

# International Dolphin Watch (IDW)

Has an unblemished reputation as a non-profit organisation dedicated to helping dolphins since it was founded by Dr Horace Dobbs in 1978.



## Friends of IDW NEWSLETTER October 2008

**INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN WATCH (IDW)  
IS A GLOBAL FAMILY OF DOLPHIN LOVERS**

In the past, members communicated via the printed journal **DOLPHIN**.

Now information on the many activities of IDW including: conservation, dolphin watching, books, conferences, dolphin shop etc. is disseminated much faster and more efficiently via electronic Newsletters that can be downloaded with the click of a mouse.

Please feel free to pass this Newsletter on to others. If they would like to be notified when a new Newsletter is issued, plus information on its contents, contact: Kris email <mailto:idw@talk21.com>

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## NEWS

### Dolphins kill weaker breeds in hunt for scarce food

*The Times, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008*

**Scilly Isles** Scientists believe that British bottlenose dolphins are killing their more gentle cousins, such as porpoises and Risso's dolphins, because they are competing for declining food stocks. A baby Risso's dolphin found at St Agnes in the Scilly Isles is thought to have suffered fatal injuries from such an attack. Jan Loveridge, volunteer co-ordinator for Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Marine Strandings Network, said that there had been an increase in attacks on young porpoises. "The discovery of yet another species that has suffered from these attacks is of particular interest," she said.

#### Note from Editor: Is this true - let's have your views?

Now this should be an alarm call to humanities  
insane overpopulation where the only end game will  
be similar to what is happening with the dolphins.  
We will have wars over depleting resources unless  
we combat overpopulation.  
Wake up world before its too late!

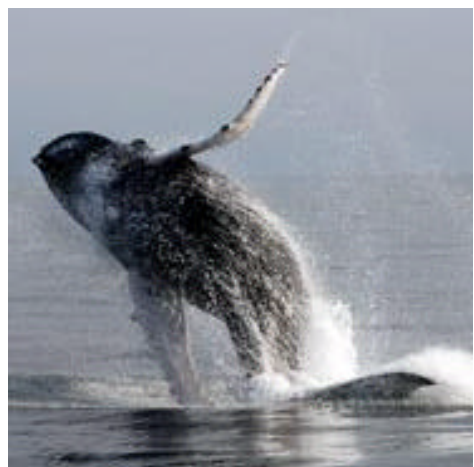
Peter , St Albans, England

### Once more unto the breach for humpback whale

*The Tmes, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008*

A humpback whale is caught on camera leaping from the sea, one of the most spectacular sights in the natural world. The picture was taken two miles out from the Isles of Scilly, off the Cornish coast, by Ross Newham, 41, a wildlife enthusiast of Maidstone, Kent. He was on a birdwatching trip when the whale breached.

Douglas Herdson, of the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth, said: "No one knows why whales breach; it could be a way of getting rid of parasites or it could be for the sheer joy of it."



## Navy's sonar has a killer sound

*The Sunday Times 28<sup>th</sup> September 2008*

### **The similarity between the sounds made by the killer whale and navy sonar may provoke panic in the mammal's prey, causing mass strandings**

Jonathan Leake, Science Editor

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SCIENTISTS may have found the explanation for the role of naval sonar in the mass stranding of whales and dolphins with the discovery that ships' equipment uses the same frequencies as killer whales.

They suggest that the bursts of sound emitted by warships to spot submarines resemble the noises used by killer whales to communicate as they track their prey. The similarity may deceive some species into thinking they are about to be attacked, so they swim for their lives.

The research, by a team including scientists from the sea mammal research unit at St Andrews University and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in the United States, follows a spate of mass strandings around Europe and America.

In June this year 26 common dolphins beached themselves along the south coast of Cornwall. Last week the Ministry of Defence admitted that 30 sonar-equipped naval vessels had been staging an exercise just beforehand.

Peter Tyack, a senior scientist at Woods Hole, said: "Some naval sonar uses pulses of similar frequency and duration to the pulses emitted by killer whales and is very loud. It seems to have a particularly strong effect on species, such as small beaked whales, of which killer whales are the primary predator."

Suspicion fell on naval sonar after unusual mass strandings of beaked whales were first reported in the early 1960s, when such devices became commonly deployed. However, many nonnaval ships also use sonar without being linked to strandings. Additionally, some species beach themselves when there is no naval activity.

Tyack believes that deep divers such as Cuvier's and Blainville's whales are among those most likely to confuse sonar with predators. Dolphins may also be vulnerable.

On a research cruise last year he and his colleagues found a Blainville's whale foraging over a part of the sea bed that had been equipped with hydro-phones - underwater microphones to detect movements and noises. They tagged the whale so that they could track the direction and course of its dives as well as the sonar pulses it emitted as it searched for food a mile beneath the surface.

The researchers played a recording of the sounds made by a pod of killer whales through underwater loud-speakers, and the Blainville's whale suddenly switched to "stealth mode". It stopped emitting the characteristic echo-location pulses normally used to find prey and then glided slowly and silently back to the surface for air before leaving the immediate area.

When the experiment was repeated, this time with naval sonar directed at the animal, it caused a similar disruption to its behaviour patterns.

Such research must be repeated with more animals to be conclusive, but Tyack believes other factors support the link with killer whales.

Naval sonar ranges include low frequencies of 3-10kHz, a range also used by killer whales. The MoD has confirmed that the sonar used in its June exercises had frequencies in the 2-50kHz range.

Civilian ships and fishing vessels, by contrast, tend to use sonar with shorter pulses and higher frequencies. This may explain why they appear not to cause beachings.

One positive outcome of the research could be that navies are able to recalibrate their sonars to avoid harming whales and dolphins.

In Britain the number of strandings of cetaceans has doubled to more than 700 in 10 years. Professor Ian Boyd, director of the sea mammal research unit at St Andrews, is leading the investigation into the cause of strandings aboard the research vessel Roger Revelle off the Bahamas. He is trying to repeat the whale-tracking experiments of last year.

