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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 almost here!

Dear Reader/DCP supporter,

Those of you familiar with DCP will remember that I. LOVE. SUMMER. (insert giant smiley face here!) It is by far my favorite season, not just because it's warm, but because we collect data more in summer. Hmm ... I guess technically that's not really true for me in recent years since I lead our programs to Roatan. But, I digress! Our summer 2021 season is not really "back to normal" but it's getting there. I will lead two field courses to RIMS in late June and Kel will lead an eco-tour from Bimini in July. Our programs are slow to rebound but we've spent time analyzing data, collaborating with colleagues for new students, and getting some papers out (congrats Kel!). We share these details and more in this issue of the *Dolphin Gazette*. Thank you for your continued interest and support of our research and education programs! And, as the photo at the right indicates, let's celebrate without balloons or keep them inside our homes!

Happy Reading! Cheers!

~Kathleen



*Next Celebration: Skip the Balloons!*

## In this issue

Update from Roatan | Come to Bimini | Webinar Recordings & Online Education | Meet Bridget | RIMS Programs | Patron Adoption & Sponsor A Classroom | Spotlight on Tina | Orca Coloring Page

### 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 Manon for her continued dedication. Thanks also to Taylor & Emil, our remote volunteers, Amilynn, our Social Media Intern, and Brice, our master's student. And, welcome to Bridget! Your contributions to our research and education programs 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](mailto:info@dcppmail.org).

# Update from the Field: Roatan, Honduras

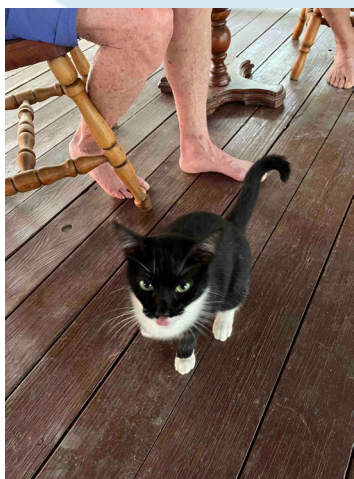
*Submitted by Kathleen Dudzinski, PhD (DCP Director)*

DCP's first "full" eco-tour in 18 months went without a hitch and allowed us to get LOTS of research conducted. Our group included core supporters, members of our research collaborator team as well as professors checking things out for future student trips (we covered lots of bases!). My main data collection with the MVA is a staple and was conducted twice each morning - at about 6:30 AM and a second session between 10 and noon each day, except Friday when I needed to rinse, clean and dry the MVA for storage. The sun rose by 5:15 AM ... which made the morning sessions quite bright.

The dolphins were mostly into their own thing this week so it was actually rare for any of the dolphins to come greet me at entry and I swam for a few minutes each early morning session before I was checked out ... could it be that I've become "old hat" to the dolphins?! Hmm ... time will tell! We also were able to collect several sessions each with seven female dolphins (Gracie, Elli, Tilly, Maury, Calli, Poli, Bailey) to investigate how creative they are -- a couple years ago we collected create data with the male dolphins and so this trip we rounded out our data set with both sexes with the goal to examine the data to see if there are differences between males and females. It was fun watching the dolphins ponder what to do next! We also had time to review the new "space-use grid" that Melissa created for the student groups to collect data on how the dolphins use the main lagoon. The new grid divvies the main lagoon into 9 blocks of space. We think it works well ... in June, we will see what the students think!

continued on page 9 ...

