

A large group of dolphins swimming in clear blue water, viewed from above. The dolphins are arranged in several parallel lines, moving towards the right side of the frame. The water is a deep, clear blue, and the dolphins' sleek, grey bodies are clearly visible against the background.

# DOLPHINS IN CAPTIVITY



*Ric O'Barry's*  
**DOLPHIN  
PROJECT**

Photo: Chiara Salomoni

# Why Care About Dolphins?

- Dolphins are incredibly intelligent and social animals
- They live in families called “pods”
- As free-ranging wild animals, their natural habitat is a large area of ocean
- Dolphins are an apex species, meaning they are near the top of the food chain (like humans)



# Why Are Dolphins in Captivity?

- Dolphins are highly trainable due to their intelligence
- Because of their size, they are not considered too dangerous
- Their appearance looks friendly, because they appear to be smiling all the time
- TV and movies have made dolphins popular
- People will pay!

# Training with Food



*Doc O'Connell's*  
**DOLPHIN  
PROJECT**

Photo: Chiara Salomoni



# Unnatural Tricks



Photo: Chiara Salomoni

# What's the Problem?

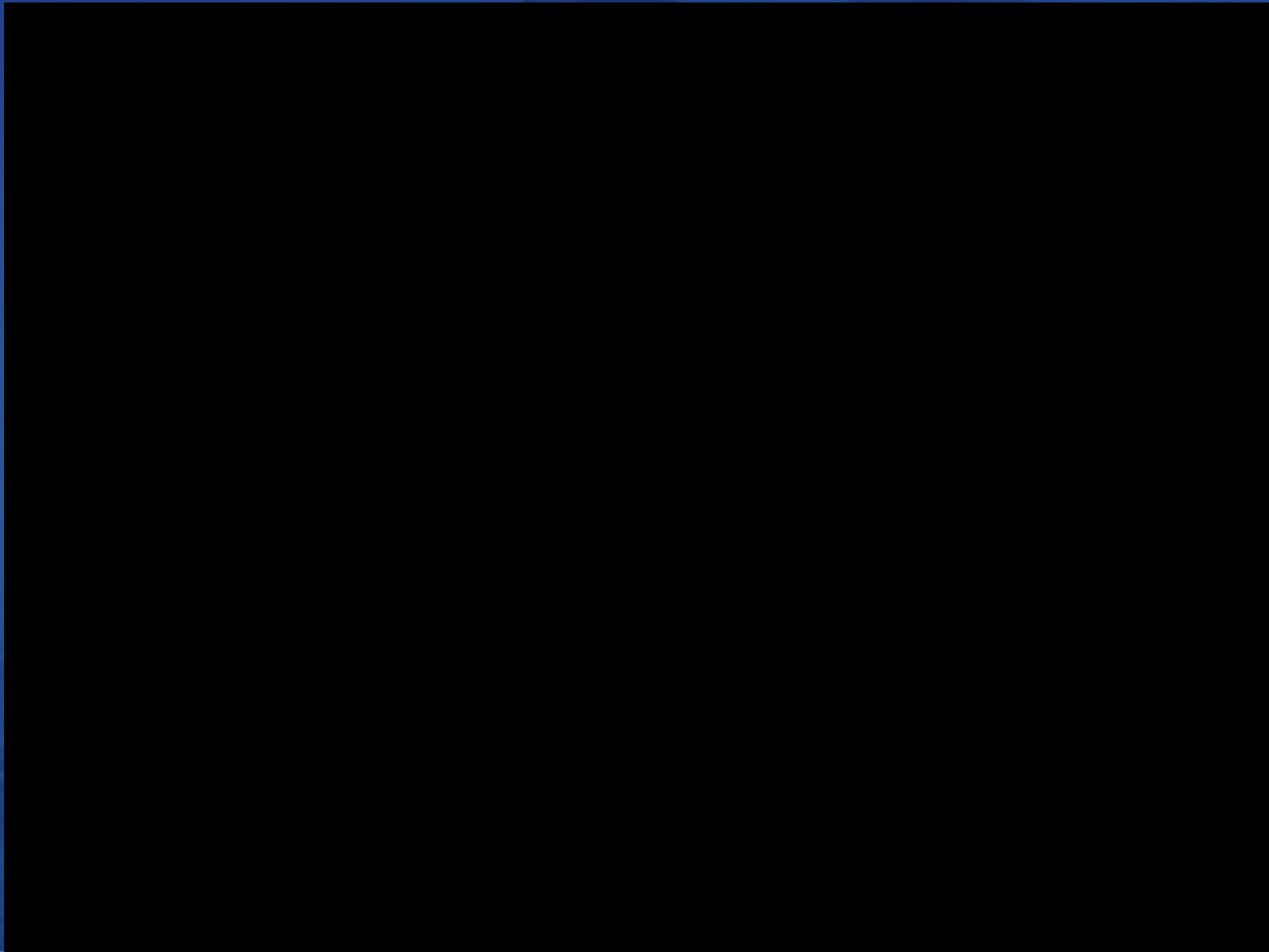
- Dolphins are used to swimming many miles a day; tanks are too small and shallow for them
- Dolphins are trained through food deprivation, so they are hungry enough to perform
- Captive dolphins are put in tanks with unfamiliar dolphins, so they may not get along
- Tank conditions are often bad: treated or dirty water, lack of stimulation



# Frustration (video)



# Orca In Distress (video)





# Illness and Injuries Are Common

- Because they cannot dive deep in the water, dolphins are vulnerable to sunburn and blindness
- They are fed frozen dead fish, so their food is not as nutritious or hydrating
- Many dolphins need regular medication to prevent or treat illnesses that are more common in captivity than in the wild
- Captive dolphins often have skin missing due to human interaction or tank behaviors

# Common Injuries



Photo: Chiara Salomoni

# Is It Worth It?

- For visitors, seeing dolphins in a marine park is a fun way to spend the day
- For the dolphins, it is a lifelong prison sentence where every day is the same
- Many captive dolphins suffer or become sick
- The educational value is low
- Is your entertainment worth it?



# Lolita: 50 Years in a Tank



# Honey: Abandoned in Japan





# Dangerous Stunts



Photo: Chiara Salomoni



# Compare to Wild Dolphins (video)



# How You Can Help

- Take the Pledge! Don't visit marine parks with captive dolphins or whales
- Tell others what you know and ask them not to support captivity
- Protect the oceans and the environment
- Learn more at [www.DolphinProject.com](http://www.DolphinProject.com)