



→ KATHLEEN'S RIMS UPDATES....5 - 8



→ MANON IN NORWAY....12



→ THE DOLPHIN POD....16

# 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.*

## 2025: What a Year!

Dear Reader/DCP supporter,

We have been BUSY this year! Three conferences were attended with both poster and spoken presentations. We had several papers published in peer-review journals and shared our results through engaging educational outreach programs! We've spent time in the field and are getting our results about killer whales, the largest dolphin, out to both science and public audiences. On a personal, and professional, note, I am honored to have been selected as the 2025 Kiessling Prize recipient. I look forward to getting our conservation messages, fueled by scientific results, out to all of you and even more supporters and enthusiasts. I know you'll enjoy the updates in this issue of the Dolphin Gazette. Happy Reading! Happy New Year!

Cheers!

*~Kathleen*



### In this issue

Kathleen & the Kiessling Prize!  
| Store & Kits! | Updates from Roatan | 2026 Ecotours | Outreach Updates | Conferences | Killer Whales | Meet Abby | Recorded Webinars | The Dolphin Pod | Publications | New Coloring Page

#### Mailing Address

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FL Solicitation of Contributions  
Reg. #: CH42894 (also see page 19)

#### Thank You for your Support!

Thank you to Catalina, Eden, Jaelynn (CSU), Savanna, Abby, Lexi, & Sierra (NSU), Hayley (FAU), Robert & Brenda, & Dr. Dee & her SHU team for your help processing video data for varied research projects!

Your contributions to our programs are most valuable!!

#### Internships & Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in interning or volunteering with DCP please note most positions are office-based and do NOT include field work. Check out the DCP website before contacting us at [info@dcppmail.org](mailto:info@dcppmail.org)

# Congrats Kathleen!

## 2025 Wolfgang Kiessling International Prize for Species Conservation



In September, John and I traveled to Washington D.C. for a few days of events with Global Humane Society (American Humane Society's international arm). We traveled for the Wolfgang Kiessling International Prize for Species Conservation Annual event. I was a finalist with five other individuals from across the globe. John and I arrived a day early to get in a day of sightseeing.

Monday saw all finalists (me, Dante, Hilde, Jhala, and Jonah. Vivek was unable to attend in person) spending the day being interviewed for the final selection, as well as for a few of American Humane Society's (AHS's) programs, including

*Robin's Nest*, a lively and informative podcast. It was busy but fun!

Tuesday morning, we visited the Library of Congress – a stunning building and library and a place we all wished we had more time to spend inside. Tuesday evening was a dinner (scrumptious!) at which the 2025 Kiessling Prize winner was announced. Dr. Robin Ganzert (CEO of AHS and GHS) introduced all finalists and then showed a video. Since we'd all been interviewed for the Kiessling Prize video, both John and I thought they'd show a clip of everyone and then announce the winner. So, it took a minute for me to realize that my video was the only one shown in sequence with Wolfgang Kiessling and Robin! I was VERY excited and not a little



stunned! I was able to say a few words of thanks – fortunately, there was a podium on which I could rest my thank-you notes so my shaking hands were not that visible!

The award ceremony was held on Wednesday morning on Capital Hill. That evening, we celebrated the Kiessling Prize, finalists, and winner at a Global Humane Table with a Farm-to-Table menu that was not only beautiful to behold but held delicious food and lively conversations. My research relies on long-term collaborations; I thank all the facilities, managers, trainers, participants, students, and the communities with whom and where I've studied dolphins both in managed care and the wild for welcoming and

supporting me and my team. The Kiessling Prize is the best acknowledgment that your support is necessary, and science should not be conducted in a vacuum.

I am honored by the 2025 Wolfgang Kiessling International Prize for Species Conservation as it represents recognition for my decades-long research studying dolphins – large and small – in both the wild and managed care, as well as DCP's education programs dedicated to sharing our findings with people far and wide. With the Kiessling Prize, I look forward to taking our science conservation messages to much wider audiences.

Cheers,

~Kathleen



# DCP's Online Store

All purchases support DCP's research & education programs!

## DCP merchandise for yourself and as gifts!

*New: Dolphin Protector Kits now available for killer whales!*

### Performance Polos

Collar for sophistication, quick-dry material for comfort!



### Bracelets

The mini option from Bali Y'all or the full-size option with special-edition DCP blue/orange bands!



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Long or short sleeved. Only a Few Left!

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Short sleeved shirts  
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*Long sleeved returning soon!*

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Full-size bandanas for sun protection or half-size to hold back your hair!

### Tanks

Unisex & Ladies Fitted

### Rash Guards

UPF-50:  
5 colors to choose from!

