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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.

Happy Holidays to All!!

DCP is gearing up for a festive holiday season and a joyous new year, especially since 2020 rings in as DCP's 20th Anniversary! We've learned much in the last two decades about dolphins! And, we've shared all of what we've learned and the field experience of collecting data with you, our supporters and readers - either during an eco-tour or field course or in these Gazette pages or on our website. It has been and continues to be sheer joy sharing what we learn about dolphins. Along the way, we've also come to know many of the people who call our study sites home. These folks have become family and friends and we share their joys and their grief equally. It is why we continue to send our support and thoughts to our Bahamian family as they recover from Hurricane Dorian. We wish them and all of you a very happy holiday season.

On my refrigerator are the requisite annual family photos and our own canine images, but centered among these photos is a statement I try to embrace daily and I want to share with you. If you can be anything, Be Kind. I wish this for all of you and your family and friends this holiday season and into the new year!

Happy Holidays and 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) & Skylar Muller (M.S.) for their dedication. Your contributions to our research are 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.

Bimini, The Bahamas

Come join us for our 20th season!

Submitted by Kel Melillo Sweeting, Bimini Research Manager

Kinda handy that DCP's overall 20th Anniversary happens to also be its 20th consecutive research season in Bimini, The Bahamas! Before forming DCP, Kathleen visited Bimini in 1997 for her work in the large-format film 'Dolphins' (clever title, huh?). She met with local boat operators, including Bill & Nowdla Keefe and Al Sweeting, Jr. Fast forward through the film's release and DCP's formation and Bill & Nowdla welcomed DCP aboard their vessels for our first research season in 2001. I joined the team in 2003 (gosh, I'm getting old) and we began also working with Al Sweeting in 2006. DCP, Bimini, and Al haven't been able to get rid of me since ...

Through the years at our Bimini field site, we've had many college interns, hosted field courses for middle school and college students, visited local classrooms, met with tourists, led eco-tours and, of course, collected data and published on the wild dolphins that call these waters home. I began with DCP because of my love for science, the ocean, and the animals. I stayed with DCP because their mission integrates this data-driven work with human interactions. Is this your year to join us?

The Academic Option

Join our college field course May 26 - June 1, 2020

Dr. Deirdre Yeater from Sacred Heart University (SHU) is gearing up for her 7th field course with DCP. All participants must take the course for SHU credit, but with online and field components, non-SHU students are welcome & encouraged to apply.

[Click Here To Apply!](#)

The Vacation-y Option

Join our "eco-tour" June 21 - 26, 2020

\$1999 gets you 5 nights' accommodation (double occupancy; single available for a fee), 5 boat trips (weather dependent), Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner (adjusted on arrival & departure days), Drinking water & snacks during boat trips, Rental snorkel gear, DCP talks, Bahamian tax (12% VAT)

Oh - and, you know, Wild Dolphins!!

[Click here for more info](#)



Opportunities to Join Kathleen

March 2020 college course & two eco-tour programs!

StMU college-level field course with DCP to RIMS 7 - 14 March 2020



If you are a college student and want more than the eco-tour experience, check out the link below for a week-long field course offered by DCP in collaboration with Saint Mary's University (StMU). Remaining spaces are limited but now open to non-StMU students. The course is taught by DCP's Dr. Kathleen Dudzinski and StMU Professor, Dr. Heather Hill. Tuition credits with StMU are not included and are not required. Cost per student is \$1,550 (USD). This includes lodging, food, instruction, and a dolphin encounter and swim. Tuition credits and airfare are not included.



Email [info\[at\]dcpmail\[dot\]org](mailto:info[at]dcpmail[dot]org) right away if you are interested!
Remaining spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

DCP's 20th Anniversary year has 2 RIMS eco-tour options!! Join Kathleen on Roatan at AKR: 16-23 May 2020 or late September 2020 (*fall dates to be confirmed by late 2019*)

DCP returns to Roatan to collect data with eco-tour participants again in 2020! We have confirmed a spring week (16-23 May 2020) and our annual fall dates will be late September/early October, but the exact dates are pending. Stay tuned to the DCP website on our RIMS Eco-tour page. Spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The May 2020 program has reserved AC rooms on the Key and the cost is \$1,150/person. Check with us if you are interested ... and check out the RIMS Eco-tour page (look under the Education tab) to learn more about logistics and other details.

www.dolphincommunicationproject.org

Meet Kiwi!

Our newest Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin



Kiwi, DCP ID#121, is a male Atlantic spotted dolphin. DCP has been observing him off the coast of Bimini, The Bahamas, since 2018, when he was sticking close to his mom, Tina (DCP ID#014). Normally, DCP does not give permanent ID numbers to calves; but, this guy's hooked dorsal fin is so distinct, he will always be easy to recognize! DCP researchers, students, and guests continued to observe Kiwi throughout 2019. That year, he was still spot-free and hanging with mom, but he was spending more and more time playing and socializing without her. He's been seen interacting with many dolphins in the Bimini area, including Stefran (#082), Weiloo (#110), and fellow calves. We can't wait to see when he leaves mom's side and who he spends time with as he grows up. And, of course, we'll be documenting what his spots look like over the years!

