

The Dolphin Gazette



newsletter of DCP & WDC



volume 6, issue 1
January 2002

WELCOME!

As you may remember the *Dolphin Gazette* is published jointly from DCP & WDC (Wild Dolphin Charters). The *Dolphin Gazette* is printed and sent quarterly to DCP members and available on-line to interested folks. Passengers from the m/v *Hanky Panky*, will receive a year subscription. Typically, the fall issue includes field notes & preliminary data analyses. The winter issue has more data details, while the spring and summer issues provide details for the field season & other items.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the *Dolphin Gazette*. Feel free to share this issue or point friends and co-workers to our web site.



What's New?

At WDC & DCP, we're always happy to accept contributions of photos, observations, opinions (& financial donations) to make our website & newsletter better. We would love to hear from you!

Membership Updates

DCP began our membership program in Nov. 2001 with V5,#1 of the *Dolphin Gazette* and a bulk email mailing. As of 5 January 2002, DCP has 44 members at the student, individual, family and supporting levels.

2002 Ecotour Updates

The schedule for trips aboard the m/v *Hanky Panky* is listed below. Note that DCP has reserved space for the last portion of the summer. **DCP is also coordinating with WDC and Bimini Undersea to offer a 2-wk trip that will include SCUBA and dolphin research. Space is limited, so sign up early.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Check out our web site to sign up online for an ecotour (or membership).

www.dolphincommunicationproject.org

OR (for ecotours)

contact Bill Sperling for more details

bsperling@idyllwild.com

P.O. Box 2400, Idyllwild, CA 92549

Summer 2002 Schedule for the m/v *Hanky Panky*

18-24 May	15-21 June	13-19 July (OSE)	10-16 August (DCP)
25-31 May	22-28 June	20 - 26 July (OSE)	17-23 August (DCP)
1-7 June	29 June - 5 July (OSE)	27 July - 2 Aug (OSE)	24-30 August (DCP)
8-14 June	6-12 July (OSE)	3-9 August (OSE)	

Special DCP trips: 1-14 September & 16-23 September

Contact WDC or DCP for information on week availability & trip cost.



Notes from the Lab - Data Analyses

Bahamas' Updates

It's not what you know, it's WHO you know.

Bahamas' Atlantic spotted dolphin Photo-ID updates

The Summer 2001 data are currently being analyzed. So far, 15 new animals have been identified & 16 individuals were added to the photo-id catalog. Some of these new animals, like Skippy (#201) are already well-known to some of us, while many are new even to Kathleen. Many previously seen animals were also sighted, for a total of 42 identified animals; 15 males, 22 females, & 5 unsexed ... from 2001's field season.

The photo id catalog has been updated & redone, & there will be a copy aboard the m/v *Hanky Panky* for passengers to examine. The entire slide ID catalog is in the process of being digitized. We hope to have a CD copy aboard ship in 2002 for folks interested in viewing each dolphin's photographic history.



ID's of dolphins seen in 2001

Females:

#2 (little gash), #17 (mango), #39 (doubledot), #45 (brutus), #60 (sadie), #61 (remorakid), #64 (hippo), #65 (venus), #78 (hook), #93 (rebecca), #108 (brucie), #115 (leftpec), #116 (cinnabun), #139 (catrina), #200, #201 (skippy), #202, #205, #206, #207, #212, #214



Males:

#4 (whitespot), #12 (doublegash), #15 (charlie), #18 (stubby), #25 (spade), #26 (double point), #29 (lisa), #98 (tiki), #103 (echo), #105 (blackspot), #110 (roky), #112 (mia), #114 (concordia), #210, #211



Unsexed:

#203, #204, #208, #209, #213

Bimini - Atlantic spotted dolphins **An update on the new site added to DCP's studies**

This pilot study began an examination of the group dynamics of Atlantic spotted dolphins found on the Great Bahamas Bank, north of Bimini Island, Bahamas. A total of 126.5 hours was spent on-effort searching for dolphins inside the main survey area on trips. On 58 surveys, 70 sightings of spotted dolphins, 17 sightings of bottlenose dolphins and 6 sightings of mixed groups were recorded. Approximately 15 hours of dolphins underwater were recorded on videotape during encounters. Spotted dolphins and bottlenose dolphins were recorded on 57 encounters, 18 short encounters and 30 attempts. Currently, 61 individual spotted dolphins have been identified. The gender of 25 spotted dolphins was documented: 17 are female and 8 are male. The age classes for these 61 identified spotted dolphins is as follows: 38 are age class 5 (adults), 5 are age class 4 (sub-adults), 17 are age class 3 (juveniles) and 2 are age class 2 (calves). Baseline data for a first season of observations on this group of Atlantic spotted dolphins will yield information for continuing to observe how dolphins respond to swimmers and boats in the waters of the Bahamas, and around Bimini Islands for this particular group of dolphins.

