



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

WILD DOLPHIN PROJECT

SUMMER 2012 – A RECORD CALVING YEAR FOR SPOTTED DOLPHINS!

This summer marked our 28th field season in the Bahamas studying the Atlantic spotted dolphins. This year we had a record calving season, with equal numbers of young and energetic female and male calves. Although it was a windy summer, we were not affected by any major hurricanes in our study site. As many of you know Hurricane Sandy slipped to east of our location in October, and although the island sustained some damage we are not aware of any dolphin issues from the storm.

A second field season with our new and successful field internship program was exciting. We've shared some excerpts from our interns and their experiences for you to read. A big thank you to the Donald Slavik Family Foundation who has stepped up to support and supplement this program.

This fall we congratulate Bethany Augliere on her fine graduate work for spatial analysis of the dolphin's habitat. Please see her article describing her major findings about male and female dolphins and how they use the sandbank in their daily lives.

This summer we also hosted a couple collegial trips, with Dr. Adam Pack, Dr. Matthias Hoffmann-Kuhnt, and Dr. Fabienne Delfour, all out to help with our new two-way communication project. Aboard with them was part of our team from Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

Although we had some ongoing technical difficulties by the end of the summer we had tested the prototype in the field. <http://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-adventure/nature/Talk-To-Me-20120731.html>. However, back to the lab for one more winter before we work with the dolphins directly. See link at www.wilddolphinproject.org under the Research Section in the Library.



The Wild Dolphin Project remains a lean, mean research machine. In fact this winter, thanks to many of you, we will be refitting our research vessel, R/V Stenella, with new engines! If you are still interested in donating to our Capital Campaign for the boat we are still in need of some new electronics, so give us a call. And remember to check our website for updates for both our internship program and summer field schedule for 2013. And as a special thank you for all renewed memberships WDP will now be including a copy of our own book "The Wild Dolphin Project" with each membership. Our way of saying thanks!

We remain committed to following the lives of this incredible community of wild dolphins and telling their story through science and public education.

Dr. Denise Herzing – *Founder and Research Director*
Wild Dolphin Project

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MORE WAYS TO HELP WDP

WE THANK OUR SUPPORTERS

Help protect the environment,
REUSE
Practice the 5 R's
Start by recycling this newsletter, give it to a friend!

MORE WAYS TO HELP WDP

STOCK DONATIONS
Stocks donations are a great end of the year gift!! Remember you can donate stock to WDP at any time. Check with your tax advisor to see if you can benefit from this tax deductible donation. Contact Morgan Stanley Smith Barney at 877-357-0888 for donations to WDP.

WORKPLACE GIVING
Thank you to everyone that has supported the Wild Dolphin Project through workplace giving like Earthshare from 2011-2012!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
Please see the back page of this Newsletter for information about suggested Individual and Corporate Membership levels.
Use your everyday web browsing to support your favorite charity! Go to GoodSearch.com and download the GoodSearch toolbar. Click "Who Do You GoodSearch For?" and designate The Wild Dolphin Project (Jupiter, Florida). As you shop, you will see what percentage of your potential purchase may be a donation to WDP.

IN-KIND GIFTS
Don Mader and Blue Water Graphics/Southeastern Printing for production of the newsletter and additional printing and promotional needs for WDP
Shaklee Corporation for supplying WDP with their environmentally friendly products for our use aboard R/V Stenella and in the research office
Chris Traughber for an AED Unit and an O2 medical unit to R/V Stenella
Ruth Petzold for electronics
Kurt Jambretz at Think Computer Works for ongoing computer support
Selina Naturally for supplying WDP with Celtic Sea Salt products for use aboard R/V Stenella and in the research office

2012 MEMBERSHIPS – Nov. 2011 through Nov. 2012

Thanks to all our new and continuing members!