In an e-mail from the ship he said: “One theory is that these whales confuse the sonars for killer-whale calls and have a magnified antipredator response that ends up with them becoming stranded.”

Tyack points out that a far larger threat is that of being hit by ships or caught in fishing nets: 1,000 sea mammals a day are thought to die that way.



## Whale songs are heard for the first time around New York City waters

*Science Blog*

<http://www.scienceblog.com/>

For the first time in waters surrounding New York City, the beckoning calls of endangered fin, humpback and North Atlantic right whales have been recorded, according to experts from the Bioacoustics Research Program at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

"This is an exciting time for New Yorkers. Just think, just miles from the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, Carnegie Hall and Times Square, the great whales are singing," says Chris Clark, the Director of the Bioacoustics Research Program at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "These are some of the largest and rarest animals on this planet trying to make a living just a few miles from New York's shores. It just goes to show us that there are many important and wonderful discoveries to be made about the living world right here, right in our back yards."

"With data generated by acoustic monitoring, we can better understand New York's role in the life history of these endangered whales and make more informed conservation decisions," says James Gilmore, chief of the DEC's Bureau of Marine Resources. "This is especially important for the survival of right whales."

The recorders were placed about 13 miles from the New York Harbor entrance and off the shores of Fire Island. Information about the seasonal presence of whales will help New York state policymakers develop management plans to protect them. Knowing the whales' travel paths will help ship traffic managers avoid whale collisions in New York waters. Further, the study will characterize New York waters' acoustic environment and examine whether underwater noises, including shipping, affect the whales.

Acoustic monitoring was initiated in spring 2008 – between March and June – in order to record the right whales' northward migration from their calving ground off the Florida eastern coast to their feeding grounds off Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Acoustic monitoring has begun for the whales' southern migration in the fall, back to the calving areas. The study will continue through February 2009 and is expected to reveal which species occur in New York waters throughout the winter months.

Aren't most bodies of water in New York a cesspool of pollution? If these polluted waters feed into the waters around them doesn't that hurt the whales?

That can't be good for them, and what about a food source for the whales, I can't imagine that there's enough krill to go around.

*Submitted by Anonymous on Sat, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2008.*

Have you say on <http://www.scienceblog.com/cms/index.php>

# Whales Alive, July 2008, Published by Cetacean Society International

## Cetacean News

*By William Rossiter*

**What do Icelandic whale watchers think of whaling?** By early July a second Icelandic whaling hunt had been disrupted by a tourist-laden whale watch boat. In the latest incident, off the port city of Hafnarfjordur, the Edling 2 intentionally closed in on the whaling ship Njordur KO7. The whalers realized that a TV crew (working on behalf of IFAW) was filming them, and stopped their hunt of at least one minke whale. They complained bitterly later, on TV of course, about the economic loss caused by their reluctance to be documented killing a whale.



**Breaching minke whale. Photo courtesy Ignacio Moreno.**

In the spirit of those fake police cameras at intersections that cause people to slow down as effectively as if the cameras were real, why not have a professional-looking TV crew, or fake crew, on every whale watch, ready to document whale killing?

In many nations public actions like this have often resulted in governments creating laws or regulations to insulate the killers from the protests. The usual excuse is to prevent injury, but some "protectors" become extreme and heavy-handed. How Iceland handles this situation will be the next news we get, but the protests will increase as tourists push to interfere rather than watch. Any constraints on whale watching will have severe economic impacts, and international tourists may witness and even be harmed by government actions.

**The Solomon Islands** dolphin marketplace continues to grow, even as it outwits and bedevils CITES, and international agencies and organizations. By the end of June reports were confirmed of twelve dolphins in pens operated by Red Devils Contractors. Run by a Chinese Solomon Islander, with trainers from either Thailand or Taiwan, Red Devils Contractors is competing with current facilities, and is assumed to have a separate network of people capturing and bringing in dolphins without any regard for doing harm or affecting populations.

Christopher Porter, who started all this, has seven surviving dolphins. Violent guards, intimidating tactics and high level support continue to limit information about almost everything else. By 2003 Porter had purchased 170 dolphins from the local network he and a local chief set up, and it appears that at least 122 died or vanished. 28 were transported to Mexico amidst great controversy and high level power plays. By June 2007, Porter had no dolphins left. Then an unknown number were captured for a sale of 28 to Dubai. Seven survivors remain.

# CONSERVATION

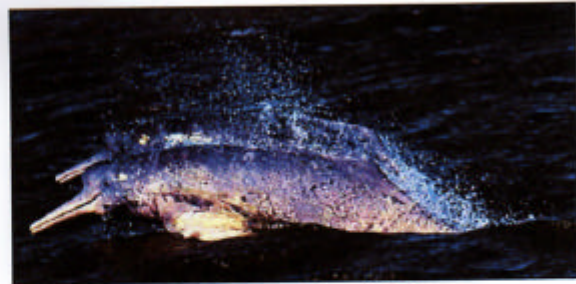
## Can You Hear This?

By William Rossiter

Human noise in the ocean should be a major concern to you, if you care about whales and marine life. Anthropogenic acoustical impacts are major concerns for CSI; for well over a decade we have been supporting the collection and dissemination of solid scientific evidence, and pushing for solutions, but the noise just gets louder.

We are pleased that several of the 75 grant requests we have received since mid-June (How many? Pause... take a deep breath... continue...) will study noise impacts locally throughout Latin America. One example is a survey of ambient noise versus resident bottlenose dolphins before an enormous marina is developed, as a baseline for laws to curtail development, or know what happens after development. Local level studies are mandatory to convince local managers and politicians that there is, or will be a problem, and give them suggestions for solutions.

Expanding to the worldwide view, all the local problems merge with deep ocean issues, enough to boggle the mind. No wonder that June's Ninth Meeting of the UN Open-Ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea again merely murmured diplomatically through noise and other issues, when, to be blunt, someone



**Inia or Amazon River dolphin.**  
Photo courtesy Fundacion Omacha.

needs to shout about it. For a summary please see: <http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/icp9/>.

