

Delphinpost 2 - 2015



GRD



Photo: © Olivier Notz

English Concise Version of GRD's Member Magazine

Dear Dolphin Friends,

For 25 years GRD has been fighting for the survival of endangered dolphins and whales and for the conservation of species diversity in the world's oceans.

Your precious and often active support enabled us to build up concrete conservation projects around the world, for example in Peru and Croatia; to support other marine conservation initiatives; to implement the International Dolphin-Safe Monitoring Program/SAFE in Germany; and to work for improving measures to conserve whales and dolphins.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your important support! It is people like you who enable us to make conservation possible.

Read more about our achievements in dolphin conservation and about our current projects in this issue of our member magazine Delphinpost.

A big thank you!

Your GRD team

Angelika Gebhard, Ulrich Karlowski, Ulrike Kirsch, Iris Schladt und Denise Wenger

For more information on our projects in English: www.delphinschutz.org/about-us

Dolphin Conservation in Croatia

Adriatic Dolphin Observer



A curious bottlenose dolphin observing the crew.

© Greben-Crew



© Inken Paul



© Monika Mertens

Luck must be on your side to see dolphins jumping clear off water.

Since 2001 many tourists have helped in collecting data about the distribution of the last bottlenose dolphins living in the Croatian part of the Adriatic Sea, making an important contribution to our project to “Save the last Adriatic Dolphins“.

With our new Citizens' Science program we want to address people who regularly spend time in Croatia: As an *Adriatic Dolphin Observer* you can support the dolphin conservation and research work of our scientific project partners from the veterinary faculty of Zagreb University.

How do I become an *Adriatic Dolphin Observer*?

The program is meant for people who spend time in more or less the same region at the Croatian coast at least twice a year or in two successive years.

As an *Adriatic Dolphin Observer* you must have a digital single lens reflex camera to take pictures of dolphins, in particular of their dorsal fins. The dorsal fin is unique like the human fingerprint, allowing the recognition of individual dolphins by the dorsal fin's form and the markings. The pictures are collected in an ID catalog. This method is called photo-identification.

The observations may be made from land or boat and they must be reported by filling in our sighting sheet. For more information please contact the project manager: Ulrike.Kirsch@delphinschutz.org

What do I get as an *Adriatic Dolphin Observer*?

Adriatic Dolphin Observers are volunteers. We are afraid that we cannot pay anything for this work, neither can we reimburse any expenses. All expenses must be borne by the *Observers* themselves.

We do have some tidbits though:

As an *Adriatic Dolphin Observer* you will obtain a certificate and, if your pictures allow the identification of a bottlenose dolphin, you may choose a name for this dolphin which will then become a “member” of our adoption dolphins.

Dolphins are legally protected in Croatia!

The animals' welfare is always of topmost priority when watching marine mammals in the wild! Make sure to comply with the marine mammal conservation laws in Croatia. Whales, dolphins, and Mediterranean monk seals are legally protected in Croatia. They may not be harassed, harmed, or killed.

The Code of Conduct can be downloaded on our website.

Ulrike Kirsch

[Save the last Adriatic dolphins](#)

Dolphin Conservation in Croatia

**Eye to eye with dolphins –
Observe dolphins in their
natural habitat, learn more
about dolphins and our
project to protect them!**



Get to know our dolphin conservation work in Croatia in a special—and environmentally friendly—way: „Dolphin Research Volunteering“ will take you on a sea kayak tour through the waters around the northern Dalmatian island of Molat where you will look for and observe dolphins. The area is a focus of our field work within the framework of our project to “Save the last Adriatic dolphins“.

Our partner organization VAL has worked out this program together with the Croatian travel agent Malik Adventures. The trips can be booked as one- or two-day tours. Part of the revenue for these trips goes to our dolphin conservation project.

If you encounter dolphins you will be taking photos of their dorsal fins, and the sighting data will be fed into our data collection. The trip also includes a visit to our dolphin conservation center on Molat which opened in 2013. There you will find out more about our project and analyze the sighting data, if any, together with the Center’s staff.

There is no guarantee to see any dolphins. But even if you do not spot any of the marine mammals you will be sure to enjoy the breathtaking island world around Molat.

The trips are offered in English and Croatian. Starting point is the island of Molat. Prices for the one-day trip start from 90 Euro per person; the two-day trips including a two-night stay start from 330 Euro per person (subject to change). For more information please check this website and contact Malik Adventures directly: www.malikadventures.com

Ulrike Kirsch



Some 220 bottlenose dolphins are living in the Croatian part of the Adriatic Sea year round—the only marine mammals surviving in the Adriatic Sea, which once was home to a great number of dolphins and different species. We want to save the dolphins from extinction and protect their habitats!

Please help now!
Every donation counts!

[Save the last Adriatic dolphins](#)



Photos above and on the right:
© Malik Adventures

- Dolphin encounter on a kayak trip in the waters around the island of Molat.
- Participants of a kayak trip visiting our dolphin conservation center on Molat in 2015.