

October 23, 2016

On behalf of the Cetacean Commonwealth:

Toward Mutually beneficial Harmonious Cetacean-Human Co-species Partnerships:

by

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SUMMARY

**We support Alternative 1 – No Action; We suggest Alternative 6 (described below)
We request an extension of the comment period to evaluate NOAA’s proposals.**

“Men seldom need educating but they often need reminding” – Carlyle

“Communication with the Cetacea is the highest achievement humans can aspire to” –
John C. Lilly, M.D.

“What humans have achieved, they can aspire to” – Jerry Pournelle

“You have to see with better eyes” – The Abyss

For millennia the Cetacea (whales and dolphins) have been a key part of many cultures across the Earth. For example, some of the original human inhabitants in Australia fully integrate dolphins into their tribal life as full equals.¹ These original cultures have been here for a minimum of 50,000 years and perhaps 150,000 years or longer. Natives of Brazil still fish cooperatively with the dolphins, as do the natives of Mauritania (known at least as far back as the 1400’s), and other peoples still do so today.

The Minoans and ancient Greeks revered the dolphins as the highest form of physical creation. Dolphins guided their ships, helped them fish, took children to school, and spiritually, the Oracle of Delphi, sacred to Apollo in the form of a dolphin, guided Greece for some 2000 years! Cultures including Egypt, Greece, China, India, and Babylon attribute the origin of their cultures to water beings that taught them the arts of civilization and are revered as Vishnu, Oannes, or Dagon, to name a few versions. Even the Pope still wears a miter representing the fish god Dagon. Thus symbolically and historically, Cetacea are linked to us and our cultures. *We have always been partners.*

For thousands of years, some ohana of the native Hawaiians have respectfully interacted physically and spiritually with the dolphins and whales and consider them *amakua*, according to the Kahuna's Papa Kपालino and Hale Makua and also recently reconfirmed by the King of Hawaii.

This deep tradition, the *Delphic Tradition*, **must** continue. Dolphins have always represented liberty, play, harmony and gentleness; they teach us to be better humans. **It may well be crucial to our very survival that many people meet and learn harmony from the dolphins.** To this end, let us learn how to best cooperate in partnership with NOAA.

A dedicated group of people near Captain Cook, and thousands of people from around the globe have been respectfully, safely and joyfully interacting, communicating, playing games, making friends with and learning from the local Hawaii Spinner dolphins and other species like the Spotted dolphins and the Bottlenose dolphins for decades.

This is a remarkable occurrence!

This spontaneous, on-going, and dedicated effort, spearheaded by a core group of about 100 people in our local area, and aided by thousands of visitors from across the Earth, is the longest term experiment in interspecies communication and cooperation that has ever been on the planet in modern times. Many have dedicated their lives to learning from the Cetacea and opening communication with them.

What we are learning collectively is immense. Many of us feel that what we learn from the dolphins is **crucial** to the very survival of humans on Earth. What the dolphins show us of cooperation, gentleness, harmony and compassion is obviously what we need to learn for us to transition from our current violent war economy and massive destruction of our ecosystems to more harmonious societies modeled on those of the dolphins.

Therefore, it is totally important that this research and ongoing communication with the Cetacea be preserved, enhanced and expanded! To this end we offer cooperation with NOAA.

We agree with NOAA that there could, at some time in the future, be a need for some regulation of this growing activity. We feel any issues can be handled by self-regulation free of NOAA rulings or enforcement. We differ because of our concern that NOAA seeks to ban dolphin swimming activities without adequate data showing any actual harm or need for such a ruling. We *strongly* object that NOAA proposes these rulings with only partial science, since NOAA has yet to include or review the extensive Citizen Science data compiled by our local community. Until this is done, then the data on which the decision is based is limited and we insist on the use of the "*best available science*" which *must* include the Citizen Science.

We suggest that a better approach is to find reasonable courses of action that preserve and enhance the existing dolphin related activities for historic, scientific, sociological and economic reasons.

NOAA's proposal to ban swimming with dolphins is being done in apparent ignorance of the collective experience of all humans across time and cultures, as attested to by the extensive historic record of humans cooperating with the dolphins, and based on partial science that is less than definitive, and has yet to take into account the extensive experience (**citizen science**) of the community or native Hawaiian traditions.

We offer cooperation with NOAA to resolve these issues in favor of our partnership with the Cetacea consistent with existing and historic Delphic Traditions.

¹ Rose Farrington, personal communication to Michael Hyson, 2014