NEONATE: Judy Dvorak, Luanne Ekiert, William S. Engleby, Margaret Hults, Jessica Huska, Geoff Kassel, Lynne Parezo, Avril Reed, Marilyn Samwick, William Savino, Carol Sikorski, Sydney & Noah Watts, M. Naomi Zowader

TWO-TONED: Joy Africano, Douglas Alexander, Leeda Allen, Richard Apple, Mr. & Mrs. Barton, Anne Boomer, Don Breedon, Catherine Brister, April Clark, Marsha Coates, Ann Cook, Claudia Cook, Gretchen Cover, Bryan Crafts, Stacey Dowdle, Kelly & Tom Edwards, Marie Etherington, Sandra Fisher, Dee Fox, Robert & Mary Garrett, Nancy Gentile, Dani Gentile, Mary Gilbane, Janey Grace, Lynda Green, Edward Guthrie, Bruce & Susan Hall, Dick Hanna, Betty Harig, Mr. & Mrs. Harrington, Anne Harrington, Elaine Harrison, Mr. & Mrs. Hartiel, Robert Huet, Ryan Kieffer, Heather Kooztz, Allison LaBassiere, Carol Landsberg, Elizabethann Loffredo, Donna Long, Johnny & Sherri Macchia, Maritza McInlyre, Leslie-Anne Meuser, Donna Miller, Harriet Mooney, Elaine & Marshall Moss, Michael Nadeau, Gail & Jay Nelson, Mae, John, & Valerie Piszczek, Ginger Paganis, Michael Salmon & Jeanette Wyneken, Ruth Samuels, Irina Sedelnikova, Barry Segal, Carey Shook, Mr. & Mrs. Siegel, Scott Simmons, Bonnie Stephan, Anne Stewart, Terrance Tucker, Sandy Vermillion, David Waller, Jill Wattles, Emilie Wheat

SPECKLED: Linda Castell, Jay & Leigh Garbose, Ann Lynch, Patricia Leigh, Keith Twitchell

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GENERATION: William O' Donnell Jr.

CORPORATE PATRONS: Dermatology Associates, Selina Naturally

CORPORATE BENEFACTOR: The Palm Beach Yacht Club

CORPORATE TOP SPONSOR: Southeastern Printing

2011-2012 NEW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS: Catherine Brister, Linda Castell, Bryan Hager, David Hatch, Suzanne Johnson, Jeff Jones, Peyton Lee, Bill O'Donnell, Ruth Petzold, Andrew Randrianasulu, Kathy Reynolds, Axel Stepan, Chris Traughber, Keith Twitchell, Klaus Wlilging

Thank you to everyone that donated towards the Capital Campaign for our new boat engines! Expected refit scheduled to begin January 2013!

THE WILD DOLPHIN PROJECT

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The Wild Dolphin Project
P.O. Box 8436 Jupiter, FL 33468
Telephone: 561-575-5660
Fax: 561-277-2442

WEBSITE:
WWW.WILDOLPHINPROJECT.ORG
GENERAL EMAIL:
INFO@WILDDOLPHINPROJECT.ORG
TRIP INFORMATION EMAIL:
FIELDWORK@WILDDOLPHINPROJECT.ORG
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The Henry Foundation, Inc.
The New York Community Trust*

WDP would like to apologize for any misprints, mistakes or omissions. Please notify us with any changes and we will be sure to correct them in the next issue of Notes from the Field. Thank you.

Understanding where dolphins go and how they use their space is a fundamental aspect of any animal's ecology. Home ranges represent the area needed by an animal to find food, mates, and care for young. The core area of a home range is where animals spend a majority of their time. Bethany Augliere, a graduate student at Florida Atlantic University, examined home range use in Atlantic spotted dolphins on Little Bahama Bank for her master's thesis work with Dr. Herzing. Specifically, the goals of her work were to 1) describe home ranges for Atlantic spotted dolphins on Little Bahama Bank, 2) examine the influence of gender, age, and reproductive status on home range size and use and 3) determine if habitat use and behavior vary between the core and outside core area of the home range.



Spotted dolphins were found to use an average home range size of 38.5 sq mi with an average core area size of 6.4 sq mi. Upon further inspection of home range size, Ms. Augliere's work revealed differences between gender and age classes of dolphins. Males and older animals had the largest home ranges. As with many mammals, males may be traveling further to increase chances of encountering females and increasing reproductive success.

Ms. Augliere found that gender and reproductive status affected how dolphins used their home ranges. Females with calves stayed in shallower water on the sandbank, while females without calves ventured into deeper water. Females without calves also foraged more outside of their core area, while females with calves foraged more in their core area. Females with calves may be staying in clear, shallow clearer water to teach calves how to forage and avoid predators like tiger sharks. Males foraged inside their core areas, but male aggression occurred on the peripheral areas of their home ranges. 80% of this aggression was during mixed-species encounters with the much larger sympatric Atlantic bottlenose dolphin.

