



Part 10

## DOLPHINS



The bottlenose dolphins in the waters of the Bahamas are under attack. Every year, dozens are captured and shipped off to aquariums and theme parks.

Diane Claridge and her husband, Ken Balcomb, say it's time to set the dolphins free, and that keeping them captive is barbaric. Their marine mammal survey, based on the Bahamian island of Abaco, works to identify individual dolphins living in the area.

Conventional wisdom has it that captive dolphins can't survive in the wild. But in 1992, a bottlenose known as *Bahama Mama* escaped after 15 years in captivity. Five months later, Claridge and Balcomb identified her swimming with a group of wild dolphins. The finding has provided even more ammunition for their fight to free the planet's imprisoned dolphins and whales.

Endangered animals – and the champions who have dedicated their lives to saving them – feature in this spectacular series of 13 half-hour videos! Stunningly shot around the world, from the frozen ice fields of Canada's North to the jungles of Borneo, **Champions of the Wild** combines fascinating natural history with the intrigue of personal drama.

Directors: **Andrew Gardner, Jack Silberman**

Producers: **Christian Bruyère and Ian Herring** (Omni Film),  
**George Johnson** (NFB)

Executive Producer: **Michael Chechik** (Omni Film)

25 minutes

Order number: **C9197 097**

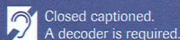
Series order number: **193C 9197 106**

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Closed captioned.  
A decoder is required.

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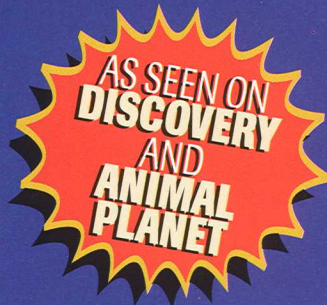
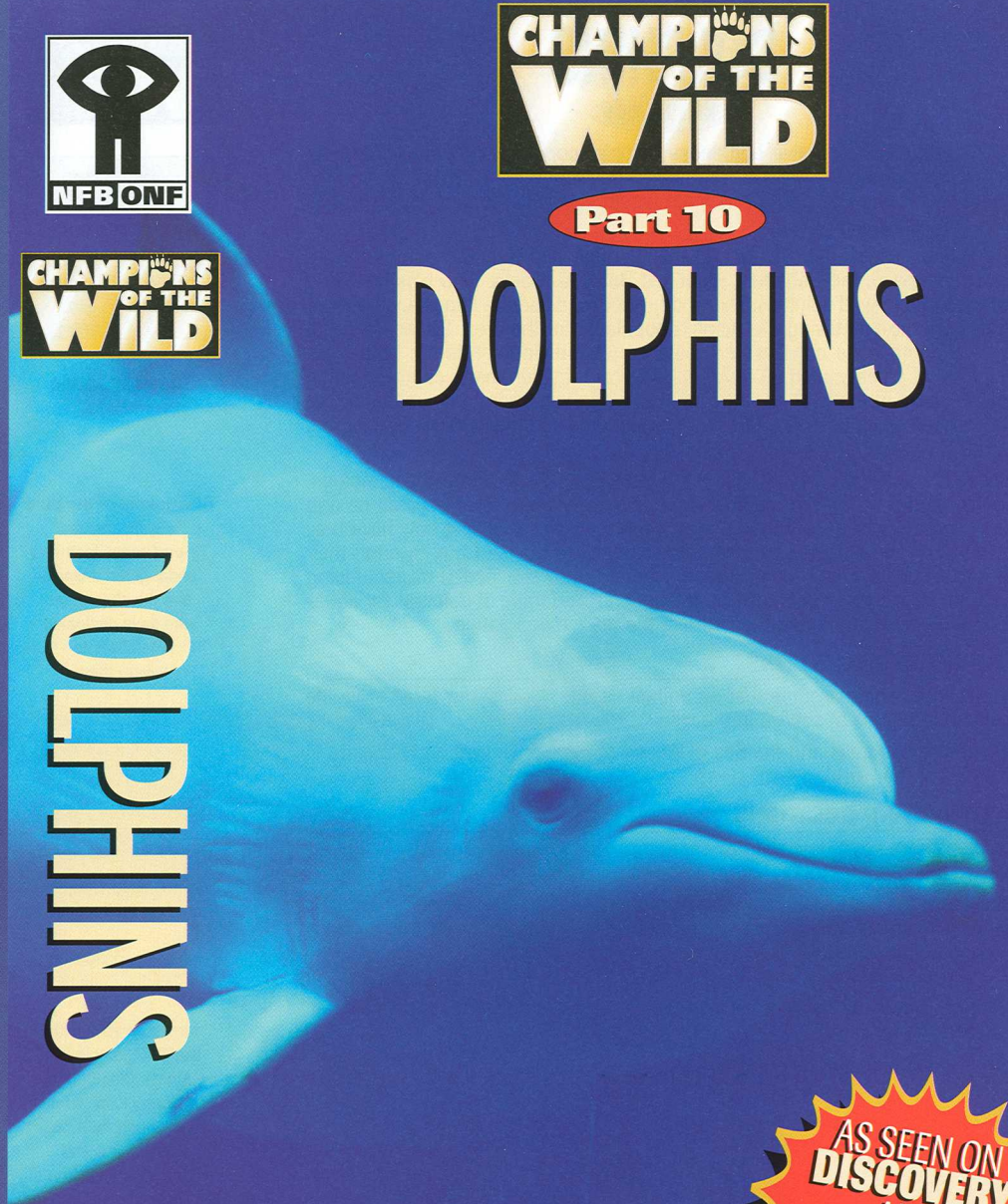
VHS

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A NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA RELEASE

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In June of 1992, a captive bottlenose dolphin, popularly known as "Bahama Mama" escaped from Great Guyana Cay Aquarium after 15 years in captivity. Everyone assumed a hand-fed dolphin would be unable to survive in the wild after so many years.

