



DOLPHIN QUEST®

2025 IMPACT STATEMENT



INSPIRING CONSERVATION THROUGH CONNECTION & CARE

In 2025, Dolphin Quest advanced its mission to protect marine animals and their environments by fostering moments of discovery, connection, and inspiration. Through exceptional animal care, scientific research, immersive education, and conservation leadership, each experience deepened understanding and strengthened connections to the ocean. Guests, students, and partners leave inspired and equipped to take meaningful action in support of marine life around the world.

Dolphin Quest's influence extends far beyond our lagoons. It lives in every individual inspired to care more deeply, every question that sparks curiosity, and every collaboration built in service of our ocean. Together with our staff, partners, and supporters, we are helping shape a future where marine life thrives, and where the ocean continues to inspire and unite generations to come.

While this report is organized around the pillars that guide our work, at its core it tells a broader story, one of purpose and partnership, of dolphins and discovery, and of the human connections that make lasting impact possible.

With optimism.



Rae Stone, DVM
Co-founder
Dolphin Quest





OUR GUESTS

Guests are vital to Dolphin Quest because they turn our mission into real-world impact. Through close, meaningful interactions with dolphins, guests form emotional connections that **inspire understanding, action, and advocacy for ocean conservation.**

Their participation directly supports animal care, scientific research, and education, making every guest a partner in protecting marine life.

43,000+
Hearts and Minds Touched

Through guest encounters, education outreach, distance learning, and community engagement in 2025.



“It was one of the best experiences I’ve had in my lifetime.”

- Jocelyn S



“I really do appreciate the huge efforts and contributions Dolphin Quest is making towards preservation advocacy and I’m excited that I can say I have contributed to that cause with my participation in the encounter.”

- Carrie R.

OUR DOLPHINS

Across our locations, expert animal care specialists uphold the **highest standards of dolphin welfare**, providing individualized care that supports physical health and behavioral wellbeing. This commitment ensures that our dolphins continue to thrive while contributing valuable knowledge that benefits dolphins in the wild.

The dolphins under Dolphin Quest's care showcase three generations born in our care and **surpass the life expectancy of dolphins in the wild.**



**17.4
YEARS**

Wild Population
Median Life
Expectancy


Based upon a comparable wild population in Sarasota Bay, Florida, studied since 1970.



**37.1
YEARS**

Dolphin Quest
Median Life
Expectancy

Based upon historical and annual survival rate data.



At Dolphin Quest, trust, consistency, and positive reinforcement drive a strong dolphin-trainer bond that enables cooperative participation in care and upholds the highest standards of animal welfare, guiding all management, culture, and practices towards the animals' best interests.

"When I started job searching in the marine mammal community, I had a dream facility in mind that had professional/ethical management, did interactive programming in a natural setting, and that put the animal's health and wellbeing first. I have found that here!"

-Allyson B., Trainer



Animal Care Highlights



Dolphin Sunrise Splash in Hilton Main Lagoon at Dolphin Quest Hawaii

We regularly accompany our dolphins into the Hilton Main Lagoon for the animals to enjoy this enriching environment while guests get a chance to see our animals frolicking at sunrise.



Open Ocean Access at Dolphin Quest Bermuda

We conduct open ocean sessions with our dolphins, taking the animals through the aquatic tunnel of the National Museum of Bermuda to the open ocean. Exploring this new area provides additional mental, physical, and environmental enrichment for our animals, enhancing their overall well-being.



CERTIFICATES & ACCREDITATIONS

All three Dolphin Quest locations remain professionally accredited by several organizations, since program inception, placing us as a reliable and reputable entity in our field. This reflects Dolphin Quest's commitment to **excellence, ethical practices, and adherence to the highest standards**, all in the best interest of the animals under our care.



American Humane provides independent, third-party verification of the humane treatment of animals in human care, based on rigorous science and evidence-based practices.



Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks & Aquariums' members meet or exceed rigorous standards and guidelines covering a dozen different areas such as animal welfare, animal husbandry, animal training, water and environmental quality, education, scientific research, breeding, and transportation.



International Marine Animal Trainers' Association's Animal Trainer Development Certification Program recognizes facilities that have exceptional systems for training animal caregivers in the science and art of animal training, while utilizing positive reinforcement.

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

Scientific research remains a cornerstone of our work. Through funding and in-kind contributions to critical scientific studies, we are committed to advancing sustainable solutions that address growing human threats to wild cetacean populations. These include entanglement in fishing gear, noise pollution, industrial activities, contaminants, and overfishing.

\$883,293
DONATED

to conservation science in 2025.

38 SCIENTIFIC
STUDIES

actively supported in 2025.

19 SPECIES in **17** COUNTRIES

actively studied in 2025.

2025 University Collaborators for Dolphin Quest Supported Conservation Science Projects



UNIVERSIDAD PERUANA
CAYETANO HEREDIA



Featured studies supported by Dolphin Quest



Measuring Hormones in Small Dolphin Species

Jason Bruck, PhD
Stephen F Austin State University
Jamey Jacob, PhD
Oklahoma State University

Years of development with Dolphin Quest's dolphins has made possible a new health-assessment drone system that collects hormone and genetic data non-invasively from wild dolphin exhalations.

“Without Dolphin Quest and their support and the voluntary participation of the dolphins, we would not have been able to build a drone capable of collecting breath samples from vulnerable wild dolphins and porpoises, and we would be in a much worse place when it comes to small cetacean conservation.”