### Trading Cards

DCP Team + Dolphins

### Canvas Totes

Convenient + conversation starters



[Click here to head to DCP's online store.](#)

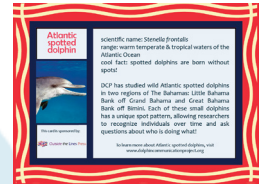
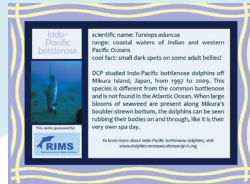
# Dolphin Protector Kits!

## Declare yourself a Dolphin Protector!

Great gifts with conservation top of mind: Dolphin Protector Kits

Learn about and protect one or more of the dolphin species DCP researchers study

4 species to choose from: common bottlenose, Indo-Pacific bottlenose, Atlantic spotted dolphins, and **NOW killer whales!**



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- species trading card
- second surprise trading card
- species 5x7 photo
- 2 DCP stickers
- DCP awareness card
- DCP's info booklet
- thank you letter (with video links)
- personalized certificate

Just \$39 plus shipping

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### Information Booklet



### E-kits include:

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- DCP awareness JPG
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- thank you letter (with video links)
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Whether across the world or around the neighborhood, a DCP Traveler Kit is adventure ready!



### Traveler kits include:

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- DCP bandana (Hoorag)
- 2 travel-sized Stream2Sea products
- 2 DCP stickers
- DCP's info booklet
- Thank you letter
- Choice of DCP Shirt

\$60 - \$75 plus shipping

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# Update from the Field: DCP at RIMS/AKR in Jan '25

Submitted by Kathleen Dudzinski, PhD (DCP Director)

For more years than I can remember, I have rung in the New Year at [Anthony's Key Resort \(AKR\)](#) and the [Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences \(RIMS\)](#). This time, 2025, Manon and I traveled on New Year's Day and had a delightfully smooth trip. We arrived ahead of Dr. Kanatous's Colorado State University (CSU) class and, in between rain downpours, assembled equipment, collected data, met with RIMS folks, and generally prepped for the course and the students' arrival. Manon and I spent two weeks at AKR and it was a very productive trip with 14 sessions of dolphin observations completed. This yielded roughly 6.5 hours of MVA



of front facing GoPro and 7 hours of back facing GoPro footage. Six sessions with drone video footage (3 hours) were collected that also had a surface GoPro (3 hours) recording – to show the advantages and disadvantages of each viewpoint/perspective. This all tallies to 26.5 hours of video data collected during this two-week visit/session. We will be processing data for months to come!



Each day of the field course begins eearly, with data collected before breakfast! Students focused on collecting space use data from the docks, while Manon or I collected underwater data with the MVA and GoPros, and John and Don flew the drone. In between delicious meals, students had classroom sessions covering topics including fish ID, physiology, documentary film making, operant conditioning, coral restoration, sustainability at AKR, relationship quality in dolphins, and even Don's career path, which included the military



and veterinary science. The students completed numerous snorkels, including near Maya Key, where they also explored replica ruins and observed a variety of terrestrial rescued animals.



As always, I am grateful to every member of the AKR and RIMS teams! We look forward to each future data collection and education programs including our new Adult Education Program that was in place of our standard ecotour in October 2025. See page six for details!

Did you miss any of our daily blog posts, in which students shared their impressions? Catch up anytime at <https://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org/blog-field-reports/>

~Kathleen

# ...DCP at RIMS/AKR in May/June '25



From 24 May – 7 June, I led two DCP programs to AKR and RIMS. With Manon's assistance, we had an ecotour group of eight for the first week and then a week with Dr. Kanatous of Colorado State University (CSU) and nine students. Manon and I collected video/stereo audio data with our MVA4 system and two GoPro11 cameras mounted to the MVA top (front-facing) and to the right hydrophone arm (back-facing). Ecotour participants assisted with surface observations during the first week. Students assisted with surface observations and space use data collection during the early morning research sessions

of the second week. In total (all cameras), we recorded more than 18 hours of underwater stereo video data over 13 underwater data collection sessions. We also completed seven space use data collection sessions. We have a lot of office work ahead of us to analyze these data, starting with video logs, in which we note which individual dolphins are in view and for how long.

Both groups visited Maya Key, snorkeled (day and night!), and celebrated at Fiesta Night! During the birthday-filled ecotour week, some guests also went SCUBA diving, as well as listened to a couple of lectures about DCP's research results. During the student week, there were many classroom sessions covering a variety of topics including physiology, coral restoration, sea turtles, fish ID, of course dolphin behavior, and more. In addition to observing the dolphins for DCP's data collection, everyone also met the dolphins up close and personal, through RIMS's encounter and swim programs. One CSU student made [an incredible video](#) – did you catch it on DCP's Instagram?