For a scholarly shout on the issues we suggest "Navy sonar and cetaceans: Just how much does the gun need to smoke before we act?", by E.C.M. Parsons et al, *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 56 (2008) 1248-1257. We would be happy to send you a PDF of the paper, which should become everyone's fundamental reference on the subject.

The July-August *Utne Reader* has an excellent general



**Finback whales. Photos by William Rossiter.**

article on our ocean noise by Judith Lewis: "Deep Blue Dissonance: The world's waters are humming with dangerous, unnatural noise", online at: <http://www.utne.com/2008-07-01/Environment/Deep-Blue-Dissonance.aspx>. She could not have picked three better experts to contribute their concerns: Dr. Michel André, Professor John Hildebrand, and

Michael Stocker.

### CSI, Sonar and the Supreme Court

The US Supreme Court in late June announced they will hear a case involving CSI. In that case the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit had restricted US Navy sonar training off Southern California (SOCAL), while allowing the exercises to continue until their scheduled completion in January.

The Supreme Court may have been motivated by a warning from the Bush administration that the lower court's restrictions imposed on the SOCAL sonar training "jeopardizes the Navy's ability to train sailors and marines for war-time deployment during a time of ongoing hostilities."

The court may not be concerned with sonar's harm to marine life, even as the Navy has admitted the SOCAL training will disturb or injure an estimated 170,000 marine mammals, including causing permanent injury to more than 450 cetaceans and temporary hearing impairment in at least 8,000 cetaceans, from finback whales to Pacific white-sided dolphins, shown here.

## “Our ocean faces more threats than ever before”

Dear International Dolphin Watch

Imagine a mother humpback whale and her calf as they glide safely through pristine blue water... a sea turtle riding a current through brightly colored coral reefs... or a mighty polar bear bounding through the thick snow of the frozen Arctic sea.

This is how we like to picture our ocean - clean and teeming with life - the way nature intended.

Sadly, that picture does not match reality. The truth is our ocean faces more threats than ever before.

### Not a Pretty Picture

Whaling ships armed with exploding harpoons hunt whales in defiance of international treaties... plastic pollution has turned large areas of the ocean into toxic stews, choking sea turtles and countless other marine animals and sea birds... and as the icecaps continue to melt, polar bear habitats shrink, leaving them to starve or drown as they search in vain for their next meal.

It's not a pretty picture, not the way we want to envision our ocean.

So what can we do to protect our ocean and the life it sustains? How can we solve the urgent problems threatening the ocean and our environment?

### Turn Awareness into Action

As a long-time supporter of IFAW, I share with them a deep concern for the health of the ocean and the environment. And like me, IFAW is committed to saving our ocean by educating the environmental leaders of tomorrow and encouraging them to act now to turn the tide on ocean threats.

This year's Animal Action Week theme, *Beneath the Waves*, highlights the challenges we face in protecting the ocean and all the animals that live there. It reminds us of the positive impact we can have by turning awareness into action.

### What you can do to protect the ocean

To help us protect the ocean, you can start by joining me in these three easy actions:

1. Visit [www.AnimalActionWeek.org.uk](http://www.AnimalActionWeek.org.uk) to learn more about Animal Action Week, the largest animal-focused educational event in the world;
2. Take the [Plastic Bag Pledge](http://www.ifaw.org/Publications/General/AAW2008/asset_upload_file907_37842.pdf?msource=DR080903001) [http://www.ifaw.org/Publications/General/AAW2008/asset\\_upload\\_file907\\_37842.pdf?msource=DR080903001](http://www.ifaw.org/Publications/General/AAW2008/asset_upload_file907_37842.pdf?msource=DR080903001) to help combat one of the main threats to marine wildlife;
3. And spread the word by telling your family and friends about IFAW Animal Action Week 2008.

The health of the ocean is extremely important to me. I am hopeful that together we can begin to return our ocean to the way we like to picture it - healthy, clean, and full of life.

Please take action for animals by joining me and IFAW in celebrating [Animal Action Week 2008](http://www.ifaw.org/ifaw_united_kingdom/join_campaigns/animal_action_week_2008/?msource=DR080903001) [http://www.ifaw.org/ifaw\\_united\\_kingdom/join\\_campaigns/animal\\_action\\_week\\_2008/?msource=DR080903001](http://www.ifaw.org/ifaw_united_kingdom/join_campaigns/animal_action_week_2008/?msource=DR080903001).

Sincerely

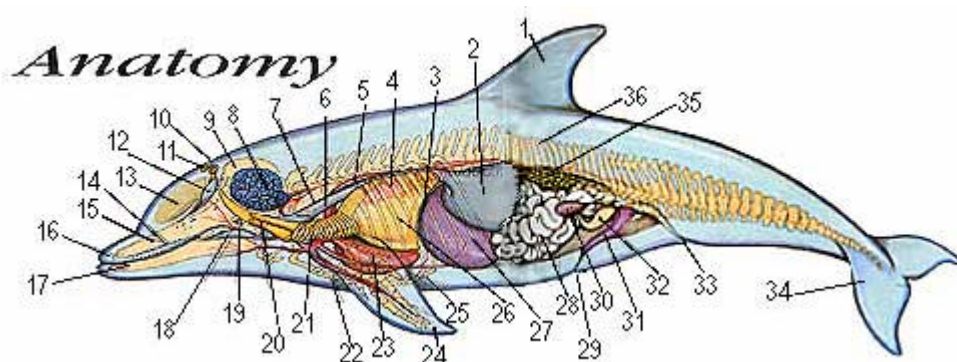
Leonardo DiCaprio

IFAW Honorary Board Member

**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE**

## EDUCATION

### Anatomy of a dolphin



1. Dorsal Fin	2. Stomach	3. Diaphragm	4. Retia Mirabilia
5. Aorta	6. Esophagus	7. Fused Vertebrae	8. Brain
9. Cranium	10. Blowhole	11. Nasal Sacs	12. Nasal Plug
13. Melon	14. Teeth	15. Upper Jaw	16. Beak
17. Lower Jaw	18. Panbone	19. Eye	20. Naso Pharynx
21. Trachea	22. Sternum	23. Heart	24. Flipper
25. Articulated Ribs	26. Lung	27. Liver	28. Intestines
29. Testes	30. Urogenital Opening	31. Penis	32. Bladder
33. Anus	34. Flukes	35. Lobate Kidney	36. Vertebral Column