– Jason Bruck, PhD, Associate Professor of Biology, Stephen F. Austin State University



Using Spirometry to Evaluate Respiratory Health in Live Stranded Cetaceans and as a Tool to Assess Recovery during Rehabilitation

Andreas Fahlman, PhD
Oceanogràfic

Voluntary research participation by Dolphin Quest's dolphins enabled the development of a new respirometry device to rapidly measure lung function in wild dolphins during stranding events, rehabilitation and health assessments.

“Dolphin Quest's dolphins allow scientists to study physiology under controlled conditions while animals participate voluntarily. The knowledge and tools developed through this work provide essential baselines for assessing the health of wild populations and informing effective conservation strategies.”

– Andreas Fahlman, PhD, Research Director, Global Diving Research

Threatened with Extinction

100%

river dolphin species

60%

coastal dolphin species

9

Bycatch Related Research Projects
actively supported by Dolphin Quest in efforts to
prevent extinction.

Source: Braulik, Gill T., et al. (2023)

Amazon Pink River Dolphin: Fernando Trujillo

Featured study supported by Dolphin Quest



Saving the Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin from Bycatch and Targeted Hunting by Expanding Education and Outreach Initiatives

Salvatore Cerchio, PhD

African Aquatic Conservation Fund

Norbert Andrianarivelo, PhD

Université de Toliara

Conservationists are helping create community-led conservation associations, called Dina, to protect endangered dolphins from hunting and bycatch.



EDUCATION & INSPIRATION

Education and inspiration are central to our mission.

Through interactive programs, interpretive presentations, and community outreach, Dolphin Quest welcomed thousands of visitors who experienced firsthand the intelligence, curiosity, and social nature of dolphins.

98%

Teachers Agree

Dolphin Quest's school program provides a valuable educational opportunity for their students.

7,785

School Children Inspired

by Dolphin Quest in 2025.

99%

Teachers Recommend

Dolphin Quest to other teachers to enhance their science or ocean literacy curriculum.





What Teachers are Saying

"Our students loved being able to touch and feel the dolphins. Talking about ocean biodiversity is much different than actually experiencing it in real life. We enjoyed being able to connect our school lessons to what we learned at Dolphin Quest."

- Jackie M., Kanu O Ka 'Aina Public Charter School

"We can't thank Dolphin Quest enough for providing the scholarship funds to our students who would never be able to afford an experience like this on their own. We would also like to thank Dolphin Quest for sharing their knowledge in such a fun and engaging way. You have created a core memory for our students!"

- Dayna H., Kahaluu Elementary

"Dolphin Quest's visit was an incredibly impactful experience for my 2nd-grade students, sparking a deep sense of wonder and connection with marine life. Their engaging presentation and the opportunity to witness dolphins up close brought our science curriculum to life in a way that textbooks simply cannot."

- Cresencia K., Waikoloa Elementary



Make-A-Wish

Dolphin Quest is honored to support Make-A-Wish Hawaii, providing dolphin encounters to children with critical illnesses and their families since 1988. We have seen firsthand the **power of a wish** transforming the life of a child facing a critical illness, creating unforgettable experiences filled with joy, connection, and hope for everyone involved.

1,030

Make-A-Wish Wishes

granted by Dolphin Quest in 2025 for kids and family members.

“We are so grateful to the team for taking such great care of our Wish families. We send dozens of Wish kids and their families to Dolphin Quest every month!”

– Trini C., Make-A-Wish Hawaii CEO



Student Steward Art Contest

Each year, all three Dolphin Quest locations conduct an exciting art contest to help student stewards aged 6–18 share their artistic talents while learning about important conservation topics including climate change, overfishing, plastic pollution, and more, that will ultimately protect marine animals and our ocean.

210 Artwork Submissions
in 2025.

A few of the 2025 Contest Winners:



Ibrahim D. - Age 7



Henry N. - Age 10



Trinity W. - Age 14

Social Media

Social media **amplifies our message** by connecting us directly with audiences around the world in real time. It allows us to share stories, science, and conservation efforts in ways that **inspire awareness, engagement, and action.**

70,000+
Hours Watched

of short form content from
Dolphin Quest in 2025.

96,000+
Followers

added to all Dolphin Quest
social media platforms in 2025.



CONSERVATION

In 2025, Dolphin Quest further strengthened its commitment to conservation through collaborative partnerships, philanthropic initiatives, and the launch of new efforts dedicated to protecting marine ecosystems. Working alongside researchers, conservation organizations, and local communities, we continue to support projects that address critical ocean challenges and protect dolphins and other marine species.



Dolphin Quest Conservation Foundation (DQCF)

DQCF was established as a charitable organization in Bermuda to advance global marine conservation through science-driven solutions, education, and community collaboration.



Dolphin Quest protects marine animals and their environments through experiential learning and scientific discovery, with an impact that reaches far beyond its lagoons. Through inspired guests, shared research, and conservation partnerships, Dolphin Quest is advancing a global effort to ensure healthy oceans and thriving marine life for future generations.

CUMULATIVE IMPACT METRICS SINCE 1988

1,569,607+

Hearts and Minds Touched

133,299

School Children Inspired

\$8,707,930

Donated

9,384

Make-A-Wish Wishes Granted

240

Scientific Studies

523,300

Social Media Followers



DOLPHIN QUEST®