This study has not only helped us to understand the general home range size of Atlantic spotted dolphins, but because of the Wild Dolphin Project's extensive and detailed life history database, the factors that affect size and core area use are uniquely illuminated in this thesis...soon to be published! Ms. Bethany Augliere will be graduating in December 2012. Congratulations Bethany!! A job well done!

TWO BOOKS AVAILABLE BY DR. HERZING

Purchase both for \$40



Books can be signed by Dr. Herzing upon request. Please visit our online shop, or contact our office by phone or email.

2012 INTERNSHIPS: TRAINING SCIENTISTS OF THE FUTURE

2012 was our 2nd year of the Wild Dolphin Project's internship program to study the Atlantic spotted dolphins in the Bahamas. We hosted interns from Illinois, Minnesota, Massachusetts, and Texas this year and they were all excited to be aboard R/V Stenella for 10 days. Our interns spent their time during the day looking for and observing the dolphin's behavior. Each intern participated in daily dolphin watches to help locate the dolphins. Observations were made from our 62-foot research vessel, R/V Stenella. Interns spent the evening hours reviewing footage or photographs that were recorded that day. They also listened to lectures on dolphin identification, biology, behavior, and acoustics either in the evenings or during the day depending on the weather.

Here are some comments from our interns this year:

Catherine from Texas said, "...the weather was a bit rough at the beginning [of the trip], but it really put into perspective what researchers go through to get the data they need." "It was my first time to ever swim with dolphins, a species I have loved ever since I was a little girl. From a young age I knew that they belonged in the wild and refused to go to Sea World after I had a school trip there...I can't even express how much this trip has changed my life for the better. I am even thinking about going back to school to study wildlife or marine biology and combine it with my photography skills to help the world better understand how important our wildlife and ecosystems are. I am so grateful that Denise goes to the Bahamas every summer to document the lives of the Atlantic Spotted and Bottlenose dolphins. I couldn't think of anyone who could do a better job! I love that she is non-invasive and is really out there to understand them and sees them for all that they are."

Teegan from Massachusetts writes, "I had an amazing experience aboard R/V Stenella. I enjoyed learning about the dolphins and getting an opportunity to observe them in their natural habitat. Among the great educational experiences was the overall enjoyable experience of living in the middle of the ocean for 10 days away from the hustle of everyday life. [The crew] openly welcomed me into the routine and we got along great. It was great to eat dinner and relax in the common room as family and friends would."



Grace from Minnesota wrote, "My time aboard the R/V Stenella was my entry window into scientific field research. I learned many things, including the patience, focus, and dedication it takes to run a successful, privately funded, long-term research project. I learned that preservation of species behavior in their natural environment is one of the key details to data accuracy. I gained experience in observational scanning from the deck of the ship, learning how to identify dolphin movement on the surface of the water in the distance. I gained experience searching for key dolphin characteristics to identify them; the dolphins were treated as individuals, each given a name relating to their family lineage. Lastly, I gained experience in identifying dolphin behavior and translating the behavior into what perhaps the dolphins were thinking or feeling. My time aboard the R/V Stenella was memorable and key to my progress in the scientific world."