**Is it cool to see dolphins at the zoo?  
CONSIDER THESE FACTS:**

<http://www.inkokomo.com/dolphin/dolpage.html>

- 53% of those dolphins that survive the violent capture die within 90 days.
- The average life span of a dolphin in the wild is 45 years; yet half of all captured dolphins die within their first two years of captivity. The survivors last an average of only 5 years in captivity.
- Every seven years, half of all dolphins in captivity die from capture shock, pneumonia, intestinal disease, ulcers, chlorine poisoning, and other stress-related illnesses. To the captive dolphin industry, these facts are accepted as routine operating expenses.
- In many tanks the water is full of chemicals as well as bacteria, causing many health problems in dolphins including blindness.

- When a baby dolphin is born in captivity, the news is usually kept secret until the calf shows signs of survival. Although marine mammals do breed in captivity, the birth rate is not nearly as successful as the one in the wild, with high infant mortality rates.
- Wild dolphins can swim 40 to 100 miles per day - in pools they go around in circles.
- Many marine parks subject their mammals to hunger so they will perform for their food. Jumping through hoops, tailwalking and playing ball are trained behaviors that do not occur in the wild.
- Confined animals that abuse themselves (banging their heads against the walls) are creating stimuli, which their environment cannot supply. Dolphins in captivity tend to develop stereotypical behaviors (swimming in a repetitive circle pattern, with eyes closed and in silence) because of boredom and confinement. This is equivalent to the swaying and pacing of primates, lions, tigers and bears confined in cages.
- Dolphins are predators of fish and spend up to half of their time in the wild hunting for food. Supplying dead fish results in less exercise and lack of mental stimulation, thus causing boredom.
- When trapped together, males often become agitated and domineering. This creates pecking orders (unknown in the wild) and unprovoked attacks on each other and the trainers. In the ocean, although fights are not unknown, the wild dolphins have a chance to escape.

## **THEY WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE....**

Dolphinariums claim that their mission is to protect dolphins in the wild through research and public education. Those are nice words but facts speak louder. If dolphins are so happy in captivity, why do they die so fast? Why the secrecy about their mortality rates? There would be fewer spectators if people knew how many animals were "dying" to amuse them. Perhaps if the death records were displayed at the entrance, no one would buy a ticket.

### **Education?**

Most dolphinariums have made little or no contribution to education about dolphins. Jacques Cousteau believed that captive dolphins are conditioned and deformed and bear little resemblance to dolphins living in freedom in the sea. It's like studying human psychology only in prisons, which leads, obviously, to misinterpretations and absurd generalizations. As people learn more about the wild cetaceans, they pity more the captive ones. As TV, computers, and virtual reality become greater educational tools, the justification for keeping captives on display disappears.

### **Research?**

We blindfold dolphins to study the efficiency of their echolocation system. We put probes in their larynxes and nostrils to examine their sound production. We train them to push buttons and levers, to choose between materials and colors, we teach them to speak. We clamp them down, drill holes into them, and dissect them. Why?

They do not exist as subjects for agonizing experiments by man. Dolphins suffer no less than humans. The only way scientists should study dolphins is to swim with them in the wild. No argument can rationalize the forced confinement of these highly intelligent creatures. Dolphins are innocent sufferers in a hell of our making.

### **The Good News is...**

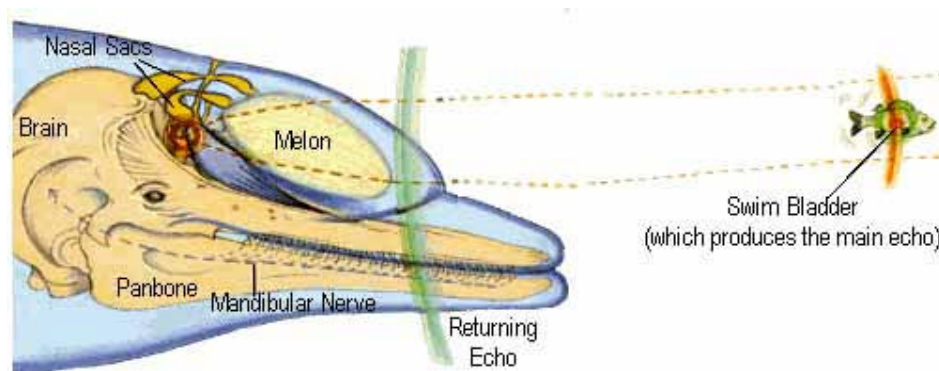
Fortunately for the dolphins, more and more people are becoming concerned about dolphin suffering, and uncomfortable at sea circuses. Citizens are now speaking out loudly that dolphins and whales belong in the ocean. This is the only hope. I imagine this: A theme park has a dolphin show and nobody goes. The owners will soon close down. There would be no dolphin shows if no one paid to watch them.

**Dolphins have evolved over 50 million years to be successful in their *wild* habitat!**

**Source:** <http://www.inkokomo.com/dolphin/dolpage.html>

**Do you agree with these comments – please give us your views?**

### **Echolocation**



Echolocation - the location of objects by their echos - is a highly specialized faculty that enables dolphins to explore their environment and search out their prey in a watery world where sight is often of little use. As sound travels four and a half times faster in water than in air, the dolphin's brain must be extremely well adapted in order to make a rapid analysis of the complicated information provided by the echoes.