Kiwi was named in 2019 by Gemma and Clemens.

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

Kiwi and his 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: *Check out page 5 for a special offer!*

\$35 (free shipping in USA, \$20 international shipping)

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

Electronic Editions:

\$30

Includes link to 3 PDFs: the DCP info booklet, a 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 to select your dolphin and kit edition today!

Special Dolphin Adoption + Bracelet Offer!

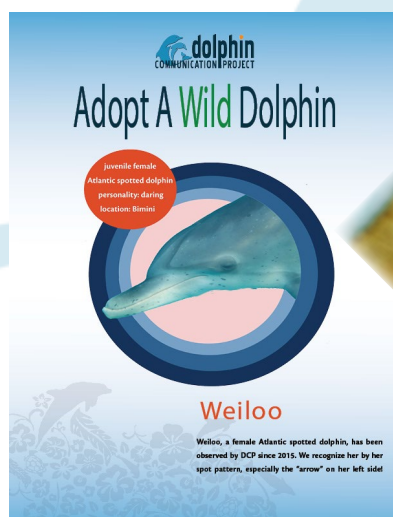
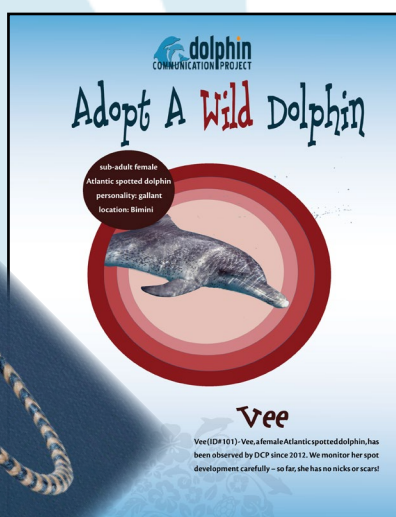
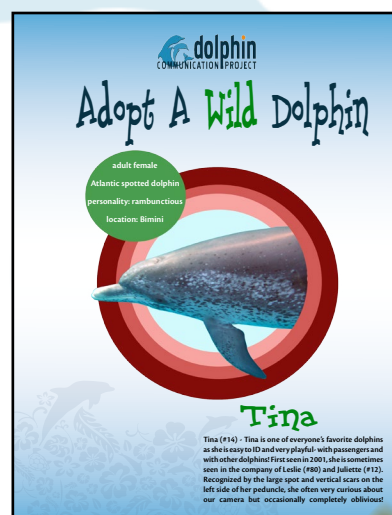
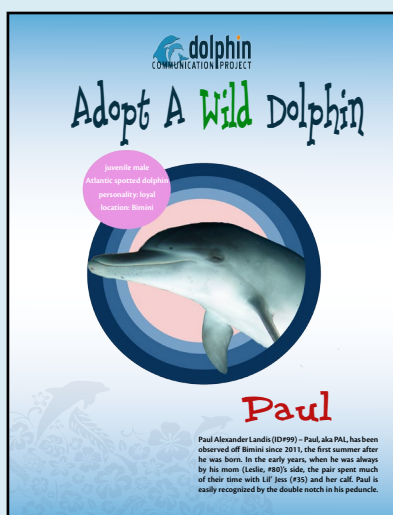
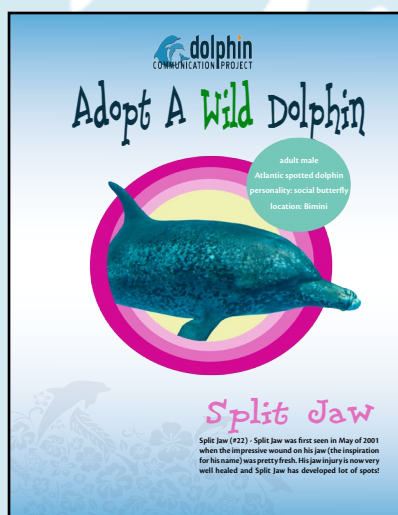
What's better than an Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin kit OR a Wanderer dolphin bracelet?

Both! Together!!

Order your Bimini Dolphin Print Adoption kit + Wanderer Dolphin Bracelet bundle before the end of the year*, to receive this special pricing (while supplies last): Just \$50 including U.S. (domestic) shipping (international shipping is additional). That's a \$60.95 value for just \$50!

DCP is featuring five Atlantic spotted dolphins in the 2019 holiday bundle. You can select from Paul, Tina, SplitJaw, Vee, and Weiloo for this special holiday package. You will receive one Wanderer dolphin bracelet; DCP will select your band color and clasp design. Of course, this deal is only while supplies last, so order soon. See Page 9 for more info on these beautiful Wanderer bracelets!

