



Voted #1 Florida Press 2004 FIRST PLACE Best Web Site Florida Keys Keynoter

Monday January 22, 2007

Search classifieds

GO

Search site

GO

NEWS SECTIONS

- ▶ Front Page
- ▶ News
- ▶ Key West News
- ▶ Columns
- ▶ Editorials
- ▶ Letters to Editor
- ▶ Photo Gallery
- ▶ Business
- ▶ Living
- ▶ Entertainment
- ▶ Keys TV Listings
- ▶ Sports
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Keys History
- ▶ Archives
- ▶ Featured Ads
- ▶ Links

CLASSIFIEDS

- ▶ Real Estate
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Boating
- ▶ Merchandise
- ▶ All Categories
- ▶ Place an ad

ADVERTISING

- ▶ Advertising Info.

SPECIAL SECTIONS

Fishing the Florida Keys

Keys Living



- ▶ Fishing the Florida Keys



- ▶ Keys Arts & Entertainment

SERVICES

- ▶ Contact Us
- ▶ Subscribe
- ▶ Customer Service
- ▶ Back Issues



**Abby Oglesbee has Your Keys To Paradise. (305)849-2722**

**Making a Real (Estate) Difference in the Florida Keys!!**

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
Schmitt Real Estate Co.

## Sanctuary launches dolphin program

Posted-Friday, January 19, 2007 6:52 PM EST

✉ Email this story

🖨 Print this story

*Goal's to promote responsibility by tour operators*

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has joined with nongovernmental organizations to launch a program designed to protect wild dolphins in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary through a partnership with tour operators and their clients.

The new Dolphin SMART program will recognize businesses that meet standards to promote responsible viewing of wild dolphins and prevent harassment. It's similar to the state's Clean Marina Program, in which marinas that meet certain state environmental standards get a special designation.

The acronym SMART signifies the basic principles of viewing etiquette:

- Stay at least 50 yards away.
- Move away slowly if the dolphins show signs of disturbance.
- Always put the vessel engine in neutral.
- Refrain from swimming with, touching or feeding wild dolphins.
- Teach others to follow these practices.

Sanctuary spokeswoman Cheva Heck said the sanctuary worked with National Marine Sanctuary Program headquarters, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and the Dolphin Ecology Project to establish the program, with partial funding from Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution.

Businesses that offer trips to view wild dolphins will be eligible to participate in the first phase of Dolphin SMART, followed by booking agents and concierge services in the second phase.

The program kicks off with an introductory meeting Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center at the Truman Annex waterfront in Key West.

The meeting will offer the opportunity to learn about program requirements, hear about incentives for participation and sign up for the first Dolphin SMART training.

For more information, contact Celeste Weimer at 743-2437.



Current weather for Marathon, FL

77  
[more...](#)

Click here for a Local Weather Forecast

— ADVERTISERS —



### TOP HOMES

**COLDWELL BANKER**

**2005 REALTOR of the Year**  
Patti Nickless, CRS

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED NEAR US1



\$419,000

EXCEPTIONAL VALUE!! 220 FT. CANAL FRONTAGE...



\$749,000

GREAT CUDJOE KEY HOME OFFERS VIEWS & BOATING...



\$779,000

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION...



\$650,000