Although the ability to echolocate has only been proven experimentally for a few odontocete species, the anatomical evidence - the presence of the melon, nasal sacs and specialized skull structures - suggests that all dolphins have this ability.

The dolphin is able to generate sound in the form of clicks, within its nasal sacs, situated behind the melon. The frequency of this click is higher than that of the sounds used for communication and differs between species. The melon acts as a lens, which focuses the sound into a narrow beam that is projected in front of the animal.

When the sound strikes an object, some of the energy of the soundwave is reflected back towards the dolphin. It would appear that the panbone in the dolphin's lower jaw receives the echo, and the

fatty tissue behind it transmits the sound to the middle ear and thence to the brain. It has recently been suggested that the teeth of the dolphin, and the mandibular nerve that runs through the jawbone may transmit additional information to the dolphin's brain.

As soon as an echo is received, the dolphin generates another click. The time lapse between click and echo enables the dolphin to evaluate the distance between it and the object; the varying strength of the signal as it is received on the two sides of the dolphin's head enable it to evaluate direction. By continuously emitting clicks and receiving echoes in this way, the dolphin can track objects and home in on them.

The echolocation system of the dolphin is extremely sensitive and complex. Using only its acoustic senses, a bottlenose dolphin can discriminate between practically identical objects, which differ by ten per cent or less in volume or surface area. It can do this in a noisy environment, can whistle and echolocate at the same time, and echolocate on near and distant targets simultaneously - feats, which leave human sonar experts gasping.

**Source: The Greenpeace Book of Dolphins  
©1990 Greenpeace Communications Ltd.**

## LETTERS TO DR. HORACE DOBBS

### Solo Dolphin Conflict in Israel

I'm sending this letter to "People and Wildlife" but please feel free to forward this to anyone who might be able to help.

I am dealing lately with an unusual case of Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC). There is a single wild dolphin living in the Gulf of Eilat (Gulf of Aqaba) in southern Israel, that has been involved in a number of interactions with bathers along the beach in Eilat, that have us worried. I don't have all the details yet and I am conducting an investigation, but there are calls for us to remove this individual from the Gulf before someone really gets hurt.

By the way, this is definitely NOT one of the semi-tame dolphins from the "Dolphin Reef" facility, but rather a truly wild dolphin.

Please let me know if you have some ideas, or if the following sounds right (which I based, more or less, on other kinds of HWC where one needs to deal with a charismatic "vertebrate pest" species):

I think I need a plan of action:

1. An urgent public education campaign to make sure people on the beaches don't interact with the wild dolphin and definitely don't try to crowd it or handle it.
2. Attempts to deter the dolphin from the beaches with non-lethal methods (pingers? harassing with a boat and banger shells? is there anything else that might work?)
3. Have a backup plan to try to relocate this individual (to where? how?)

Anyone who has some good practical ideas or similar experience please let me know soon!

#### **Dr. Simon C. Nemtsov**

Wildlife Ecologist, Israel Nature and Parks Authority, 3 Am Ve'Olamo Street  
Jerusalem 95463, Israel, Telephone: +972-57-7762227, Fax: +972-2-5006281  
Email: <mailto:simon@npa.org.il>

Dear Dr. Nemtsov,

I am forwarding your email to a variety of experts who have considerable experience with solitary dolphins, and ask each to respond directly to you with whatever guidance they can provide. I also ask everyone to forward this appeal so that the issue can be resolved to everyone's interest, including the dolphins.

Dr. Nemtsov, solitary dolphins that interact with people (and dogs, boats and...) within a restricted range have been noted in many places around the world. You have a significant public education opportunity here.

Any specific information you can provide to this list will be helpful, such as species, sex, and behaviors that you or others might define as aggressive or curious.

Good luck,

**William W. Rossiter**, President, Cetacean Society International, P.O.Box 953, Georgetown, CT 06829 USA, ph 203-770-8615, fax 860-561-0187, Email: <mailto:rossiter@csiwhalesalive.org>  
<http://www.csiwhalesalive.org>

## **Response from Dr. Horace Dobbs, Honorary Director of International Dolphin Watch**

Dear Dr Nemtzov

Bill Rossiter has forwarded your request for information about how to deal with solitary, friendly, wild dolphins to me.

When you wade through the published literature you will find that the relationships between humans and dolphins is arguably even more complex and profound than those between humans and humans - and I'm sure you know only too well just how difficult these can be to manage.

In my book *SAVE THE DOLPHINS*, published in 1981 by Souvenir Press, there is a 16 page illustrated account of my own experiences with a friendly dolphin named Dobbie in the Gulf of Eilat who was shot, probably for target practice, shortly after my return to England.

Around the year 2000 one of your compatriots, Pascale Noa Bercovitch, wrote a book (*The Dolphin's Boy*) about her experiences with a wild dolphin who became friendly with a Bedoin boy in the Red Sea.

I have made several television films (as well as writing books) about the human/dolphin relationship, some of which are available from the International Dolphin Watch mail order shop [http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dolphin\\_shop.html](http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dolphin_shop.html). One of the DVDs, entitled *THE DOLPHIN'S TOUCH*, is about a friendly dolphin, now named Fungi, who has made his home in Dingle Bay, Ireland, for the past 24 years. During that time Fungi has established a profitable and friendly relationship with the local community. Indeed, it is rumoured that Fungi now brings more visitors to Ireland than any other single tourist attraction. Numerous books (including *FALLING FOR A DOLPHIN* by Heathcote Williams) have been written about Fungi, who has been visited by film crews from around the world. I was given a highly emotional account by a person who swam with Fungi just a few days ago.