Many thanks to Bill & Nowdla Keef, Bimini Undersea, for their support of DCP's spotted dolphin studies in Bimini - they provide the boats!



Members of DCP & MIK work together to better understand the society of the ...

Mikura Bottlenose Dolphins

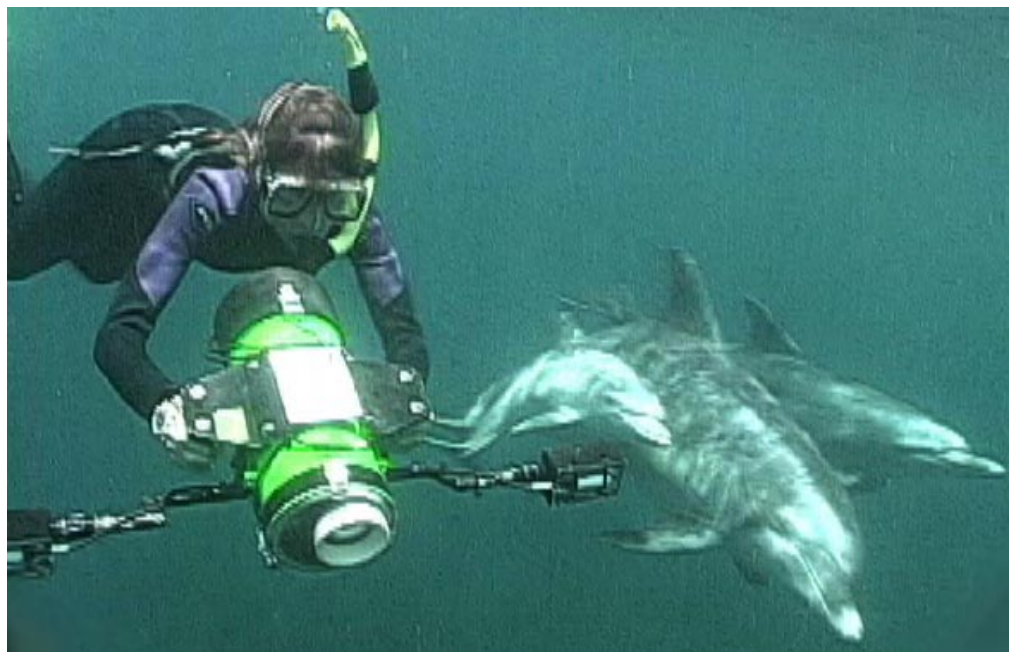
DCP is collaborating with members of the Mikura Iruka Kenkyukai (dolphin research group) in our studies of the bottlenose dolphins observed around Mikura Island. The MIK (as the research group is known in brief) keeps the base of information on dolphin identifications. DCP continues our data collection on the communication among dolphins around Mikura Island.

We are in the process of writing a manuscript about the dolphin identifications - from data gathered in 1994 to 2001. It is amazing the amount of information gathered. For example, for the 35 plus female adults, we have information on the calving interval and number of offspring per female. Very neat stuff,



Mikura is a dormant volcanic island, ~ 180 km south of Tokyo.

The Kuroshio current flows by Mikura during summer months. The deep waters near to Mikura are abundant with fish. Thus dolphins can rest near shore and feed in the productive waters close by.



Donations - every little bit helps



Like most non-profit organizations, DCP relies on grants, sponsorships, and donations. Donations can be **financial** or “**in kind**”. As we all know, the former is money. “**In kind**” are considered items donated instead of the funds to purchase such items. What is neat about “in kind” donations is that these may be items you have lying around the house (or garage). We have created a short list of some of the “**in kind**” items that we can always use. This list is by no means exhaustive.