*~Kathleen*



*After the dolphins, Polly - feline - is Bill's favorite critter at AKR!*



*Tank (left) and Sandy (right) playing ... or Sandy making a funny face at Tank!*



*Our group (L-R): Melissa, Heather, Rachel, me, Ron & Bill*



*Buzz, Alita, Calli & Poli ... checking Kathleen out!*



*Heather & Melissa hiked the mountain behind AKR - Bailey's Key is sort of in view on left and Anthony's Key is on the right. (Thanks Heather for the image use!)*



# Price Reduction: Bimini Ecotour



**Sunday 11 July -  
Friday 16 July 2021**

Oh, how we miss having guests at our Bimini, The Bahamas, field site! We are hopeful that summer 2021 will bring confidence in traveling safely. If it does - we hope you'll join us! [Click here for pricing & more info.](#)

## **What is a Bimini ecotour with DCP like?**

Programs are 5-nights, but **we encourage guests to add a 6th night and arrive on 10 July.** This will help ensure you don't miss anything on Sunday 11th. Guests stay at the small, locally-owned and operated Sea Crest Hotel & Marina. Each morning, there is an optional DCP-led activity: presentation, round table discussion or beach

clean-up - or free time to explore Bimini's reefs, mangroves or beaches. Each afternoon, we head out with the local boat operator with the most experience taking folks to see the wild dolphins of Bimini.

## **What else is included?**

Shared cooking space for self-catering, rental snorkel gear, though we recommend folks bring their own to ensure the best fit, and all of your Bahamian taxes

## **What is not included?**

Meals, transportation to/from Bimini, gratuity for hotel staff & boat crew, additional drinks, snacks & gifts, travel insurance, COVID-19 insurance, travel visas, pre-trip testing (if required), return-to-US testing (if required)

## **Why choose this as my vacation?**

DCP participants get all the fun of a swim-with-wild-dolphins vacation, but they learn much more and their participation gets DCP much (much!) needed boat time to collect data on these amazing creatures. Win-Win!

## **What about COVID-19?**

There are currently no active cases of COVID-19 on Bimini. While occasional cases do still pop up, the use of masks, encouragement of social distancing, and testing/vaccine requirements for visitors has helped reduce transmission. And, The Bahamas government has begun offering vaccines to Bimini residents. DCP will have strict and clearly communicated COVID-protocols, to keep program participants and the local community safe.

**Contact DCP today if you are interested in registering!**



*Atlantic spotted dolphins off Bimini often come very close! But, it's their choice...*

# Recorded Webinars: Listen when you want!

Click each title below to go directly to recordings. Head to DCP's [website](#) or [YouTube](#) for full list!

## Dolphin Lessons

Geared toward ages 6 - 13  
20 - 35 minutes

[Intro to Dolphins](#)

[Who is Who? Telling dolphins apart](#)

[Dolphin Life at Blue Lagoon Island](#)

[Meet the dolphins of the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences](#)

[Fantastical Facts about Dolphins!](#)

[Sharks vs. Dolphins](#)

[The story of DCP ID#104, A stranded dolphin gets back to sea](#)

[Q & A with dolphin scientists!](#)

[How to Draw a Dolphin!](#)

[What's it like to be a Zookeeper?](#)

[Dolphin Adaptations](#)

[River Dolphins](#)

[Plastic Free Seas](#)

## Deep Dives

Geared toward ages 14+  
40 - 65 minutes

[Dolphin Social Avoidances](#)

[Creative Creatures: Can we train creative behavior in animals?](#)

[Spotted Dolphin Friendships](#)

[Investigations in Executive Function in Dolphins](#)

[Pectoral Fin Contacts](#)

[Basics of marine mammal diving physiology](#)

[How seals deal with climate change impacts in the Antarctic](#)

[Whales and Hippos, Evolutionary connections](#)

[All About Marine Debris](#)

[Learning from Whale Snot](#)

[Shark-Dolphin Interactions Down Under](#)

[Shoulders with Bernd & Melany Würsig](#)

[Sea Turtle Conservation](#)

Next Page: More free, online resources!

# Online Dolphin Education

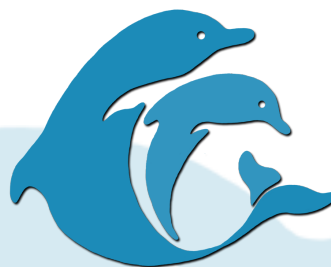
Something for everyone!