And therein lies one of the problems that all who are involved with dolphins have to reckon with. Dolphins touch people's hearts in a way that no other animal does. Some become paranoid about protecting them and look to introducing and implementing laws to "save them". So much so that I was recently called to defend two men in court who were eventually found guilty of "behaving recklessly" with a wild dolphin that swam up to and frolicked with them when they went for a swim at 5 o'clock in the morning off Folkestone, in Kent in England. Furthermore the magistrate warned them that if they did not comply with the fine and community service he imposed, they could be sent to prison. I wrote a 43 page report on this court case that was published on 1st May 2008 as a Special Issue of the IDW Newsletter that can be accessed on line <http://newsletter.dolphinfriend.com>. Almost without exception those who followed the case thought the verdict was ludicrous. Indeed, Rico Oldfield has said as much in the most recent issue (October 2008) of *DIVER* magazine <http://www.divernet.com> (article below).

IDW issues guidelines for those who want to swim with dolphins <http://www.dolphinfriend.com>. I heartily endorse your observation that what is needed is information and education. I could go on endlessly but will conclude by urging all those who face situations concerning wild dolphins that choose to interact with humans **TO USE COMMON SENSE** - which sadly in many such situations seems to be remarkably uncommon. I wish you well.

**Dr Horace Dobbs**, Honorary Director International Dolphin Watch, <http://www.dolphinfriend.com>

**Note to Friends of IDW Newsletter:** Please respond to the questions raised by Dr Nemtzov and provide some useful data and information about your personal experiences.



# Swimmers a **threat** to dolphins – you're **joking!**

**We shouldn't be wasting time prosecuting people for interacting with wild dolphins, says **RICO OLDFIELD** – a diver or swimmer is the very least of the problems they face from humans**

**O**N 17 APRIL, A MAGISTRATE'S COURT in Folkestone passed a verdict that has serious implications for all divers. Two men were found guilty of "recklessly" interfering with a friendly wild dolphin by playing with it in the sea in June last year.

In the 30 or so years in which I've enjoyed being an underwater cameraman and artist, I have swum with wild dolphins, just as the two accused had.

I quickly learned that by simply floating calmly at the surface near dolphins, one or more of these friendly characters often approaches to investigate you, even as far as nuzzling or making similar body contact. Any dolphin doing this now could put me in danger of going to jail!

My good friend and dolphin expert Horace Dobbs was invited as a defence witness in this case. His experience in the field of human-dolphin contact is extensive and world-renowned, and I felt confident that his testimony would influence this ludicrous case and help bring about the dismissal it deserved.

He was understandably astounded by the verdict. Calm and understated by nature, he could only describe the outcome as "an infringement on the rights of humans and of dolphins".

**LIKE ANY INTELLECTUALLY ADVANCED** species, dolphins can be mischievous and playful. That they choose humans as playmates is a miracle that has been documented since ancient times.

In the natural "eat or be eaten" world, any contact between two species based on innocent and mutual curiosity is a rare and significant event.

My life has been unusually rich in such experiences, and they have led me to the passionate conviction that this opens the way to profound lessons for our future

relationship with our planet and all the species with which we share it.

My time spent sharing the water with dolphins has presented me with questions about their consciousness that no work of human science can yet answer. It has reinforced my respect for their dominion over us within their environment.

A human swimmer in the water is no remote threat, even to a young dolphin. It could kill or maim a frail human frame with a simple blow of its tail or a butt from his beak.

Tiring of human intrusion into its space, it can disappear into the murky distance with a simple flick of its flukes. A swimmer is the last on the list of possible threats that humanity poses for dolphins, but an easy target for a society caught in the flood of a hands-off hysteria that has been eroding divers' freedom for far too long.

Now this dangerous precedent threatens not only our freedom but that of another species!

Dolphins have evolved their complex social systems over millions of years. For our infant species to impose its fledgling morality on such creatures' natural behaviour is a profound infringement of their rights and an act of vanity.

An act of moral vanity is far overshadowed by an act of legal vanity. Fair legal judgment must often rely on "expert" opinion, and in this case the

expertise of Horace Dobbs was challenged not by superior argument but by his inferior academic status to a witness for the prosecution.

This to me was a classic case of "expertism". Courts should consider the level of field experience of any expert witness rather than his or her academic status.

The challenge to Horace Dobbs' expertise seemed to penetrate the mantle of caution this case deserved, and must have influenced the magistrates' decisions.

**SCIENTIFIC OPINION BENEFITS** mankind most when tempered with the humility its inexactitudes require, and psychiatry has been described as the most inexact of all human sciences.

If our knowledge of our own psychology is flawed, our lack of knowledge of the psychology of other species should instil even more restraint.

The "scientific method" is the ruling code behind systematic reasoning, yet it is outside this method to accept any intellectual regime other than the human – further reason for restraint when offering "expert" judgment on the behaviour or morality of another species!

My words are not meant as an assault on bodies such as the Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society, British Divers Marine Life Rescue and Marine Connection, which supported the prosecution.

I am proud to be a founder-member of the Marine Conservation Society and a crusading conservationist, and share their basic cause.

I am simply appealing for serious revision of these bodies' perceived mission. Dolphins cannot be studied in a laboratory or from the surface. Only by meeting them in their world can research start.

The real culprit behind global abuse of dolphins and their environment has always been organised commercial interest. A more terrible foe than a vulnerable swimmer, it is the only valid target for this moral crusade.

So, compadres, get real, leave the dolphins and the swimmers to play in peace, and go chase the bad guys!



**Article by Rico Oldfield, from DIVER Magazine October 2008.**

## PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

### Paul Obernay



Paul Obernay is the proprietor of Benthic Pelagic Solutions <http://benthicpelagic.com/>. Benthic Pelagic Solutions is a consultancy, services & supply firm set up by Paul Obernay to provide effective efficient solutions, services & products to companies, markets and individuals over a multiform remit of operations & sectors.

Paul Obernay has successfully provided services & solutions in various countries & regions all over the world. Paul is a highly experienced Oceanographer with 40 years of being in, on, under or around the sea. Paul will soon be releasing a natural history film and education set which he filmed entirely in the Galapagos.

Paul is responsible for designing the Dilo Dome & the Dilo Den. Dilo the Dolphin and the Dilo Dome are the Brain Child of Dr Horace Dobbs Founder and Honorary Director of International Dolphin Watch.