These amazing programs, with so many great experiences for all the participants, would not be possible without the expertise and efforts of RIMS and AKR teams. We're excited for our upcoming programs, including our first Adult Education Program in October. Check out the following page for a wrap up from that program. And January 2026 marks the 10th year that DCP and Dr. Kanatous have been collaborating with field courses. Stay tuned for celebrations!

As always, we summarized each day and students shared their impressions in DCP's daily blog posts. Catch up anytime at <https://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org/blog-field-reports/>

~Kathleen

*Photos: (top) Rocky; (center) Snorkel orientation; (bottom) Ready for data collection!*

# ...and DCP at RIMS/AKR in October '25!

For years DCP has offered ecotours and field courses to AKR and RIMS in Honduras. This year, we decided to try something in between: an Adult Education Ecotour. The idea was to offer something a little more structured than a traditional ecotour but not quite as intensive – and with no homework! – as a university field course. And so, while pondering where the year had evaporated to, I found myself packing up to meet five participants at AKR from 18-25 October.



The group consisted of myself, Don, and Bill, who are staunch supporters and regulars, and Marie, Felicia, and Morgan, our newbies. We all arrived to sunshine and a pleasant breeze that we looked back on fondly by the end of the week, which grew rainy. On arrival day, I was able to make a quick visit to Bailey's Key to say hello to the dolphins, make note of their temporary markings, and connect with the training staff. Our group enjoyed getting to know one another over dinner and, by Sunday morning, we were finding the groove of early data collection sessions with the dolphins. Sunday morning's data collection was excellent: good underwater visibility and busy dolphins. As the week went on, Bill, Don, and Marie did a lot of diving, Felicia and Morgan enjoyed some snorkels, the group visited Maya Key, and everyone enjoyed the food! There were also lectures to attend including fish ID and a summary of DCP's research at RIMS (x2! - see page 14).

While recording video and acoustic data with the MVA, I am always hoping the dolphins will ignore me. Some days that works better than others! At times, dolphins Rocky, Tank, and Buzz (and sometimes Stan) were enamored of my fins. One morning, I opted to end the data collection after ~12 minutes because the dolphins were too focused on my fins. Thankfully, I was able to arrange an extra MVA session that afternoon without The Fin-Fan Trio. In contrast, when Marie, Felicia, and Morgan experienced an encounter with Rocky and a swim with some of the younger dolphins, interaction is a highlight and enrichment for the dolphins!

Fiesta Night shifted indoors but was still delicious and fun. It gave away to rain that destroyed underwater visibility thereby cancelling Thursday's MVA data collection. Thanks to the strong current, the visibility was already improved on Friday, and I got one more opportunity for data collection. Alita had Buzz with her much of this final session, playing with a piece of seagrass for almost the whole session while Lenca passed by and showed me the sharpnose pufferfish he was mouthing. It was raining on/off for our last full day, but it was a great week overall!

Thank you to our long-time supporters and our new ones! We are always grateful to the staff at AKR and RIMS and we are already looking forward to our next visit (field courses in January 2026!). You can catch up on the daily blogs from October and follow along in January 2026 by [clicking here](#).



~Kathleen

# Join Kathleen: TWO choices for 2026!

## Anthony's Key Resort Roatan, Honduras 9 - 16 May 2026 10 - 17 October 2026

As always, spaces are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, but we still have a spot for you!

Check out the [RIMS Ecotour page](#) (look under the Knowledge Hub > Ecotours) to learn more about logistics and other details. Or send DCP an inquiry by email: (info{at}dcpmail{dot}org).

**Who:** You! Join DCP on a trip to Roatan led by Dr. Kathleen Dudzinski. Each trip accommodates up to 16 participants, unless identified as limited space. *\*Please note: children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian – absolutely no exceptions.*

**What:** DCP records the behavior and sounds of the bottlenose dolphins at the Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences (RIMS), Anthony's Key Resort. Participants assist with data collection and analysis of video data to confirm dolphin IDs - as much or as little as they like. When not assisting or learning about dolphins, you'll have plenty of time for SCUBA, snorkeling, kayaking/paddle boarding, and more!

**Where:** Anthony's Key Resort, Roatan, Honduras

**When:** Session 1: 9 - 16 May 2026      Session 2: 10 - 17 October 2026

**Cost:** Contact DCP by email: (info{at}dcpmail{dot}org)

Available rooms for May 2026 are "Hill Superior." Available rooms for October 2026 are "Key Superior." All "Superior" rooms include air conditioning and a mini fridge. Rates provided by DCP *include* 19% hotel tax and are based on double occupancy. SCUBA options are 6, 12, or 19 dives per week (cost varies) for certified divers. Contact DCP for single occupancy options/availability.

**Deposit:** A \$200 USD/person nonrefundable deposit will be needed to hold your space. After receiving your deposit, your remaining balance can be split into two payments. Dates for second and final payments vary by session.