**DCP webinars:** 14 months, 52 programs & counting!.

**Dolphin Lessons:** Most 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 1p ET

**Deep Dives:** Most 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 1p ET

(Dolphin Lessons have a password; contact DCP if you have not already received it.)



## DCP webinars

A huge thank you to everyone who joins live and those who catch the recordings. We'll be pausing our live programs for the summer, but look forward to returning in the fall. See previous page for direct links to specific recordings or visit the main webinar pages:

[Webinars on DCP Website](#)

[Webinars on DCP's YouTube Channel](#) (subscribe now!)

**The Dolphin Pod** is appropriate for all dolphin lovers and our recent relaunch adds a comedic angle. [Click here to have a listen](#) directly on DCP's website, or find *The Dolphin Pod* wherever you get your podcasts.

**Kids Science Activities** are accessible on our website - [just click here](#). From interactive activities for elementary school students to word searches, jumbles, and coloring sheets, there is something for everyone.

Check Page 7 in this issue of the *Gazette* for details on [Sponsoring A Classroom](#).

## Meet Bridget!

My name is Bridget Horta and I am headed into my junior (3rd) year at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. I am majoring in Psychology and pursuing a certificate in Community-Based Assessment and Evaluation. I also work for the Office of Community-Based Research, where we assist local non-profit organizations with running analyses on their data. I have recently been admitted into the McNair Scholars Program! As a McNair scholar, I will be doing research this summer for 8 weeks. My professor, Dr. Hill, introduced me to Dr. Kathleen Dudzinski, Director of DCP, who will be my mentor in the McNair Scholars Program. I'll be using the software BORIS to log video data collected at the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences (RIMS) by Dudzinski and DCP for DCP's assessment of relationship quality among dolphins. Specifically, this summer, I will be event sampling the video data to log object play among dolphins. The goal of this research is to examine how the dolphins at RIMS engage in object play. I'll look into various factors, such as if there is a certain object the dolphins prefer to play with, the differences with age and sex when engaging in object play, and exploring the objects that the dolphins play with. Stay tuned!





# RIMS Program Updates

*Resuming DCP's studies of the dolphins on Roatan in 2021!*

## DCP's 20th Anniversary "2nd year" - Eco-tours to Roatan!

**Join Kathleen on Roatan at Antony's Key Resort (AKR):**

**October 9 - 16, 2021**



DCP returns to Roatan in 2021, at least three times, to collect data with eco-tour participants. January was great and so was May! Plus, there's still time to join us in October - keep reading and stay tuned to the [website](#) for updates.

We are coordinating one more week-long program this year: 9 - 16 October 2021. As always, spaces are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, but we still have a spot for you!



Updates will be available in the next issue of the *Dolphin Gazette* and in a field blog post to the DCP home page, as well as to the DCP RIMS eco-tour page. You can also contact DCP by email for more information.

Check out the [RIMS Eco-tour page](#) (look under the Education tab) to learn more about logistics and other details. Or send DCP an inquiry by email ([info@dcppmail.org](mailto:info@dcppmail.org)).

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



# New Options to Support DCP!

*We are proud to offer more ways to support our mission - and spread dolphin joy!*

## Patron Adopt-A-Dolphin

DCP's Patron Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphin program allows you the opportunity to adopt one of four specific dolphins from our Bimini, The Bahamas, field site to have an even greater impact on DCP's mission. The extra money raised from these kits will be funneled directly into DCP's Bimini field site research and related education programs. As a thank you for purchasing a Patron kit, DCP streamlined the kit design to make the details more concise and access more direct to our adoption content, including several video/audio files as electronic links online (or available on USB drive for the print version of this Patron Adoption Kit). Choose from Tina, Prince William, Vee, and Paul - four long-time residents of the warm turquoise waters near Bimini!