[Click HERE to purchase your Dolphin Holiday Bundle today!!](#)



**Stayed tuned for ordering deadlines if you want to receive your bundle before Christmas.*

The Dolphin Pod: New episodes coming!

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 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.

Hurricane Dorian

Update from Bimini, November 2019.

And ways you can still help ...

In late August, Hurricane Dorian looked like it was going to be a Tropical Storm as it cruised by Bimini on its way to Florida – if it came through Bimini at all. Then, it all changed.

Dorian went against its forecast and strengthened quickly. And, this monster storm was headed squarely toward The Bahamas. Where would it make landfall? And what category would it be when the storm came ashore?

The residents of Bimini, including Kel, prepared for a turn in the track. But, thankfully, for Bimini, that turn didn't come. Instead, Hurricane Dorian hit the island of Abaco and Grand Bahama with a ferocity and sluggishness the country of The Bahamas had never seen. While Kathleen waited in Florida (would it really turn north at the last minute? Certainly couldn't count on it.), the whole world waited for stories and images from Abaco and Grand Bahama.

The devastation was horrific. The loss of human life will likely never be fully understood. But, those who did survive the storm soon set out to make sure their homes, if still standing, were safe as they also tried to determine their own paths forward. DCP was happy to get our long-time boat captain, Audley, a generator for him and his family to make that path a little easier (Thanks for the delivery, Neal Watson's Bimini SCUBA Center!).

The process of rebuilding is just that, a process. It didn't take a few days, a few weeks. It will take years. Yes, years. So, if you are looking for ways to help The Bahamas in the long-term, here are some suggestions:

Go there! The Bahamas IS open for business. Whether it's a Bimini eco-tour with DCP, a resort vacation, a boating trip or Family Island (aka Out Island) getaway, go to The Bahamas and spend those tourist dollars.

[Grand Bahama Disaster Relief Foundation](#)

[Hope Town Rising](#)

[Humane Society of Grand Bahama – for those looking to help the furry residents of Grand Bahama](#)

Kel to insert links & logos/images



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! We'll share them in our blogs!

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 have developed a special 20th Anniversary t-shirt design that will use both images. In this way we celebrate 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



WANDERERTM 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 to order yours today!



Dog not included.



“Not all who wander are lost...”

-Tolkien

DCP Announcements!

Talk & Publication Updates



2019 World Marine Mammal Conference, Dec 9 - 12, Barcelona, Spain

Danaher-Garcia, N., Melillo-Sweeting, K. & Dudzinski, K.M. Long term bonds: Social structure of Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) off Bimini, The Bahamas (2003 - 2016).

Melillo-Sweeting, K. & Maust-Mohl, M. Examining shark bite scars on bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) off Bimini, The Bahamas.

Muller, S.L., Melillo-Sweeting, K., Dudzinski, K.M., & Hirons, A. Atlantic spotted dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*) and bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) nearshore habitat utilization, Bimini, The Bahamas.

Dunn, C., Claridge, D., Herzing, D., Volker, C., Melillo-Sweeting, K., Wells, R., Turner, T. & O'Sullivan, K. Atlantic spotted dolphin rehabilitation and release.

Plus, recent peer-reviewed publications

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 Press). *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. 2019. *Animal Behaviour*. 157: 167 - 176.

Kaplan, JD, Goodrich, SY, Melillo-Sweeting K, Reiss, D. Behavioural Laterality in Foraging Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*). (2019). *Royal Society Open Science*. 6R. Soc. open sci. <http://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.190929>

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
- * Frequent flyer miles
- * Laptop
- * Video camera
- * Hydrophones

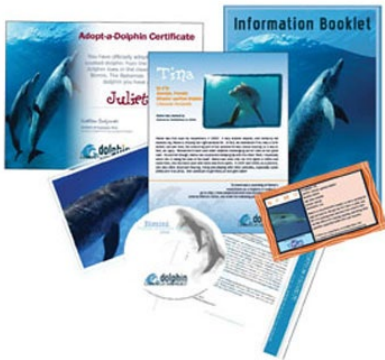


DCP's Florida Solicitation of Contributions registration number is CH42894.

Adopt a Wild Dolphin

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

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

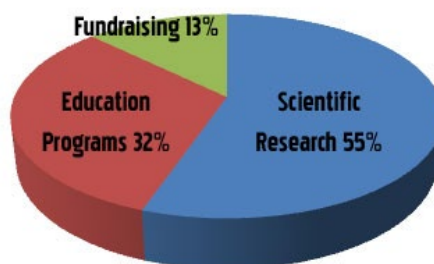
Maintenance of the DCP website, field reports, and our podcast The Dolphin Pod

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

Volunteer, ecotour and internship opportunities for the public



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



Adopt-a-wild-dolphin t-shirts
tinyurl.com/y1fx44v

