



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Release date: July 2007

Programme No.1083

Length: 4'23"

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian

SAVING BLACK SEA DOLPHINS WITH SOUND

VIDEO

DOLPHINS SWIM

BLACK SEA MAP SUPER ON
DOLPHINS SWIMMING

DOLPHINS SWIM

DEAD DOLPHINS

AUDIO

NARRATION

It's one of the brightest animals on the planet, and one of the most threatened. (4.5")

At the Black Sea, the numbers of dolphins have plummeted and they are now considered endangered. In the 1950's there were over one million specimens here. Nowadays just a few thousand. Are we witnessing the demise of this most extraordinary marine mammal? (17")

Being the top predators in the Black Sea, dolphins need to eat a lot of fish, up to 20 kilograms a day. This is when often they come in contact with fishermen. And when that happens, both humans and dolphins lose out... (14")

In the past, commercial hunting constituted the main threat. In 1966 hunting was banned but dolphin populations kept decreasing, due to habitat loss, depletion of food resources,

disturbance from maritime traffic and pollution, leading to disease. (17”)

FISHERMEN

But as if all this wasn't enough, there is also “by-catch”, or accidental catch in fishing nets... (6”)

FISHERMAN ON CAMERA

FISHERMAN (ROMANIAN) **M**
“The dolphins are fond of playing and are very curious. They swim along the nets and occasionally get stuck...” (6”)

DOLPHINS CAUGHT IN NETS

NARRATION
Once they get tangled up, they die. And the fishing nets get damaged. By-catch it's a serious problem for cetaceans, the order dolphins belong to. An estimated 300 thousand get caught every year in nets all over the globe. How to solve this problem? (17”)

FISHERMEN UNTANGLE NETS

Romanian NGO Mare Nostrum came up with an idea that might just help save Black Sea dolphins. The NGO realized that in order to save dolphins, local fishermen would have to join the fight. (12”)

FISHERMEN WITH DEVICES ON THEIR NETS

They are called Acoustic Deterrent Devices, and they have been distributed to commercial fishermen. The devices are tied to fishing nets and emit ultra-sounds helping to keep dolphins away. The project was funded by the Global Environment Facility, through the UN

Development Programme. (17”)

FISHERMAN (ROMANIAN) **M**

FISHERMAN ON CAMERA

“Thanks to these devices, dolphins are no longer being caught...” (4”)

NARRATION

DOLPHIN IN TANK

2007 has been declared the UN’s International Year of the Dolphin. Governments have agreed to reduce loss of wildlife. NGOs and the private sector are also taking part to achieve a common objective: to protect dolphins everywhere. (16”)

FISHERMAN (ROMANIAN) **M**

FISHERMAN

“We need to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the beauty of dolphins. And we must do our best to take care of such a delicate creature.” (12”)

NARRATION

CHILDREN IN CLASSROOM

Mare Nostrum, the NGO that has been distributing the acoustic devices to fishermen, is also helping to raise awareness of dolphin conservation in the population at large. Mare Nostrum’s Andreea Burnescu visits a school in Constanta, a city on the Black Sea. (16”)

ANDREEA BURNESCU: (ROMANIAN) **F**

ANDREA DISTRIBUTES
BROCHURES

“I have a brochure for each one of you. Please read it carefully...” (3.5”)

ANDREEA BURNESCU,
PROGRAMME MANAGER, MARE
NOSTRUM NGO, ON CAMERA

ANDREEA BURNESCU: (ROMANIAN) F
“In schools, generally speaking, children are very receptive to dolphins; they love them and want to know more. They want to get involved...” (8”)

CHILDREN READING
BROCHURES

NARRATION
They are one of the most popular animals on the planet. Without people’s full support and commitment we will not be able to save these wonderful and extremely intelligent animals. (10”)

DIVERS

The relationship between humans and dolphins go back thousands of years. Marine biologist and dolphin expert Ligia Dima... (8”)

LIGIA DIMA, MARINE BIOLOGIST
& DOLPHINS EXPERT, ON
CAMERA

LIGIA DIMA (ROMANIAN) F
“The same affection that exists between dogs and people could exist between people and dolphins. It was likely that dolphins escorted humans when they ventured into the immensity of the seas. Their souls got closer and it’s an old connection that still remains...” (15”)

DOLPHINS

NARRATION
There are still many things we do not understand about dolphins. But it’s universally accepted that they are one of the world’s most fascinating creatures. We must not allow them to disappear, and become just a distant memory of the past... (14”)

DOLPHIN STATUE

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for
the United Nations.