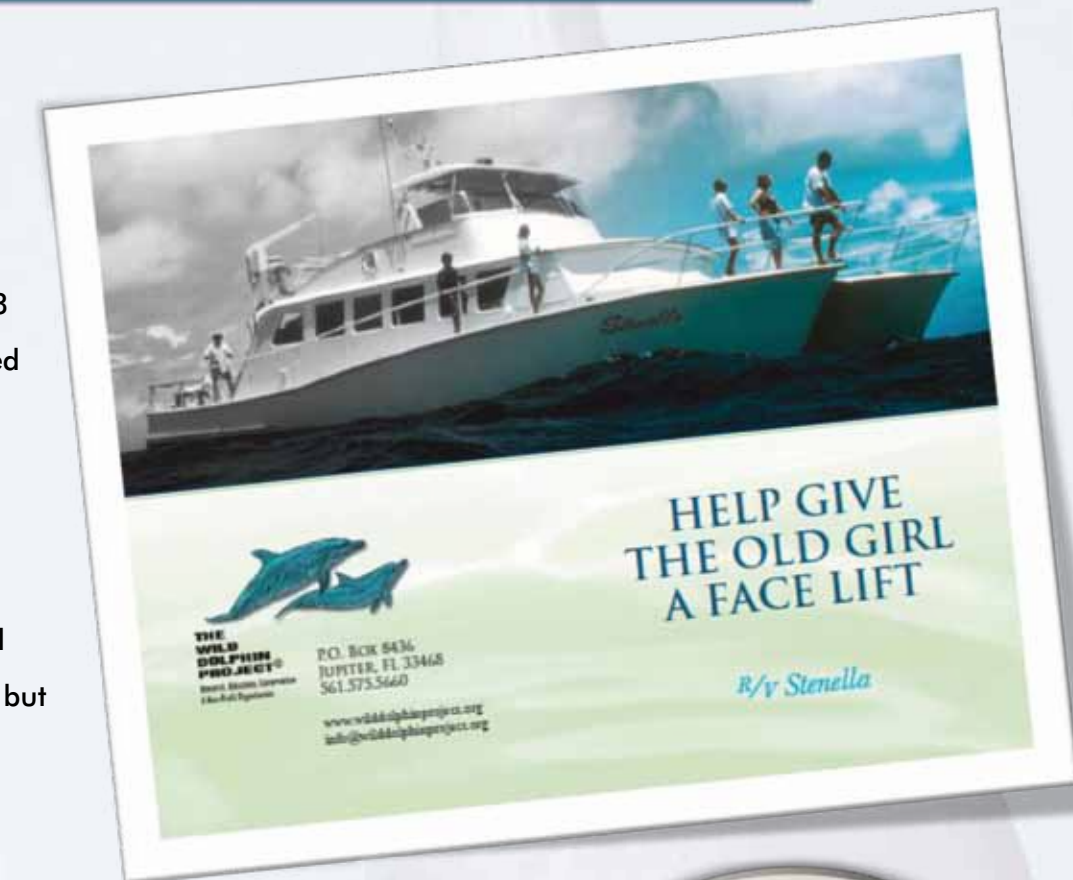
We hope that all our interns took away a sense of what it takes to live at sea, to perform fieldwork, and the importance of detailed scientific observation needed to successfully study dolphins in the wild. We look forward to the 2013 season, our 29th year in the field!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: WE DID IT!!!

Thanks to some very generous members and donors we are happy to report that in January 2013 we will begin our long-awaited engine refit. R/V Stenella will be getting a facelift including cleaner, quieter, and greener engines. We are still taking donations for some additional electronic needs for the field, but our engines should be in place this spring!!

Thanks to: Catherine Brister, Linda Castell, Bryan Hager, David Hatch, Suzanne Johnson, Jeff Jones, Peyton Lee, Bill O'Donnell, Ruth Petzold, Andrew Randrianasulu, Kathy Reynolds, Axel Stepan, Chris Traughber, Keith Twitchell, Klaus Wilging, Pacific Life Foundation, and an Anonymous Foundation.



WDP WISH LIST

BELOW IS A LIST OF PRODUCTS NEEDED TO HELP MAINTAIN AND UPDATE OUR RESEARCH VESSEL STENELLA & THE FIELD OFFICE:

- UNUSED AIRLINE MILES
- 32" AND LARGER FLAT SCREEN TELEVISION FOR RESEARCH VESSEL
- APPLE COMPUTERS - MACBOOK PRO, MACBOOK AIR, IMAC COMPUTERS
 - GB OR TB HARD DRIVES
- PC LAPTOP AND PC TOWER W/FLAT SCREEN MONITOR
 - CARPET FOR THE BOAT (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)
 - 25 HP OUTBOARD MOTOR
- SAFETY EQUIPMENT – DINGY PADDLES, ANCHOR & CHAIN (NEW OR USED), 600 FT SPOOL/ 1 INCH NYLON ANCHOR LINE
 - G.P.S. UNIT WITH WEATHER BY SIRIUS/XM RADIO SERVICE
 - V.H.F. RADIO
 - BOTTOM PAINT (6 GALLONS/YEAR) PETTET "VIVID BLUE"
 - WATER HEATER
 - FRESH WATER PUMP (STAINLESS STEEL)
 - AIR CONDITIONERS (3 WATER COOLED UNITS) – OR NEW SYSTEM
 - WEATHER INSTRUMENTS
 - AUTOPILOT

IF YOU HAVE A PRODUCT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE, PLEASE CONTACT OUR FIELD OFFICE AT 561-575-5660 OR BY EMAIL AT INFO@WILDDOLPHINPROJECT.ORG.