While it seems like yesterday we were welcoming in the new year, I'm amazed by how much progress we've made for dolphins during these past twelve months. Our global outreach has never been broader, with more people in all parts of the world realizing that dolphins do not belong in captivity, nor deserve to be victims of slaughter. Our team continues to work extensively in Japan, Indonesia, the Solomon Islands, and the United States, in addition to ramping up efforts to make the first European dolphin sanctuary a reality.
Ric O'Barry scouts locations in Greece for Europe’s first Dolphin Sanctuary.

2018 saw much progress in the movement to put a permanent end to dolphin captivity as well as increased awareness about the plight of dolphins. I continued to scout locations across Europe to build the first European Dolphin Sanctuary, a safe seaside location where former show-dolphins can retire in peace and dignity. We are very excited about what we have discovered in Crete. And we’re excited about the level of cooperation we have received in Greece.
Lincoln O'Barry crosses the Coral Sea en route to Fanalei in the Solomon Islands.

Lincoln O'Barry and Dr. Sarah Meltzoff continued their on-the-ground work in the Solomon Islands, assisting communities evolve from their conventional dolphin hunts. Home to the largest drive slaughter of dolphins in the world, annual kills continue to drop significantly. We continue to fund the salaries of the teachers and school supplies for the village kindergarten school that we constructed in 2016. Dolphin Project completed a permanent base (community house) in Fanalei which has further strengthened our work in marine protection.
Dolphin Project team members moved to quickly confiscate two spinner dolphins – “Kari” and “Munjawa” – bringing them to Camp Lumba Lumba, December 2017.

In Indonesia, Dolphin Project and our partner JAAN successfully re-negotiated a five-year Cooperation Agreement with the Indonesian government to maintain Camp Lumba Lumba as the designated rescue and release facility for illegally captured dolphins.

Last December, our Indonesian marine mammal team and the Jakarta Animal Aid Network rescued and released a spinner dolphin, destined for Indonesia’s barbaric traveling circus. The dolphin was taken to Camp Lumba Lumba, where it was evaluated before released into her home range. In the new year, we will assist the government in microchipping all captive dolphins in the country, so that the illegal trafficking of dolphins comes to an end.
Two education centers in Karimun Jawa built by Dolphin Project in 2018.
We have now built our second education center in Karimun Jawa which will host class visits and provide a conservation curriculum and resources.
Colorful street art in Bali highlights the plight of dolphin captivity.

In collaboration with local and visiting street artists, we are continuing our mural campaign on buildings across Bali, spreading awareness about dolphin captivity.
Mini Monitors Imogen and Aidan at the Cove, Taiji, Japan.

Dolphin Project returned to The Cove in Taiji, Japan, for its 16th season, where our team is on the ground for the entire six-month hunting season. Using live-streaming technology across multiple social media platforms to document the dolphin drive hunts, we remain committed to sharing this information with the world. Dolphin Project continues our lawsuit to challenge my illegal deportation from Japan so that I can return to Taiji one day in the not-too-distant future to join my team on the ground at the Cove.
As we prepare to herald in a new and promising year, all of us at Dolphin Project remain as committed as ever to improving the lives of dolphins, and helping to keep them wild and free.

A movement that started 48 years ago with a vision and a t-shirt has evolved into a global activism powerhouse. My life’s mission was carved out one fateful day in 1970, but now, it’s up to us all to make permanent changes for those whose voices have been silenced. Each time you donate to Dolphin Project, know that you are aiding the longest-running anti-captivity dolphin welfare organization in the world. Please continue to share our blogs, petitions and social media posts, and strike up a dialogue with whomever will listen. No action is ever too small and everything we do matters. Thank you for your support and for being on the right side of history.

Let’s protect dolphins together.