Both projects are currently under prototype development and it is scheduled that the new Dilo Dome will go into clinical trials in 2009. Both the Den & the Dome have been created to provide a facility, which will totally artificially recreate the world of the dolphin, so that Dolphin Assisted Therapy can be provided for all children as an every day event in the home, at school and in health care environments.

Paul is sponsoring the charity 'Operation Sunshine Family Therapy Programmes – registered charity 1121315. During the 2008 special needs programme in Bimini Bahamas, he will be shooting underwater video, which will be primarily used as part of the therapeutic media in the Dilo Dome and also for educational purposes. Paul has offered to donate a completed film clip to Operation Sunshine for promotion and

fundraising. For information on the programme visit  
[http://www.operationsunshine.org/html/2008\\_programme.html](http://www.operationsunshine.org/html/2008_programme.html)

**Editors Note:** Dr. Horace Dobbs and Sonya Sitton have asked me to thank everyone that sent in designs for the new Dilo Dome and are very grateful for all the thought, time and effort put into producing such creative designs.

Paul Oberney was the outright winner, as not only did he produce 2 designs, for domestic use and for therapeutic use, he has also put his own time and resources into producing the prototypes for the Dilo Dome and Dilo Den. We all look forward to seeing them in use by children for fun, education and in healthcare environments.

Horace would welcome news of progress on the development of any Large Dolphin Domes, based on the principles of the prototype exhibited at the Open University Conference 2003 - a video recording of which is available on DVD (contact Sonya Sitton; <mailto:sonya@sitton.co.uk>).

## CHILDRENS' CORNER

### Draw a Picture of a Dolphin – Win a Prize

For the winner each month, International Dolphin Watch will send two Dilo books, signed by author Horace Dobbs, plus a Dilo Poster and a Dilo Sticker to a school anywhere in the world as part of IDW's Educational Programme.

#### IT'S EASY TO ENTER

No age limit. All you have to do is to discuss it with a teacher, draw a picture of a dolphin and Email it to <mailto:idw@talk21.com> or post to 16 Rowsham Dell, Giffard Park, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK14 5JS, with the name and address of your school and your age.

## DOLPHIN SHOP

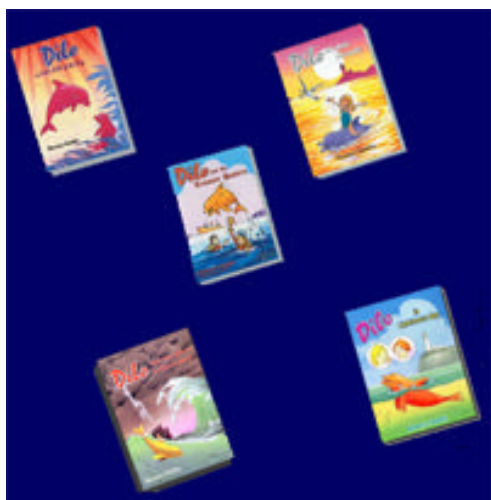
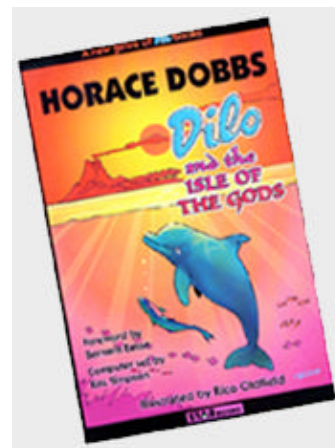
### Dilo and the Isle of the Gods

Dilo and the Isle of the Gods is another in the delightful series of Dilo books by Horace Dobbs about his mischievous and adventurous dolphin.

In this book, Dilo sets out for a rendezvous with a turtle on a beautiful but dangerous island where powerful gods live causing volcanoes to erupt.

Star Books

ISBN:0-9541721-3-2:



**There are 5 other books in the Dilo Series**

Please note that all books by Horace are signed by the author. They also all have an ISBN. With this number Horace's books can be obtained for you by any good library.

The series of Dilo books is listed in order, but each book can be enjoyed separately. Each book is illustrated throughout in black and white by Rico.

You can order these books and also other books, DVD's and CD's by Horace Dobbs online through the **Dolphin Shop** [http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dolphin\\_shop.html](http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dolphin_shop.html)

## FRIENDS NEWS

### Dolphin Festival 2008

**Læsø, Denmark**

<http://www.vildedelfiner.dk>

For the second year running the Dolphin Festival was held on Læsø, Denmark, and this year in idyllic settings in a natural resort by the sea, in a location called *Stokken*.

A wide fan of artists from all around Denmark, 15 of them to be exact, used the festival as a showcase window and supported the project by generously donating 25 % of the sales from paintings and other crafts during the festival days to International Dolphin Watch.



Once again the festival was successful and made a profitable DKK 4.000 or £425.



On Saturday the Head of the Dolphin Festival Committee, Flemming Larsen, gave an opening speech, and later in the afternoon he also held a lecture on dolphins. Among other things he gave an account of Dr. Horace Dobbs' immense efforts and work to preserve this highly intelligent and most amazing mammal. In accordance he explained why it is so important to respect the animal as an equal and why it is crucial to insure that they will not be kept in captivity in the future.



Finally, in the assembly hall at the local school a film on whales and dolphins was on display.

At the festival International Dolphin Watch had their own stand where Alice Skriver was in charge of selling various items from the IDW dolphin shop. She also sold the book on dolphins written by Horace Dobbs, which she translated into Danish.



Alice Skriver selling various items from the IDW dolphin shop

There were several activities for children. Painting pictures of dolphins with toxin free watercolors was one of the options the children could choose from.

On the second day a large canvas was posted so that all the participating artists and others willing to share in the fun could help immortalize this spectacular day. Again toxin free oil colors were used so in that sense nature was spared. Organic foods and beverages were on sale to quench the hungry and the thirsty, and in one stand organic clothing was represented.



