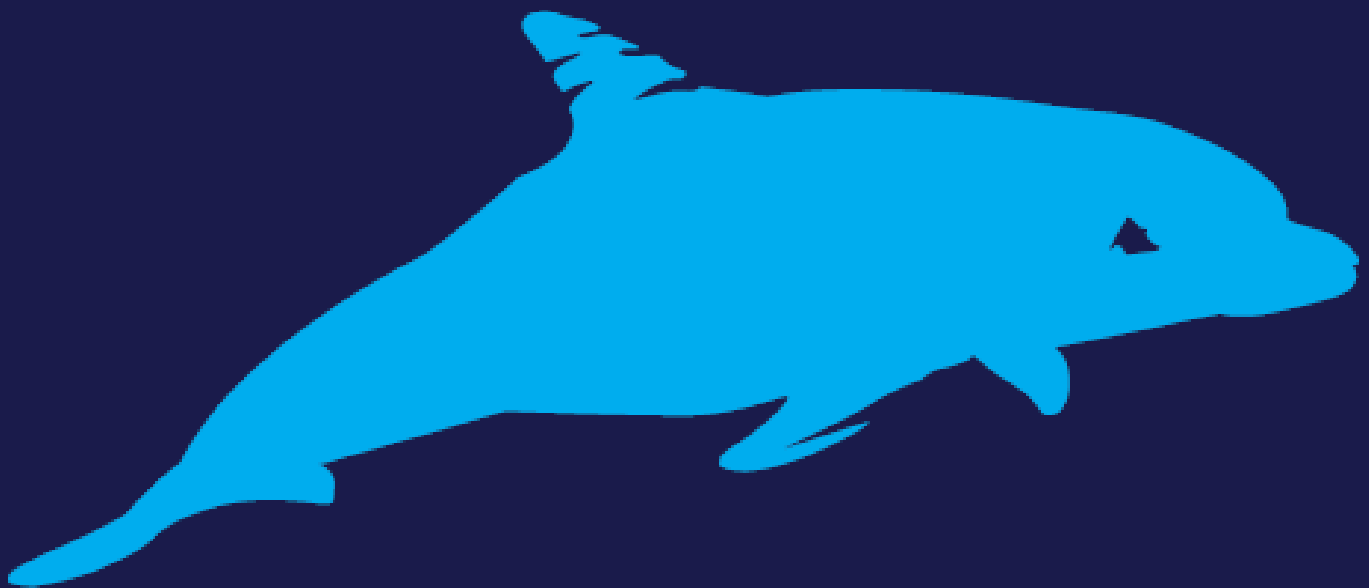


ARE YOU DREAMING OF SWIMMING WITH DOLPHINS?



marine
connection

Protecting Dolphins & Whales Worldwide

**YOU DO NOT NEED TO
TOUCH DOLPHINS...**



© Graeme Cresswell



**...TO BE TOUCHED BY
DOLPHINS**

So you're dreaming of swimming with dolphins...? Know the facts before you live out your ambition – your dream is a nightmare for the dolphins...

NOT ONLY DOLPHINS ARE AT RISK...

BY GETTING IN A RESTRICTED TANK OR SEA PEN WITH DOLPHINS, YOU ARE PLACING YOURSELF AT RISK FROM INJURY AND DISEASE.

- *Dolphins are large animals and if they get frustrated may unintentionally hurt you. Broken bones to serious wounds have occurred to the general public and dolphin trainers alike.*
- Dolphins create massive amounts of sewage on a daily basis – this of course makes no dent in the open ocean but, within a confined, stagnant space, water may become contaminated causing disease to human and dolphin participants.
- *Any close contact with dolphins, particularly kissing, hugging and spray from a dolphin's blowhole, leaves human participants susceptible to serious cross species infection.*

MOST DOLPHINS ARE STILL CAPTURED FROM THE WILD...

CONTRARY TO WHAT MANY PEOPLE THINK, THE CAPTIVE BREEDING OF DOLPHINS CANNOT SUSTAIN THE DOLPHINARIUMS AROUND THE WORLD.

- *Captures are stressful, dangerous and potentially fatal for both the dolphins destined for captivity as well as the rest of the pod.*
- Remaining pod members may be injured or killed being undoubtedly stressed after being chased down, rounded up and experiencing one of their pod members lifted from the water and removed from the close-knit, family pod.