**Notes:**  
~A portion of your ecotour trip fee may be tax-deductible. Consult your tax adviser for more details.  
~Trip costs are based on double occupancy and include lodging, three meals a day, SCUBA diving/snorkeling, and more. Contact DCP for more details about trip logistics. Bottled water, alcohol, and soda are available for a small fee. Airfare and Honduran departure taxes are NOT included.



# 2025 Education/Outreach Update

Submitted by Kel Sweeting, MSc



I enjoyed leading several outreach education programs in 2025! Here's a summary:

## Bimini, The Bahamas

### *Gateway Christian Academy:*

Sharks and Dolphins were the themes in my classroom visits with Jillian Morris of Sharks4Kids. I may not actively study the dolphins off Bimini anymore, but I will always visit Bimini classrooms when possible!

### *Bimini Biological Field Station:*

I was also able to share dolphin science with two field courses at The SharkLab, including a new course from The University of The Bahamas (UB)!

### Virtual:

Later in the year, the UB professor invited me to give a guest talk to his online marine mammal course.

I also gave an intro to dolphins talk to eager students in India. Once we sorted out the time difference, it was a blast!

### Letters to a PreScientist (LPS):

The first part of 2025 had me wrapping up my letters with my pen pal and partway through the fall semester I was assigned my new pen pal! LPS matches STEM professionals with students in science classrooms around the United States. It's been an honor to exchange letters with these students and I hope I can continue to participate in the future.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who makes these programs possible!

~Kel

## DiverMojo Foundation



DCP is honored to have received a grant from the DiverMojo Foundation for the second year in a row. With their support, we have been able to keep technology subscriptions going, which help meet our education/outreach goals, replace GoPro batteries, record The Dolphin Pod, and more. Thank you, DiverMojo Foundation (DMF)! And, Kathleen was thrilled to have Marie, a member of DMF, on the October 2025 ecotour!

Learn more about the [DiverMojo Foundation](#) and their mission to harness the power within their SCUBA community to “provide connection, education and funding for micro game changers to improve our oceans, one project at a time!”

# DCP Conference & Meeting Appearances

## 5th Orca Symposium, February 2025

Kathleen & Manon attended the Orca Symposium. It was a great opportunity!



## 53rd European Association for Aquatic Mammals' Symposium, March 2025

**Posters:** Select posters are available for free download on the DCP website!

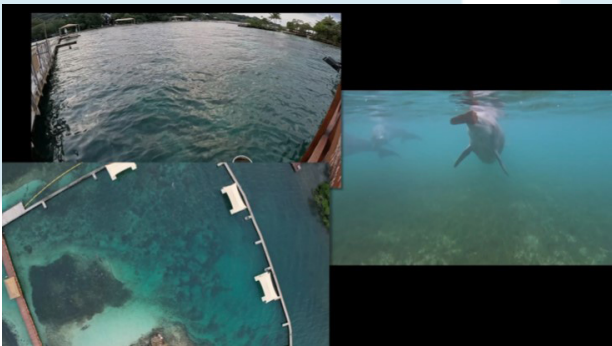
Manitzas Hill, HM, Themelin, M, Dudzinski, KM, Felice, M, Robeck, T. 2025. Individual Variation in Activity Budgets of a Stable Population of Killer Whales in Managed Care Across a Year. [PDF](#) - see page 17 for full publication info.

Dudzinski, KM, Virthe, A, Manitzas Hill, H, Davis, M, Samm, M, Flahtery Clark, K, Robeck, T. 2025. Did Participating in Interaction Programs Affect Bottlenose Dolphin Behavior Before and After the Program? [PDF](#)

Mace, S., Brasseur, I., Weiss, M., Dudzinski, K.M., Manitzas Hill, H.M. 2025. Exploring 3D Symbol Discrimination in Orcas: Insights into Cognitive Processing and Conservation.

Apostolico, S, Gojcay, S, Pertoso, S, Falandysz, A, Salles, D, Yeater, D, Dudzinski, K, Themelin, M. 2025. Decoding Dolphin Dynamics: Observing Object Play Among Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*). [PDF](#)

Maust-Mohl, M., Eierman, L., Kaplan, J. D., Melillo-Sweeting, K. 2025. Occurrence and seasonal residency of a community of common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) off Bimini, The Bahamas, from 2006-2016. [PDF](#)



### **Talks:**

Dudzinski, KM, Themelin, M, Anderson, J. 2025. Perspective matters: The importance of vantage point when looking at behaviors, video presentation. [Watch the video here.](#)

Themelin, M, Dudzinski, KM, Manitzas Hill, H, Robeck, T. 2025. Social behaviors of killer whales and other delphinids.

## Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks & Aquariums Annual Meeting, May 2025

### **Talks:**

Dudzinski, KM, Themelin, M, Manitzas Hill, HM. 2025. Research shows calves are valuable to everyone in a social group.

Manitzas Hill, HM, Themelin, M, Dudzinski, KM, Robeck, T. 2025. Managed care killer whales show behavioral diversity that matched wild animals.

# More Killer Whale News

DCP's visit to Loro Parque; Submitted by Kathleen Dudzinski, PhD



In the fall, John, Manon, and I visited [Loro Parque](#) in Tenerife, Spain, to 1) observe killer whale behavior and 2) film sequences for a longer film to showcase our studies of killer whale behavior at Loro Parque with a comparison to our observations of other groups both in managed care and in the wild.

The Orca Ocean team (1st photo: Julian, David, Miguel, Dani, Maria, Idaira, Jorge, Juan, Renee, Cecylia) could not have been more welcoming! They opened their arms and the viewing windows (2nd, 4th & 5th photos) and shared with us their husbandry care and operant

conditioning approach to developing relationships with the four killer whales who call Loro Parque home. These killer whales (Tekoa, Adán, Morgan, & Teno) are true ambassadors for their *in situ* counterparts.

We watched Tekoa and Adán socialize with rubbing and cross swims and other affiliative actions. Of course, we were also fortunate to spend time watching Morgan and Teno engage in all sorts of behavioral exchanges! Morgan is a very relaxed mom who offers Teno the chance to explore his world and test out new behaviors as he grows and develops.

During our visit, Teno seemed to have just learned about low leaps and side beaching ... actions he did as often as possible! Adán and Tekoa showed interest in both Teno and Morgan with Teno seemingly learning to vocally imitate their calls.

John was able to film nearly every sequence he planned. He moved



all over to film (3rd photo) not just Manon and I doing our observations but also the extensive care and attention all Orca Ocean trainers provide to these four killer whales. Every day and every session, their relationships with Tekoa, Adán, Morgan, and Teno are evident. These relationships are built on mutual respect and trust, and we applaud and admire their dedication. We have many months of data analyses ongoing and upcoming (as always with our behavioral analyses) and John will also be busy logging footage and editing together our next film focused on DCP's studies of the Loro Parque killer whales, with comparison to our results of research into small dolphin (bottlenose and spotted) behavior and other killer whales (both *in situ* and *ex situ*).

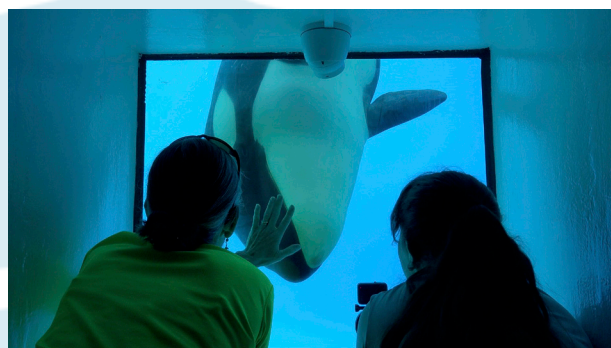
A huge thank you to all the Loro Parque and [Loro Parque Fundación](#) team members for making our visit so very productive! Thank you especially to Mr. Wolfgang Kiessling and Mr. Christoph Kiessling for encouraging and supporting our research initiatives. We look forward

to sharing our results as our analyses progress!

~Kathleen

In December 2024, DCP was awarded a grant from the Loro Parque Fundación to continue our study of *in situ* and *ex situ* killer whale behavior in comparison to the bottlenose and Atlantic spotted (smaller) dolphins we've been studying for decades. This study began in early 2025 and will continue in 2026. As part of the outreach associated with this project, DCP has posted short clips of different killer whale behavior on our Facebook, Instagram, and X.

Haven't seen them? Go check them out!



LORO PARQUE  
FUNDACIÓN

WE CARE

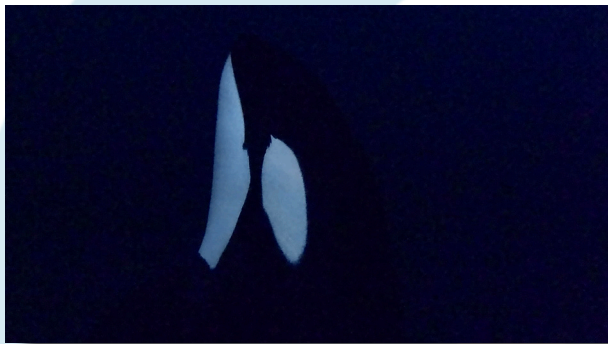
# DCP's 1st Trip to Norway!

