when she has her first calf...the list goes on!

GiGi was named in 2019 by the family and friends of Norma “Geeg” Ketzbeau. Geeg’s tremendous love of dolphins was known by all of her family and friends..

[Click here to adopt Gigi today!](#)



GiGi and her fellow Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphins are ready for adoption all year round! But, the holidays certainly make a great time to order your personalized kit. Great gifts for little ones, even teenagers and grown-ups love seeing the images and video of each dolphin. Plus, you can feel good about making a purchase that directly helps dolphin research, education, and conservation.

### Hard Copy (Print) Editions:

\$35 (free shipping in USA, \$15 international shipping)

Includes printed biography, personalized certificate, 5x7 photograph, 2 random dolphin trading cards, DCP info booklet, plus links to dolphin videos featuring your adopted dolphin and its Bimini friends

### Electronic Editions:

\$30

Includes link to 3 PDFs: DCP info booklet, Photobook featuring the adopt-a-dolphins, plus Adoption Kit PDF with biography, photo, personalized adoption certificate and links to dolphin videos featuring your adopted dolphin and its Bimini friends

Visit [www.AdoptAWildDolphin.com](http://www.AdoptAWildDolphin.com) to select your dolphin and kit edition today!

# DCP's 20th Anniversary

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

**2020!!**

A lucky 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  
and

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



3 Atlantic spotted dolphins playing

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



# WANDERER<sup>TM</sup> BRACELETS

## Did you know?

"Dolphins recognize kin and friends and have complex social relationships with long-term memories. To understand the subtle intricacies of their communication will require a lifetime of commitment to research and science."

- Kathleen M. Dudzinski, Ph.D.  
Director of DCP



10% of sales of our Dolphin bracelet supports the scientific study of dolphins and inspires their conservation through our partnership with the Dolphin Communication Project.

BUY A BRACELET

## 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!

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.*




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**10% OF ALL SALES  
ARE DONATED TO**

**Save Dolphins**

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



## “Not all who wander are lost...”

-Tolkien

# DCP Announcements!

## Field and Publication Updates

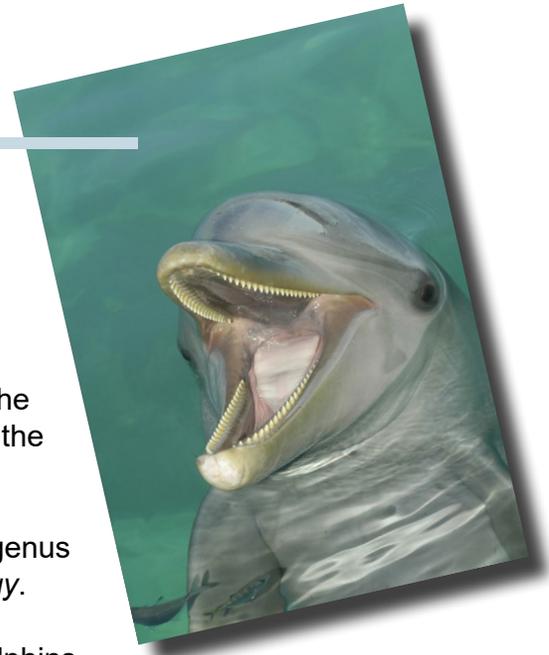
*We've been busy! And the summer is just beginning!*

Marie Trone heads to Peru again last week for some field work and data collection on the Amazon river dolphins. Stay tuned for the August issue of the Dolphin Gazette for updates from Marie! (Yes, there are still a few places on the planet where regular internet connections are not available!)

P. Carzon, F. Delfour, K. Dudzinski, M. Oremus, & É. Clua. (in press) Cross-genus adoptions in delphinids: one example with taxonomic discussion. *Ethology*.

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) (Submitted, in review)

Eierman, L, Laccetti, K, Melillo-Sweeting, K, Kaplan, JD. Interspecies pectoral fin contact between bottlenose dolphins and Atlantic spotted dolphins off Bimini, The Bahamas (Submitted, in 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 flash cards \* GoPro \* Handheld GPS \*
- \* Office supplies - paper, pencils, erasers, rechargeable batteries, toner \*
- \* Frequent flyer miles \* Laptop \*
- \* Video camera \* Hydrophones \*

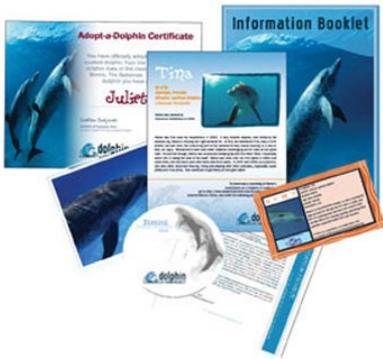


*DCP's Florida Solicitation of Contributions registration number is CH42894.*

# 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

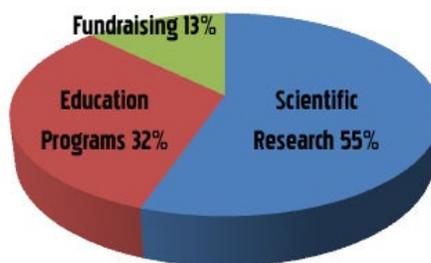
Classroom education programs for school-aged children including DCP Youth Program, Dolphin Research Trainee, Classroom Connections

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

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