MYTH OF THE 'SEA PEN'...

A "SEA PEN" IS A SMALL PART OF A COASTAL OCEAN AREA NETTED OFF WITH DOLPHINS PLACED IN IT FOR THE PURPOSE OF HUMAN ENTERTAINMENT.

- *Though more aesthetically pleasing, making the audience feel like the dolphins are actually 'in' the ocean, be under no illusion; the dolphins are no more free than when held in an artificial tank.*
- Dolphins could not jump the barriers into the ocean if they were unhappy. Their underwater world stops with the barrier, they have no concept that the open ocean is so close, yet so far.
- *Ocean currents in 'sea pens' are restricted so all the waste dolphins' create sinks to the sea bed decimating life on the sea bed.*



LIFE IN CAPTIVITY...

A WILD DOLPHIN'S WORLD IS ENDLESS, THERE ARE NO BARRIERS. CAPTIVITY PROVIDES DOLPHINS WITH JUST A TINY FRACTION OF THEIR NATURAL RANGE; BARRIERS ARE IN EVERY DIRECTION THEY SWIM.

- *Born as one of the oceans top predators in the wild, in captivity dolphins must become docile beggars performing for rewards.*
- Living within close-knit family pods in the wild, captive dolphins are placed in unnatural and forced pseudo-pods.
- *Despite the threats in the open ocean, a wild dolphin can live up to 45 years. In captivity, despite constant protection and veterinary care, the average lifespan is 5.3 years*
- Using echolocation (sound waves) to determine where they are and to explore, this ability is useless when dolphins are enclosed in a smooth-sided, barren tank or netted off sea pen.

BUT WHAT ABOUT CONSERVATION... RESEARCH...EDUCATION?

If dolphinariums truly existed for the good of the animals, you would not be allowed to swim with them, dolphinariums would not make their animals reliant on humans for food and trainers would not ride on their back or ask them to perform tricks that no wild dolphin would do.

What research and education can occur from an animal, a shadow of its wild counterpart, which no longer exhibits natural behaviour and that has been trained to interact and undertake tricks in return for a dead fish? The most common dolphin in captivity and swim-with programmes is the bottlenose dolphin; this species of dolphin is not endangered. Therefore, to keep this species in captivity serves no conservation purpose but simply is a species which responds to training.

If these companies kept dolphins in captivity for the benefit of the animal, they would not have taken it from its family and natural surroundings and put it in a small, damaging enclosure that could never hope to replicate its natural range to which it is so well adapted.



Wild dolphins travel hundreds of miles across the ocean, they are able to dive hundreds of feet, using echolocation as a tool to explore their endless surroundings, determine where they are and catch live prey.

Each of these unique abilities, adapted for the huge and complex ocean environment over millions of years, are rendered useless when dolphins are enclosed in a lifeless, smooth tank or sea pen without currents where they must eat dead fish at times of a humans choosing.

All captive dolphins whether born in captivity or taken from the wild, suffer mentally and physically from having their natural, instinctive skills inhibited.



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP...

- *Do not visit any premises where dolphins are held captive – from large parks like SeaWorld to sea pens like Ellat in Israel, dolphins are kept in hotels, marine parks or the ocean in the form of a netted-off sea pen, a tank or even swimming pools.*
- **Write to any companies which promote captive dolphin facilities and swim-with the dolphin programmes – politely explain why you feel they should cease this promotion.**
- *Discuss the issues surrounding captive dolphins with fellow holidaymakers and during tour rep's meetings.*
- **Email Marine Connection info@marineconnection.org if you hear of any proposed captive dolphin developments or want to contact the charity about any concerns you have about captive dolphins or whales worldwide.**
- *Visit www.marineconnection.org for more information on dolphins, whales and captivity and the Marine Connection's work.*

***The Marine Connection - working globally for the welfare
and conservation of all cetaceans.***

Pressure on marine mammals and their natural habitat has never been greater. Actively securing a safer future for dolphins, whales and porpoises through education, campaigning and research, the Marine Connection raises awareness and minimises threats in order to make a positive difference to the current and long term protection of cetaceans worldwide.



The Marine Connection
registered charity no. 1062222
Email: info@marineconnection.org
www.marineconnection.org