*Submitted by Manon Themelin, MSc*

In early December, DCP's collaboration with [Wild Encounters \(WE\)](#) took me far north above the Arctic circle, in the Kvænangen fjords, to be part of WE's last trip of the season with Debbie & Johnny.

WE has shared footage taken by their guests (over 3 years – thank you!) during snorkeling expeditions in north Norway and this last-minute DCP trip gave me the opportunity to give back by sharing a bit of DCP's research with on-board guests.

I boarded the ship we called home for a week on the evening of December 3rd. After a safety briefing, we all got our gear for the week: thermal overalls, drysuit, 10mm hood, gloves, and boots. Yes, this time of the year, sea temperature in the fjords is around 5°C (41°F). Here's me all geared-up – thanks Gary for the picture (top).



The next five days, life onboard was organized pretty much the same way: breakfast, look for animals, launch zodiacs (if possible) to snorkel with the animals (if possible), get back onboard for a late lunch, pull footage, prepare cameras for the next day, dinner, and share information with guests.

All week, killer whales (and humpback whales!) were not difficult to find. The challenges came from the weather and the low light – in December, the sun doesn't rise above the mountains anymore.

We were able to launch the zodiacs 4 days out of 5 and snorkel with the animals on 3 of those days. We had interesting encounters with curious juvenile killer whales: one checking out our zodiac engine (zodiac was immobile and engine neutral), one checking out my underwater housing (middle photo), and another one sneaking up on me (see Debbie's picture from the surface, below). Though, the most impressive moment was observing killer whales and humpback whales feeding on a bait ball from up-close!

I was able to collect 11 underwater video clips, but the low light will make difficult behavioral analyses. Still, I have gained valuable information to be used next year if DCP returns to Norway, the first being – I'll use a wetsuit next time. I was actually too warm in the drysuit!

Keep an eye on our social media, we will share videos of this trip!

*~Manon*



# Student Reflections: Abby

Submitted by Abby Adams (NSU)



My name is Abby Adams; I am a master's student at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), working in the Charismatic Megafauna and Oceanography Laboratory (CMOL) where my focus is on dolphin cognition and behavior. My path to studying dolphins wasn't always clear—I've loved marine life for as long as I can remember, but it wasn't until my time at Mary Baldwin University that I began to realize this was my true calling. It was my undergraduate advisors who encouraged me to pursue a degree in marine science, setting me on the path I'm on today. I was fortunate to meet Dr. Kathleen through my major advisor, Dr. Amy C Hirons, during one of our initial meetings when

I started the program. I was thrilled to learn about the behavior lab at NSU and the opportunity to work in it. My experience began with video logging underwater data collected at the Roatan Institute of Marine Science (RIMS), which allowed me to explore various behaviors that could form the basis of my master's thesis.

My major research interest is in dolphin cognition, particularly creativity, which I plan to focus on for my master's thesis. I've always been drawn to the ways animals express themselves and how they think, and my background in cognitive psychology allows me to approach this from a useful perspective. After spending a year working with Kathleen and reviewing video logs of the dolphins at RIMS, I became interested in how dolphins interact with objects in their environment, using them in ways that suggest higher-level thinking. I'm eager to contribute to the understanding of these animals and, eventually, use my knowledge in my future career as a marine mammal behaviorist. One of the challenges I've faced is adjusting to the learning curve that comes with transitioning into a marine science graduate program, especially given my background wasn't originally specialized in this field. Balancing classes, work, and the responsibilities of adult life has been a humbling experience, but I've embraced each challenge as an opportunity for growth. Outside of my academic work, I'm also a diver and have developed a passion for underwater photography. My love for wildlife photography, particularly birding, began during a trip to Costa Rica, and I now hope to extend that interest to the marine world. For me, this journey is about more than just research—I want to inspire others and educate them about the incredible animals I study.

~Abby

Photo: Following Abby's completion of Dolphin Research Center's "Dolphin Academy"

## Killer Whale Trading Cards!

Yup! You can now add a killer whale trading card to your collection!

Trading cards are available for purchase or as part of a print *Dolphin Protector Kit*.

Head to the [DCP online store](#) to get yours!  
All proceeds support DCP's research & education efforts.



# Online Dolphin Education

Great additions to our recorded webinar archive!

**DCP webinars:** We continue to offer live programs in addition to recordings of each program.

*(Live Dolphin Lessons and Deep Dives have different passwords; contact DCP if you have not already received them.)*



A huge thank you to everyone who joins live and to those who catch the recordings. We are grateful to all of our guest speakers, too!

[Webinars on DCP Website](#)

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

[Webinars on DCP's Vimeo](#)

**Below are direct links to just some of our individual talks:**

## DEEP DIVES:

- [Exploring the Dolphin Mind](#)
- [Investigating Killer Whale Behavior](#)
- [DCP's Research @ RIMS](#)
- [Socializing Killer Whales](#)

## DOLPHIN LESSON:

- [How to Draw a Dolphin](#)

More kid and kid-at-heart friendly activities are under the Knowledge Hub on our website.