Supplies

2-hr VHS tapes - we use these to make copies of our digital tapes. This way the digital masters are archived and the VHS copies are used for repeated viewing for behavioral analyses.

1-hr DV or Hi8 (ME) videotapes - for recording data.

Q-tips - for cleaning the housing o-ring grooves.

8.5 x 11 **paper** (for printer)

Printer cartridges (black & color) - for Epson Stylus 740 printer

Blank CDs - W or RW are great.

Equipment & Other suggestions :-)

(maybe this should be called the “wish list section”)

A 12-16 ft dinghy with motor (for use in Bimini).
(this can be a zodiac, or hard-bottom boat)

VCR that has a remote & body toggle control (of the images) that can play DV tapes. OR one that can play VHS tapes in PAL & NTSC formats.

TV with larger than 18” screen - must have stereo audio & RCA connectors for stereo audio

Hard disk space ... external hard drive for macintosh format. or anything related to increasing computer performance :-)

If you have other suggestions or possible items to donate, but are not sure about their usefulness, give us a call or email. And, ask us.

You can reach us at: 1-805-382-0747 or at

www.dolphincommunicationproject.org

Some more data analyses details ...

DCP is collaborating with the University of S. Mississippi (USM), specifically with Dr. Stan Kuczaj and his students, to query dolphin trainers about the behavior of the dolphins in their care. The following text is our abstract (summary) for a presentation at the EAAM conference in Denmark, March 2002. We will ask facilities and trainers to watch the video of wild dolphin behavior that we are creating, answer questions and return them to us. Wish us luck!



Comparing captive and free-ranging dolphin behavior from underwater observations: a preliminary look using video sequences, trainer comments, and survey responses

Dolphin behavior has been observed and documented in both captive and wild settings for years. Comparisons of captive and wild animals have proven difficult due to limitations placed on observers in both arenas. Over the past 20 years, observations of wild dolphins have encompassed more detail from the underwater perspective. At the same time, captive facilities have become more likely to include underwater viewing ports. These factors, coupled with improved technology for documenting underwater activity, provide an avenue for a more detailed examination and comparison of dolphin behavior in both wild and captive locations. We have produced an ~25 minute video of the behavior of three dolphin species from three geographic locations: Atlantic spotted dolphins in the Bahamas, bottlenose dolphins around Mikura Island, Japan, and dusky dolphins from Patagonia, Argentina. We have developed

two accompanying surveys and written a background history explaining portions of the video. The surveys and video were developed for dolphin trainers at dolphinaria. By sharing our perspective and observations on wild dolphin behavior with those of people who work closely with captive dolphins, we hope to refine questions and determine how best to conduct a more comprehensive study of captive and wild dolphin behavior. We will provide copies of the video and all written materials to audience members. We ask trainers and representatives of facilities to participate in this study by completing the brief survey at the conference and then completing the remaining survey during the following 6 months. Based on completed surveys received, a report will be compiled and presented at the following EAAM and IMATA meetings.



In 2001, Kathleen added a 2nd board to her Click Detector - this is the green box with the third hydrophone. The two boards allowed us to record two click frequencies: 70 and 120 kHz. The following abstract details some of our results.

An examination of two frequency bands for echolocation click signals recorded from two species of wild dolphins with respect to behaviour and potential function

Dolphin echolocation signals from two frequency bands were analyzed for both bottlenose and Atlantic spotted dolphins recorded around Mikura Island, Japan and in the Bahamas. These data are closely correlated with underwater video footage showing animal behavior. Echolocation signals were detected for both species using a single wide-band hydrophone. This method allowed detailed

analysis of variations in inter-click period for particular behaviors and changes in the click energy distribution. Variations in click rate are seen in both frequencies and appear

correlated with changes in behavior. The shift in energy between frequencies is potentially related to specific dolphin head movements (e.g., head scanning); however, other behaviors were also concurrently documented. This suggests that dolphins are capable of voluntary control over the energy content and repetition rate of high frequency click signals leading to the potential for communication among group members as one function for click signals.



Support D.C.P. with your purchases of...

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tanktops**

**2001 Summary
Video**

**notecards &
postcards**

**bookmarks
- in 5 styles**

a one-year membership

t-shirts & tank tops available in
M, L and XL sizes.
shirts are 100% cotton
(Hanes Beefy Tee's)



cost:

\$15.00 per t-shirt

\$10.00 per tank top

2001 Bahamas' Summary Video

A 30-min. video sharing our summer 2001 eco-trips with participants and interested folks.

