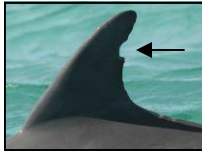


Researchers keep track of Abaco's four hundred dolphins by learning to recognize each individual by their natural pattern of nicks in the dorsal fin. Much like human fingerprints, no two patterns are alike.



Join our team as we chronicle the individual lives of resident dolphins and document how they are faring in this rapidly changing world. These studies are contributing to the conservation of Abaco's dolphins and protection of their critical habitats.



## BAHAMAS MARINE MAMMAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

Originally called the Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey, this research group is now a registered Bahamian non-profit under the name Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organisation (BMMRO). BMMRO has been studying marine mammals in Abaco since 1991. The BMMRO research centre is located in Sandy Point, South Abaco. The full time staff of two researchers is aided during field work with numerous part-time staff and volunteers. BMMRO has been actively involved in educating the public about marine mammals, helping to develop an Marine Mammal Protection Act for The Bahamas and has now launched a stranding network for the entire Bahamas chain.



Photo by David Barron

## FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

A non-profit organization established in 1988 by a small group of Hope Town residents concerned about irresponsible fishing practices, FRIENDS has now expanded to an education center in Marsh Harbour with facilities and programs that impact the entire island of Abaco. FRIENDS' mission is to preserve and protect Abaco's terrestrial and marine environments in order to achieve sustainable living for the wildlife and people of Abaco. FRIENDS' focus is on education and they work extensively with local schools. FRIENDS supports wild dolphin conservation and research in Abaco and is a marine mammal education partner with BMMRO.

# Abaco's ADOPT-A-DOLPHIN Programme



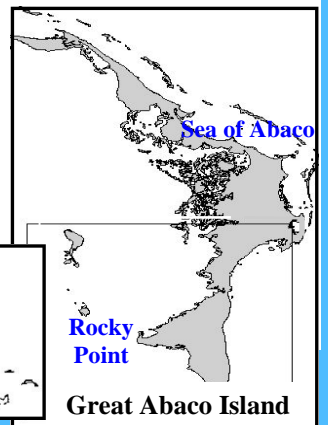
*Support Research and Conservation of Abaco's Wild Dolphins*

**Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organisation**  
[www.bahamaswhales.org](http://www.bahamaswhales.org)  
 Email: [info@bahamaswhales.org](mailto:info@bahamaswhales.org)

Common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) are frequently seen in Abaco's amazing aqua waters. With increased human activities, however, these waters may still look beautiful, but they are no longer pristine. As top predators residing year-round in Abaco, bottlenose dolphins need your help.



Dolphins and their habitats are at risk from shoreline development, over-fishing & marine pollution. Scientists studying the ecology of dolphins in the Sea of Abaco & near Rocky Point are learning how to protect them as their coastal environment changes.



# Join Abaco's Dolphin Conservation Team!

Support the Abaco Adopt-A-Dolphin Programme & your contribution directly supports research & conservation of wild dolphins in Abaco.

## Adopt-A-Dolphin \$49/year

Choose any one of 6 dolphins

Package includes:

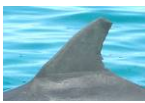
- Certificate of adoption
- Photo of your adopted dolphin
- Dolphin's sighting history & biography
- Friends of the Environment Sticker
- Marine Mammals of The Bahamas DVD

## Adopt-A-Dolphin Annual Renewal

Package includes:

- Decal for Adoption Certificate
- Dolphin Sighting History Update
- A fun dolphin photo

### Sea of Abaco Pod



**Mr. Key** is a large adult male



**Roxy** was first seen as a newborn calf in

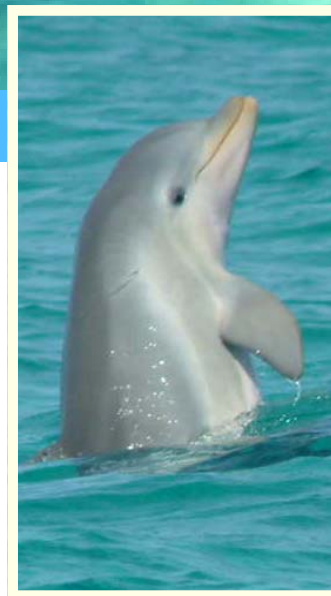
1992; and, although she still sometimes travels with Tunica, her mother, Roxy now has her own baby! Many boaters know her well because she is frequently found in the protected harbours of the Sea of Abaco feeding, resting and playing amongst the moored boats.

named for the key-like notches in his dorsal fin and after Nathan Key, one of the first loyalist settlers in Abaco. He is the most regularly seen dolphin in the Sea of Abaco, where he is often seen in the company of mothers and calves.



**Tilly** is the mother of Johnny, a feisty young lad who is Tilly's second known offspring. In recent years, Tilly and Johnny have shown a preference for feeding on the sand banks in the Sea of Abaco. Hence the names: Tilly (Tilloo) and Johnny.

named for the key-like notches in his dorsal fin and after Nathan Key, one of the first loyalist settlers in Abaco. He is the most regularly seen dolphin in the Sea of Abaco, where he is often seen in the company of mothers and calves.



### Rocky Point Pod



**Sandy** is an adult female with four calves:

Jack, Aqua, Lou and her youngest, Calypso, born in 2007. Both are healthy and doing well. Researchers have observed her teaching the calves how to hunt for fish, preparing them for joining the adults someday in the great hunt for schooling jacks at Rocky Point.



**Neptune** is an adult male. He is often seen hanging out

with Zeus, another male Bottlenose dolphin males often form buddy bonds at the age of sexual maturity when they are getting ready to look for mates. Male bottlenose dolphins like Neptune and Zeus play a role in defending important feeding areas, such as Rocky Point.



**Lucaya** was first seen as a young adult in 1997 and

has always been a favorite dolphin to researchers because of her playful character. She is now the mother of four: Zemi, Arieto (nicknamed Flapper), Cacique, and Kairi and has passed on her great zest for life to them.

**Yes , I would like to help!**

**Adopt-A-Dolphin \$49/year**

Choose your dolphin:

- Sandy     Neptune     Lucaya  
 Mr. Key     Roxy     Tilly

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

My Address \_\_\_\_\_

My Phone \_\_\_\_\_

My Email \_\_\_\_\_

**If this is a gift, please complete this section:**

Recipient's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send package to:  Me  Recipient

Please send renewal notice to:  Me  Recipient

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable & mail to:**

**Adopt-A-Dolphin**

**c/o Friends of the Environment**

**P.O. Box AB-20755**

**Marsh Harbour**

**Abaco, Bahamas**

**We can also accept Visa and MasterCard**

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Adoption packages may also be purchased online at [www.friendsoftheenvironment.org](http://www.friendsoftheenvironment.org)

How did you hear about our program?

Friend/Family     Flyer     Newspaper     Radio

Internet    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You!!

BMMRO, FRIENDS, and the Dolphins of Abaco