Five months later, in November, Diane Claridge and Ken Balcomb, who are based in Abaco, the Bahamas, identified Bahama Mama, who was travelling with a group of wild dolphins. This find further solidified the importance of their work in photo-identifying the dolphin population of the area. So far, Claridge and Balcomb have conclusively isolated 64 individual Atlantic bottlenose dolphins, of an estimated 80 residents. The confirmation that a captive dolphin could survive in the wild also furnished Claridge with more ammunition in her fight to free dolphins and whales from aquariums and theme parks around the world.

Balcomb was a leading activist on the "Free Willy (Keiko)" worldwide campaign, and continues to fight for captive mammals everywhere. The research he and Claridge carry out has also won other impressive victories. Not only have they successfully rehabilitated captive dolphins back to the wild but, through their resident dolphin photo-identification program, they succeeded in persuading the Bahamian government to slash the uncontrolled trade of dolphins for aquarium exhibition to no more than 10% of the marine population.

### PRE-VIEWING QUESTIONS

Why would people assume that an animal kept in captivity for most of its life would not be able to survive in the wild?

Locate the Bahamas and the Sea of Abaco on a map. Describe the climate in this part of the world.

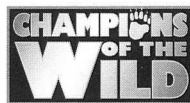
### POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS

Dolphins have been described as charming, delightful and cute. Why have they earned this reputation?

Audiences at marine park shows and on boats have enjoyed watching dolphins perform their acrobatics and synchronized swimming. Why do the dolphins engage in this behaviour?

Ken Balcomb and Diane Claridge conduct a photo-identification program of dolphins. How has this program affected the ability of dolphins to survive in the Bahamas?

How do dolphins find fish to eat?



Champion:  
Diane Claridge

#### Champions of the Wild

is a spectacular 13-part series featuring endangered animals and the champions who have dedicated their lives to saving them.

Produced by  
Omni Film Productions Ltd

with the participation of  
Telefilm Canada,

in association with  
British Columbia Film,  
Amaya Distribution,  
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of Canada, and  
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the Cable Production Fund  
and Rogers Telefund.



#### WORLD WIDE WEB SITES:

Information about and pictures of bottlenose dolphins

[http://www.seaworld.org/bottlenose\\_dolphin/bottlenose\\_dolphins.html](http://www.seaworld.org/bottlenose_dolphin/bottlenose_dolphins.html)

The Marine Mammal Survey program run by Ken Balcomb and Diane Claridge  
<http://www.oii.net/ecology/eng/dolphin.html>

Maps of dolphin travel routes

<http://www.seacreatures.com/maps/dolphinmaps.html>

#### CHAMPIONS OF THE WILD SERIES:

**Part 1: SHARKS** (C9197 096): From their research station on Bimini Island in the Bahamas, Tim Calver and his mentor, Dr. Sam Gruber, are committed to changing the world's negative perception of sharks.

**Part 2: GORILLAS** (C9197 104): In the dangerous surroundings of Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park, Dr. Pascale Scotte risks her life to protect one of the world's last remaining populations of mountain gorillas.

**Part 3: GRIZZLIES** (C9197 093): Wayne McCrory has spent the last 25 years passionately campaigning to protect the grizzly and rare white spirit bears of the British Columbia rain forest.

**Part 4: WOLVES** (C9197 103): Dr. Paul Paquet studies the harmful effects of wolves coming into contact with civilization and has succeeded in reintroducing wolf packs into the southern Alberta Rockies.

**Part 5: HUMPBACKS** (C9197 099): Dr. Jim Darling, a leading authority on humpback whales, follows the migration of these magnificent creatures in order to protect them in their Pacific environment.

**Part 6: PANDAS** (C9197 102): A self-proclaimed "pandaholic," Dr. Sue Mainka helps the Chinese make critical breakthroughs in raising captive pandas.

**Part 7: LEMURS** (C9197 105): Dr. Lisa Gould's mission is to protect the ring-tailed lemurs of Madagascar and to make the world aware of these obscure primates.

**Part 8: ORCAS** (C9197 100): Radical researcher and visionary Dr. Paul Spong, having researched killer whales for over three decades, helps us understand how humans affect orca habitat and behaviour.

**Part 9: POLAR BEARS** (C9197 095): Biologist and photographer Dr. Dan Guravich has a love affair with the polar bear. His thousands of photographs have profoundly influenced our understanding of the world's largest land-based carnivore.

**Part 10: DOLPHINS** (C9197 097): Diane Claridge and Ken Balcomb are leaders in the fight to free the planet's imprisoned dolphins and whales and return them to the wild.

**Part 11: SWIFT FOXES** (C9197 094): Clio Smeeton has dedicated her life to completing her parents' dream of reintroducing the once-extinct swift fox to its Canadian Prairie home.

**Part 12: RIGHT WHALES** (C9197 101): By policing the Bay of Fundy and educating those who use the world's waterways, Deborah Tobin and Dr. Moira Brown are dedicated to saving the northern right whales, the planet's rarest marine mammal.

**Part 13: ORANGUTANS** (C9197 098): Activist researcher Dr. Biruté Galdikas lives in the gruelling jungles of Borneo and Sumatra, fighting to save the increasingly threatened orangutan.