Take a visual trip with us, and follow up with the real thing in 2002!

A CD with a Quick Time version of the summary video plus ~ 20 images of dolphins is also available.

produced by Terramar Productions for D.C.P.

cost: \$35.00 per video copy

\$20.00 for each CD

cards - note & post varieties

3 styles of each card type

note cards come with envelope

*packets of 3 cards of each style are available
for \$6.00 (note cards) and \$2.50 (post cards)*

**cost: notecards: \$2.50 each
postcards: \$1.00 each**

bookmarks -

remember us each time you sit down with a good book

each packet of bookmarks include 5 styles that include photos and DCP's logo of two spotted dolphins. Each bookmark is printed on durable paper

cost per bookmark packet: \$1.25

Check out our website for views of each item, ordering options, membership information, & details on our ecotours. We hope you join us in our research.

D.C.P. membership

**see next page for details and
sign up today!**

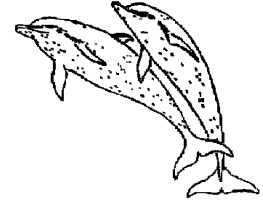


shipping fees for all items (via
USPS): \$4.95
for other shipping arrangements,
contact DCP.





DCP is proud to announce our membership program. Join us to learn about exciting new programs, research eco-trips, and member discounts.



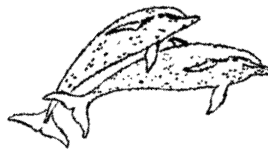
MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

The following list defines the benefits of each level of membership with DCP.

- **\$15 Student:** welcome packet
- **\$25 Individual:** welcome packet
- **\$35 Foreign:** welcome packet
- **\$45 Family:** 3 notecards, 3 postcards, & welcome packet
- Note: Family memberships consist of 2 or more individuals living in the same household.
- **\$75 Supporting:** 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of *Dolphins* video (while supplies last, then the *DCP Season Summary* or *Dolphin Spirit*) & welcome packet
- **\$250 Contributing:** 1 DCP tank top, 1 DCP t-shirt, 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of *Dolphins* video (while supplies last, then other) & welcome packet
- **\$500 Patron:** Limited edition matted print suitable for framing, 1 DCP tank top, 1 DCP t-shirt, 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of *Dolphins* video (while supplies last, then other) & welcome packet
- **\$1000 Benefactor:** 25% discount for individual members on a DCP Bahamas' Ecotour trip, Limited edition matted print suitable for framing, 1 DCP tank top, 1 DCP t-shirt, 3 notecards, 3 postcards, copy of *Dolphins* video (while supplies last, then other) & welcome packet

Welcome Packet

Membership card, 1 packet of 5 bookmarks, welcome letter, DCP flyer, one-year subscription to the *Dolphin Gazette* (DCP's newsletter), and a 10% discount on merchandise from DCP.



Umi-ku

Umi, DCP's beagle mascot writes haiku with her nose. She shares some in this column ... & invites DCP friends to send in their own.

They say "no biting".
All the world is for biting
My one vast chew toy!

by Umi '98

from Mary A. '02

Sleek, smooth, and playful
Dolphin meets Mary at sea,
Under the water

Go from sea to land
Then, yes, back again to sea.
Timeless cues say, "Breathe".

Mary A. - '01

Yes! I want to become a member of the Dolphin Communication Project.

Please enroll me at the level checked.

- New member
- Renewing member
- Gift membership
- \$15 Student
- \$75 Supporting
- I would like to offer an additional gift of \$ _____.
- \$25 Individual
- \$250 Contributing
- \$35 Foreign (outside USA)
- \$500 Patron
- \$45 Family
- \$1000 Benefactor

Memberships to the Dolphin Communication Project are for one year.

My check made out to Dolphin Communication Project is enclosed.

You may also use your credit card to pay for your DCP membership online at the member page.

A \$1.00 handling fee will be added

Name: _____ if gift, note gift recipient at left & **your** name

Address: _____ & address here: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ I want to receive newsletter via email or postal mail .

Your gifts support DCP and are tax-deductible. For more details, see www.dolphincommunicationproject.org

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