[Click here to head straight to our free Kids Science Activities!](#)



## Next up:

January 26, 2026

11:00 AM EST

Topic: Pair Swim Positions

Come learn about not only mother and calf use pair swimming positions (PSPs), but also males with other males or adults with adults.

## Did You Know?



The Society for Marine Mammalogy's Committee on Taxonomy produces an official list of marine mammal species and subspecies - every year. That's because scientists are always learning new things and refining species' classification.

The [2025 list](#) includes 15 species of baleen whales and 79 odontocetes - including 38 dolphin species!

# More Options to Support DCP!

We are proud to offer a variety of ways to support our mission - and spread dolphin joy!

## Give the Gift of Membership!

What to get that person who is just so hard to shop for?

A DCP membership, of course!

With options from \$20 - \$500 and monthly or one-time payments, there is something for everyone. [Just click here.](#)

## Donate

Whether it's a gift in someone's honor or part of your end-of-year giving plan, please consider making a donation to DCP to support our research and education efforts. [Just click here.](#)

## **Stream2Sea: More than just reef-safe sunscreen!**

[Stream2Sea](#) specializes in reef-safe sunscreen, but they now offer a wide range of products, from hair care to hand sanitizer. They are also great supporters of ocean research and conservation. Use coupon code **dolphincomm** and DCP will receive a donation based on your purchase - at no additional cost to you!

## **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 (\$250) and electronic versions (\$125). 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
- \*DCP USB drive with Educational Materials
- \*30 DCP Info Booklets
- \*45 min. Internet Connection with a DCP Scientist

### **E-Version**

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

# Podcast News!

## The DolphinPod: 3 episodes in 2025 & more to come!

DCP's podcast, *The DolphinPod*, remains available directly on DCP's website, Spotify, and Apple Podcasts.

With support from DiverMojo Foundation (Ep 25) and Loro Parque Fundación (Ep 26 & 27), we are thrilled to offer listeners fresh content. And there's more on tap for 2026!

If you or your company is interested in sponsoring an episode, let us know!



### [Episode 25](#): Kid Questions! And Answers!

Kel & Justin sat down to answer awesome questions from kid listeners! We tackled questions like: Is a whale's spine hard? Why do whales have blowholes? How long can whales stay underwater for? How high can dolphins jump out of the water? How long do dolphins live?

### [Episode 26](#): How Do Killer Whales Socialize when No One is Watching?

To hear what DCP's upcoming paper on association and social networks in a group of managed care killer whales is all about, Justin sat down with 3 of the study's co-authors: Kathleen, Heather & Manon.

### [Episode 27](#): Killer Whale Research Updates and Future Plans

Go behind the scenes of DCP's killer whale studies—from SeaWorld San Diego to the Loro Parque, and soon to Gibraltar and Norway.

### *Robin's Nest*

This year, Kathleen joined Dr. Robin Ganzert for two (!) episodes of American Humane Society's podcast, *Robin's Nest*. They had a great conversations about the mysteries of dolphin communication, surprising discoveries, and the future of marine research.

S2, Ep 8  
[YouTube](#)  
[Spotify](#)  
[Apple Podcasts](#)



S3, Ep 2  
[YouTube](#)  
[Spotify](#)  
[Apple Podcasts](#)

### *Zoo Logic*

At the end of the year, Kathleen & John both joined Dr. Grey Stafford on S8, Ep 401 of his podcast, *Zoo Logic*. A great chat about science and filmmaking!

Listen on  
[Spotify](#)  
[Apple Podcasts](#)



# 2025 Publications!

Manitzas Hill, HM, Themelin, M, Dudzinski, KM, Felice, M, & Robeck, TR. (2025). Individual Variation in Activity Budgets of a Stable Population of Killer Whales in Managed Care Across a Year. *Behavioural Processes*.224:105135. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.beproc.2024.105135>. [Click here to read for free!](#)

Themelin, M. and Dudzinski, KM. (2025). Bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) pair swimming positions in non-mother-calf dyads. *Behaviour*, pp.: 1-39. DOI:10.1163/1568539X-bja10333.

Maust-Mohl, M., Eierman, L., Kaplan, J.D., & Melillo-Sweeting, K. (2025) Occurrence of common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) off Bimini, The Bahamas, from 2006-2016. *Aquatic Mammals*, 51(4), 392-399. <https://doi.org/10.1578/AM.51.4.2025.392>.