Anne-Lene selling organic food



Johnna Egelund from Copenhagen



Environmental protection and care is a constant presence in the association thus the members would like to lead the way by participating in the annual beach cleaning along the coasts of Læsø in the spring.

The Dolphin Festival Committee has plans to have a third festival next year. We hope artists from abroad will attend, and we already have word that Dr. Horace Dobbs, IDW, will join us to support the festival.

Similar to the previous years the profits in 2009 will be donated to the International Dolphin Watch to accommodate their tremendous work for these marvelous creatures. The time and place will be the same as this year, June 27-28, at the end of Søndre Strandvej in Vesterø, on the parking lot called *Stokken*.

If any artists from abroad wish to attend next year's festival, please contact:

Dolphin Festival Committee, Vesterø Havnegade 29, 1 9940 Læsø, Denmark, Phone: 0045 9849 1028, Email: [info@vildedelfiner.dk](mailto:info@vildedelfiner.dk).

## **Kaleidoscope Therapy**

<http://www.kaleidoscopetherapy.com>

### **Using Colour, Light and Sound to raise Confidence and Self –Esteem’**

Kaleidoscope is a structured programme/method which addresses Emotional and Spiritual intelligences to increase well being and so help children become spiritually, mentally and emotionally fit to learn.

Kaleidoscope is delighted to have enlisted the support of so many people who have children’s spiritual and emotional wellbeing at the for front of their work to increase positive happiness in young people and so increase success levels in everything from personal relationships, citizenship and academic achievements.

Since Kaleidoscope hit the National Press in 2004, large numbers of Heads, Teachers, Social Workers, Family Workers, Rehabilitation Workers, Psychologists, Psychotherapists, societies supporting children and families in various ways and parents from all over the UK have contacted Anne to find out about how they could use the Kaleidoscope principles to help their young people.

Anne has been invited to write many articles for various magazines and publications. Journalists from local and national newspapers have visited Kaleidoscope and have all written extremely positive reports that have attracted national attention. Anne has also appeared on BBC news and local radio. In April 2005 she made the difficult but exciting decision to leave her Headship position for a time in order to be able to concentrate on Kaleidoscope Colour Therapy.

So the company ‘Kaleidoscope Colour Therapy’ was formed as a direct response to meeting the needs of so many people from all over the UK who recognise the need for such work alongside the very strong possibility that it could make a difference for their children too.

Anne provides freelance training and advice in schools and other private and public establishments working with adults both to support their work with children, young people and their families but also more and more Anne is asked to support the wellbeing of the adults themselves. Her training is relaxed yet paced and practical. Elements of fun and team building bring the groups to a sense of mutual respect and improve relationships both internally and externally with all stakeholders through addressing self – esteem through colour, light and sound which in essence is Colour Therapy. Anne continues to carry out work with children and parents

Anne has also written a part time affiliated training course awarding a Certificate in Kaleidoscope Colour Therapy. Having achieved this, students may then progress onto the Diploma in Kaleidoscope Colour Therapy

30 people have now completed the Certificate in Kaleidoscope with 6 of them going on to carry out their own small-scale research into Kaleidoscope thus achieving their Diploma In Kaleidoscope Colour Therapy. 6 of these successful students are now embarking on the Diploma in Kaleidoscope which involves carrying out small scale research in schools and settings in order to measure the impact kaleidoscope is having upon children and young people's wellbeing, relationships, behaviour and attainment.

There are currently 16 official static and mobile Kaleidoscope rooms in Milton Keynes with another 5 around the country. These are listed on the 'Project' page <http://www.kaleidoscopetherapy.com>.

There are many resources available to purchase through Kaleidoscope. These resources are designed to aid relaxation, reflection, visualisation, expression, confidence building, exploration and affirmation.

Anne also gives free advice to people thinking about setting up a Kaleidoscope room or thinking of embarking on training or INSET days

## **KALEIDOSCOPE PART TIME ACCREDITED CERTIFICATE COURSE**

*'Building Confidence and Self - Esteem*

**Led by ANNE LUBBOCK**

*Creator and Director of Kaleidoscope*

*Former Headteacher & Senior Education Officer, Now School Improvement Partner, Counsellor and Light Therapist (SAD)*

### **Benefits from attending the part-time accredited certificate course – you will learn how to:**

- **CREATE** a 'Kaleidoscope Environment' using particular colour, lights, aroma and sound
- **CALM** and soothe children locked in rage and hate
- **GROW** positive mindsets in children and young people for life long learning and healthy relationships
- **MOTIVATE** children to engage, visualise, express and learn through colour, and the natural environment when words and writing present the risk of failure
- **TRANSFORM** parents & wider community's understanding of children's needs through Kaleidoscope
- **SUPPORT** your own mental/emotional health and wellbeing in stressful jobs and lifestyles

For more details, [Prospectus](#) & booking form contact Anne Lubbock on 01908 617110  
Email <mailto:anne.lubbock@kaleidoscopetherapy.com>

## **NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

**THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER - PLEASE KEEP YOUR STORIES COMING**

**WE ARE CREATING A GLOBAL NETWORK OF DOLPHIN LOVERS  
THAT CARE ABOUT OTHERS AND THE EARTH WE SHARE.**

**The Friends of IDW Newsletter is FREE** but if you would like to support the work of IDW to help dolphins and people, you can still **make a donation or adopt a dolphin** through the Dolphin Shop [http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dolphin\\_shop.html](http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dolphin_shop.html).

**Friends of IDW can advertise on** <http://www.dolphinfriend.com>. Email our Webmaster Terry Connell on <mailto:terryconnell1@btinternet.com>.

International Dolphin Watch has always striven to encourage youngsters to take part in dolphin activities. I hope therefore, that you will enrol as many children as you can to become DOLPHIN FRIENDS and encourage them to contribute to future Newsletters.



Jackie Connell

Editor – Friends of IDW Newsletter

Email: <mailto:Jackieconnell@btinternet.com>