

plastic items, like packing materials, bottles, and bags, are carelessly discarded in many places and disposed of in nature. Being a tourist attraction with more than 100,000 visitors per year due to the two "National Nature Reserves", Paracas also has to cope with this big problem. For this reason we have focused our efforts for a second time on the topic of "garbage" in the first three months of this year. The motto was: "Beaches and seas are not dumping grounds!"

ACOREMA has prepared posters, brochures, three video spots, and a traveling exhibition, cooperating with the communities and the authorities in charge, who welcomed the informative material as a support of their own efforts. Beach cleaning campaigns were carried out, and the people in charge of cleaning the beaches and picking up the trash, mostly women, felt reassured, realizing that their jobs do not just amount to mere garbage collection, but are a contribution to protect the environment and the animals. One of the items used in the campaign attracted particular attention: it was the photo of a dolphin with its dorsal fin entangled in a white plastic bag. The anti-plastic garbage campaign reached more than 20,000 locals and visitors in Paracas. In positively influencing the public opinion and the level of education and by showing that the application of ecological principals can improve one's own living conditions, we can motivate people to change negative practices and instead develop ecologically responsible behavior in the long run.

For more information on our project in Peru: www.delphinschutz.org/dolphin-conservation-in-peru

Your donation helps! Please support the dolphin and environmental conservation measures effectively implemented in Peru!

In December 2013, ACOREMA received the "Friends of Paracas National Reserve" award for their long-standing research and nature conservation efforts.



Distributing educational material for locals.

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Dramatic dolphin rescue in Croatia

By *Ulrike Kirsch*

A dolphin narrowly escaped death when, at Pentecost, it got stuck in a rope with its fluke. The rope held a jerry can used by fishermen to mark the positions of set nets.

On Pentecost Sunday Croatian boaters discovered the bottlenose dolphin near the northern Dalmatian island of Dugi Otok, desperately trying to free itself. They hurried to help the animal in distress and cut the rope. Although it was free to move it still dragged the jerry-can around. Since the boaters could no longer approach the dolphin, they called for help. Our project partner Tom Gomerčić immediately set out and found the dolphin several hours later in a very exhausted state. The veterinary and his colleague lassooed the jerry-can to drag the dolphin to the boat, grabbing it by the fluke and freeing it from the rope. The dolphin dived away to reappear a few times near the boat as if to say thanks to its rescuers.

Without the help of people the dolphin would have soon died. Thanks to the encouraged intervention of boaters it could be rescued from a life-threatening situation. This also is an achievement of our project, because an increasing number of people in Croatia consider the marine mammals as beings deserving protection.



Without the help of people the dolphin would have soon died. © T. Gomerčić

Some 220 bottlenose dolphins are living in the Croatian part of the Adriatic Sea year round—the only marine mammals surviving in the Adriatic Sea, which once was home to a great number of dolphins and different species. We want to save the dolphins from extinction and protect their habitats!

Please help now! Every donation counts!

Check out our website for more information:

www.delphinschutz.org/save-the-last-adriatic-dolphins