

## TO NOAA REGARDING WILD DOLPHIN SWIMMING IN HAWAII

We had a profound spiritual calling over twenty-two years ago to jump off the cliff, leave our successful professional lives behind on the mainland, and to move to Hawaii to work with the wild dolphins. This is true for most of us in 'Dolphinville.'

We believe and know that the dolphins are highly intelligent, conscious, sentient Beings who are here to teach humanity so much about how to live in peaceful coexistence, while opening our hearts, and providing healings ... and much, much more. We have forged a deep relationship with the dolphins and have their highest and best well-being, health and safety in mind always.

Clearly, those who oppose dolphin swimming love the dolphins too, and are passionate about protecting the dolphins ... and believe that humans in the water with the dolphins interfere with their sleep patterns and well-being. Many of those have never been in the water to observe, first-hand, the human-dolphin interaction ... it is much different than what it may look like from the surface.

NOAA says there are fewer dolphins in the Hawaiian waters .... while those of us that are frequently in the water with the dolphins, as well as many captains of the dolphin boats, know that there are actually MORE dolphins showing up in these last years! They are thriving ... feeding their young, mating and playing in our presence all the time.

### TRUE RESEARCH NEEDED

Most, if not ALL, of the so-called "research" that NOAA has conducted and presented is only from observations from shore or from boats ... we are told that it is because their beginning premise is that being in the water is detrimental to the dolphins. Since the dolphins are underwater 95% to 99% of the time, any conclusions made from surface observations are not scientific and are totally invalid.

### DOLPHINS HAVE CHOICE

It is our human ego that says that WE swim with dolphins ... in fact, the dolphins swim with us, IF they want to! If they do NOT want to swim with us, there is absolutely NOTHING we can do to even get close to a dolphin! ... they decide in every given moment how close they chose to be to anyone or anything in the water.

Who is it that has decided what the dolphin 'normal behavior' is??? ... those that believe that when humans are in the water it changes their behavior??? Those of us that have observed and experienced, cumulatively, hundreds of YEARS of the dolphin's behavior, will tell you that the dolphin's normal behavior is clearly to **go where they want to go ... and NOT go where they don't want to go!** This not only applies to the 3 - 5 hours they chose (or NOT) to be with us, but also the other 19 - 21 hours they have to deal with sharks, fishermen shooting at them, and all the other dangers they face daily!

The dolphins have sonar abilities that the Navies of the world 'would kill' to have, and they use it to determine what is ahead of them at all times. Because their normal behavior is to **go where they want to go ... and NOT go where they don't want to go ...** they chose (or NOT) to go near humans in the water. There have been many, many occasions where

the dolphins have NOT chosen to come close to us.

### TIMING

Research has determined that the Hawaiian Spinners go out 3 to 7 miles offshore to feed at night, and then come close to shore in the daytime to play, and mate, and rest. We have found that when they first come close to shore they are very playful, and love to play with humans, for the first few hours of the day. Then, when they go into sleep mode, their behavior clearly changes, and that is when we usually decide leave them alone, and go experience other things. However, even when the dolphins are in sleep mode, they will often circle as a group 30 to 80 feet below us, and then come up to breathe ~30+ feet away from us ... take 3 breathes ... and then dive back down and circle around below us.

Scientists have determined that the way dolphins 'sleep' is different than humans because they are 'conscious breathers' ... they have to think about and choose every breath. Half of their brain goes into sleep mode like ours, and the other half remains conscious to take care of breathing and watching out for danger ... then, they switch to allow the other half to sleep.

When one really looks at the number of hours people are swimming with them, it is only about three to five hours in the mornings. The rest of the day they can rest without human interaction. And again, they have the choice to interact or not. There is nothing any human swimmer can do to swim with the dolphins unless they want to.

### MONEY

Many of those opposed to dolphin swimming think that all of us who work with the dolphins are exploiting them, and using them just for the money. That could not be further from the truth. Most of the people in Dolphinville have had spiritual callings to be here with the dolphins and work with them. In fact most, like us, are living 'on the edge' month to month, but are following our hearts and guidance to do the work. Furthermore, for us ... and most of our friends ... 100% of the monies we receive go directly into the local Hawaii economy through direct costs and living expenses.

### TRANSFORMATION

We have witnessed hundreds and hundreds of lives being changed for the better (along with ourselves) for people who have come here to swim with the dolphins ... especially if they attend a retreat. The dolphins have opened these persons' hearts and allowed profound healing of mind, body and spirit. This is why we do the work we do. With each human being who is centered and grounded in a higher vibration, connected with their soul, there is a ripple effect that truly changes the world for the better. There are countless stories of this and we hope you receive many of them.

### PUT YOUR EFFORTS INTO REALLY SAVING DOLPHINS

If NOAA is TRULY interested in the welfare of dolphins and whales ... stop the NAVY and fishermen from killing the hundreds and thousands of dolphins and whales every year ... then come talk with us. There has NOT been a single dolphin or whale that has been injured or killed by human swimmers! Put your efforts into the REAL threat to dolphins and whales ... that is what is needed here! Those of us in 'Dolphinville' have worked hard to stop the slaughter of the dolphins and whales ... it's time for NOAA to do the same!

#### PLEASE DO TRUE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

We ask that NOAA researchers actually get into the water ... without a bias ... and see what the true experience is for the dolphins and humans. We have long-term relationships with many of the dolphins ... and are certain that if honest research is done in this way, the TRUTH will be revealed.

#### WIN-WIN SOLUTION

So, our deepest belief is that option #1 is the RIGHT ONE. And, we also believe that when there are two opposing beliefs, we must be open to finding a solution that is win-win for all that embraces a higher truth. Gandhi has modeled that for us all. It is clear that the meetings have been gatherings of people that all love the dolphins and are concerned about their welfare. Therefore, we suggest that a team of dolphin lovers from both 'sides' and NOAA representatives come together to find that perfect solution. Many here are willing to have that open dialogue.

#### ONE SUGGESTION

One suggestion is that NOAA place buoys in the main bays, cutting them in half (north/south). One side for the dolphins and the other side for swimmers. If the dolphins wish to swim with the people they will and when and if they don't they simply stay on the other side and no swimmers would be allowed in that area. This will demonstrate the will of the dolphins to sometimes swim with people and sometimes not.

PLEASE consider the real TRUTH regarding the well-being of the dolphins. They are highly intelligent, conscious, sentient Beings and know what they are doing in relationship with humans.