Dudzinski, K. Charrier, I., Erbe, C., Maust-Mohl, M., McFadden, S., Miksis-Olds, J., Reidenberg, J. S., & Thomas, J. A. (2025). Aquatic Mammals. In: Erbe, C., Thomas, J.A. (eds) Exploring Animal Behavior Through Sound: Volume 2. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-83460-8\\_9](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-83460-8_9).

Dudzinski, K. M. and Manitzas Hill, H. M. (2025). Stakeholder perspectives regarding captive marine mammals – How can we compromise? *Zoo Biology*. 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1002/zoo.21900>.

Dudzinski, KM, Themelin, M, Manitzas Hill, HM (2026). The Influence of Offspring to a Social Group. *Animal Behavior & Cognition*, in press

**Plus more manuscripts in revision, review, or prep for publication consideration.  
Stay tuned for their acceptance and publication!**



## DCP's Winter Coloring Book

Whether you are young or young at heart, in a busy airport or relaxing with a cozy drink, we're pleased to offer all of DCP's winter coloring scenes in one, FREE PDF.

[Click here to download your copy.](#)

The 2025 coloring page is now included and can be found on the last page of this issue of the Gazette.

Enjoy!

Thank you Ranke!



## Winter Coloring Book

For the young, and the young at heart, to inspire you all year round to respect and protect dolphins and their ocean home.

Enjoy more with DCP's free [Kids Science Activities](#).

Drawings by Ranke de Vries.  
References to religious holiday present.

# End of Year Donations

## Donate now before the year ends!

### Tax-Deductible Donations

[Click here to make a donation online](#)

Or visit

[www.dolphincommunicationproject.org](http://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org)  
and look under Support Us (top right)

Prefer to send a check?  
No problem!

Make checks payable to:  
Dolphin Communication Project

Mail to:  
Dolphin Communication Project  
PO Box 7485  
Port Saint Lucie, FL USA 34985

One-time & recurring, monthly donations are accepted.  
You can also make donations in honor of a loved one.

### Online Store

Click here to order DCP-themed products directly from our online store, powered by Square.

[Short sleeve t-shirts](#)

[Performance polos](#)

[Tanks](#)

[Rash guards](#)

[Limited edition, DCP-banded dolphin bracelets](#)

[Mini-dolphin bracelets](#)

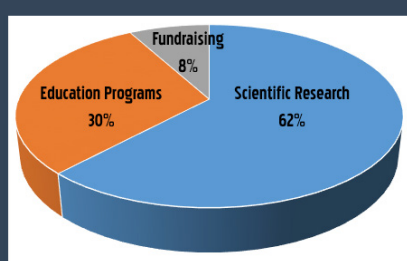
[Hoo-rags](#) (bandanas)

All items subject to availability.

And, it's easy to [add a donation](#) to your online order!



Where does money raised from donations, Protector & Traveler Kits, and field courses go?



The purchase of new research equipment (e.g., cameras, underwater microphones)

Conservation and education programs 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, blog, and our podcast The Dolphin Pod

Classroom education programs for school-aged children including Classroom Connections

Volunteer, ecotour, and internship opportunities for the public

*Support DCP's research efforts by purchasing some of the many products that we offer for sale and/or making a tax-deductible donation! All profits from the sale of products will directly fund DCP's research and education efforts. DCP is a U.S. nonprofit organization.*

*See next page for more information.*

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



## *Donate Online*

### **One Time or Sustaining Donations:**

Donate any amount - just once or make it an automatic monthly donation!

Your generosity is the lifeblood of our organization, and we could not operate without the donations we receive. Every scientific article we've published and every student mentorship opportunity we've provided has been made possible by financial support from people just like you.

Visit [www.dolphincommunicationproject.org](http://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org) to become a member today!

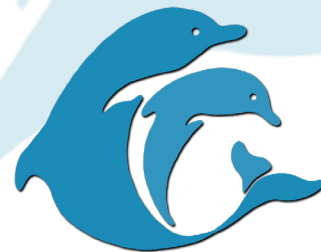
## *Membership*

### **Sustaining Memberships:**

Donate from \$5 to \$100/month to receive a special gift such as a pack of notecards, DCP water bottle, or a mini-dolphin bracelet (style varies).

### **Annual Memberships :**

Student: \$20  
Individual: \$30  
Family: \$45  
Supporting: \$75  
Contributing: \$150  
Patron: \$500



Supporting, Contributing & Patron Members can select a copy of *Dolphin Mysteries*, *Are Dolphins Really Smart?*, or *22 Fantastical Facts about Dolphins*. Contributing and Patron members also receive a mini-dolphin bracelet (exact style varies).

All gifts subject to availability and may change. Visit [www.dolphincommunicationproject.org](http://www.dolphincommunicationproject.org) to become a member today!

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

# Happy Holidays!

Thank you Ranke, for DCP's annual winter festivity coloring page!