Patron Adoption kits:  
Electronic version: \$135  
Hardcopy version: \$169

[Click here to be among the first Patrons](#)

## Sponsor A Classroom - Dolphin Classroom Connection

By Sponsoring a Dolphin Classroom Connection, you support DCP's research, education, and conservation efforts financially, AND you bring DCP directly into a classroom of your choosing!

Anyone can Sponsor a Dolphin Classroom Connection. Have a child? Sponsor their classroom! Homeschool your kids? Sponsor your own classroom! Have a niece, grandson, neighbor who is a student or a teacher or a student teacher? Sponsor their classroom!

Want to Sponsor a Dolphin Classroom Connection, but don't know any kids or teachers? That's okay! We'll find a classroom for you!

Dolphin Classroom Connection kits come in print versions (\$500) and electronic versions (\$300). Choose what works best for your chosen classroom. Both options include a 45-minute Internet connection with a DCP scientist!

[Click here to start your sponsorship.](#)

### Print Version

- \*Welcome Letter
- \*USB drive with Educational Materials
- \*Print Dolphin Adoption Kit
- \*30 DCP Info Booklets
- \*30 DCP Trading Cards
- \*45 min. Internet Connection with a DCP Scientist

### E-Version

- \*Welcome Letter with Links to:
  - \*Educational Materials
  - \*Electronic Dolphin Adoption Kit
  - \*PDF of DCP Info Booklet
  - \*PDF Photobook
- \*45 min. Internet Connection with a DCP Scientist

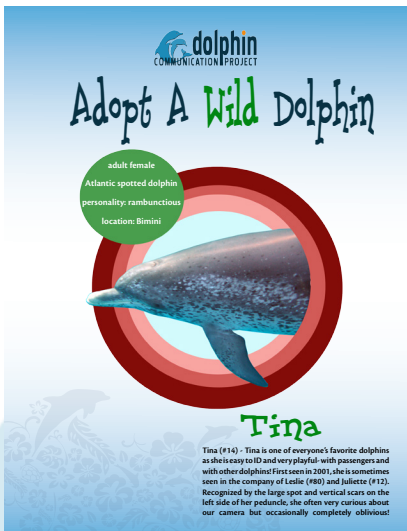


# Adopt-A-Dolphin Spotlight

Adopt a  
Wild Dolphin



## Spotlight on: Tina



[Click here to adopt Tina!](#)



Tina, an adult, female Atlantic spotted dolphin, has been observed by DCP every year since 2001. Over the years, she has been observed interacting with Leslie (#80), Prince William (#64), Romeo (#10) and others. We spent the last several years watching her interactions with her calf, Kiwi (#121).

We are very excited to search for Tina again this year - will she have a new calf?



If you would like to join us in our quest, register for our [July 2021 ecotour](#) - and search for all the Bimini Adopt-A-Wild-Dolphins!

The spotted dolphins around Bimini are ready for adoption all year round! 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, \$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 (same price everywhere)

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



# Update from the Field: Roatan, Honduras

*Submitted by Kathleen Dudzinski, PhD (DCP Director)*

...continued from page 2:

Our week was a good one and very productive with 5.5 hours of video data collected with the MVA and the GoPro7 mounted to the top of the MVA. We also collected several test sessions for space-use data with the new grid, and added panorama photos to have a more exact placement of the dolphins and Kathleen when logging space use details. And, we completed several create sessions per female dolphin.

We have plenty to keep us busy with analyses!

Ron and Bill also got back into diving after a very dry 12-14 months (due to COVID). AKR, RIMS and their staff are ramping up as guests return to the facility and enjoy the reef, amenities, and warm water and sunshine!

Check out our field blog to hear about our daily activities ([on the DCP website](#)).

And, stay tuned for more updates from DCP and our two field course groups during the last two weeks of June!

Thank you as always to the AKR and RIMS families for welcoming us (and their other guests) back to the resort that Nature Built!

Cheers

*~Kathleen*



*Calli in a layback with pec waves while Teri & Kathleen watch and Kenly hangs out with Poli during a create data collection session.*



*Maury and Rocky swimming together by Kathleen as she records with the MVA4 and GoPro7.*



*Lenca (foreground) spent time swimming with his younger brother, Buzz, on several occasions! And here we thought it was only the female siblings who watched out for their younger sibs!*

# DCP Announcements!

## Publication Updates

Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society (Aug 2021): Postdoc Nicole has submitted an abstract. Stay tuned!

Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals (Dec 2021): several abstracts have been submitted for consideration. Stay tuned!

Dudzinski, KM, Ribic, CA, Hill, HM, Bolton, T (2021) Dolphin Calf Initiated Pectoral Fin Contact with Kin and Non-kin. *Animal Behavior & Cognition*, 8 (in press, due in August)

Melillo-Sweeting, K, Maust-Mohl, M, Smukall, MJ. (in press). Examining shark bite scars on dolphins off Bimini, The Bahamas: comparisons between bottlenose and Atlantic spotted dolphins. (*Marine Mammal Science*)

**Plus several manuscripts in revision, review or prep for publication consideration, including:**

Hill, HM, Yeater, D, Highfill, L, Bolton, T, Henriquez, W, Dudzinski, K, Gutierrez, M, Birk, D. (in review). Effects of Human-Dolphin Interactions on Tourist Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors about Dolphins and Conservation. (to - *Society & Animals*)

Danaher-Garcia, N, Connor, R, Fay, G, Melillo-Sweeting, K, Dudzinski, KM. (in prep) Using social network analysis to compare the association and interaction networks of Atlantic spotted dolphins around Bimini, The Bahamas (to - *Behavioural Processes*)

Danaher-Garcia, N, Connor, R, Fay, G, Melillo-Sweeting, K, Dudzinski, KM. (in prep) Tactile exchanges between Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) around Bimini, The Bahamas. (to - *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*)



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 accountant to learn how.)**

\* Compact HD Projector (high vis) \* Underwater still cameras \* SD flash cards \* GoPro \* Handheld GPS \* Office supplies \* Frequent flyer miles \* Laptop \* Giftcards



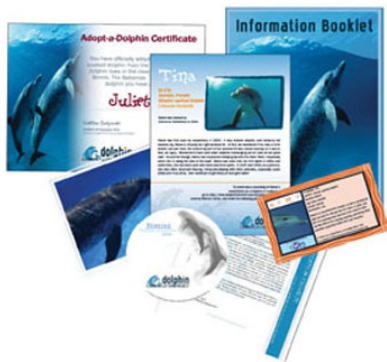
*DCP's Florida Solicitation of Contributions registration number is CH42894.*



# 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

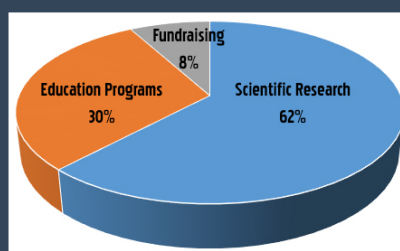
Publication and dissemination of DCP's research results to the scientific community and the general public

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

Where does money raised from donations, dolphin adoptions and field courses go?



Adopt-a-wild-dolphin t-shirts  
[List of shops here](#)



# 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/\$35 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 | Weiloo | Lil' Jess | Kiwi | Split Jaw | Tim | Prince William | 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)



## Notecards

\$2.50 each/ 3 for \$6



## DCP Gear

To purchase DCP gear, visit [www.cafepress/dcpgear](http://www.cafepress/dcpgear)



## Membership

### Sustaining Memberships:

Donate from \$5 to \$100/month to receive a special gift!

### 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!

Support DCP's research efforts by 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.





# Orca Coloring Page

Drawn by Raina Fan

[Click here](#) for corresponding Dolphin Lesson recording.

