

Dolphin SMART PSA

Narrator/Announcer:

Those of us fortunate enough to have seen dolphins in the waters of the Florida Keys have enjoyed thrilling natural adventures.

An educational program called Dolphin SMART aims to preserve this experience for future generations and our fellow mammals the dolphins

Celeste Anderson:

This program started back in 2004 because of concerns from some dolphin operators that were seeing a lot of harassment issues out on the playground off Key West. Some of these issues pertain to: boats encircling or trapping the animals, several of them at a time, there was a lot of separations of moms and calves and the pod in general and there were at that time between 30 to 40 operators that were running out of Key West, several of which were run two to three trips a day. So you can imagine how much time was spent around the dolphins from each boat.

Lisa Reedy:

*Caption: Captain Lisa Reedy
Sunny Days Catamarans
www.sunnydayskeywest.com*

Hi guys! My name is Lisa and I'll be your captain today. We are going to take you dolphin watching and snorkeling.

Sunny Days is involved with the Dolphin SMART Program because we wanted to make sure our boat was responsibly viewing the dolphins. We also wanted to take advantage of all the research that is being done through the program

Gary Stanyer

*Caption: Captain Gary Stanyer
Dolphin Safari Charters
www.safaricharters.com*

When we're going out there we are looking at them in the wild. I've got an eight year old and a six year old, Brooke and David, like I was explaining earlier and this way I keep the dolphin all natural for when my kids grow up and they get to see them in the natural environment.

What we've got here is an organization where we look at the dolphin respectfully and an acronym SMART stands for:

Stay at least 50 yards away from the dolphins

Move cautiously if the dolphins show any kind of disturbance

Always keep the boat in neutral

Refrain from feeding or touching or swimming with the dolphins and

Tell others about the program

Because as you can see the dolphin right off the bow of the boat are having a great old time in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Lisa Reedy:

What the Dolphin SMART program has taught us is we stay further away from the dolphins and we don't disrupt their natural behavior. So we get to see what they naturally do.

Gary Stanyer:

(Excitement in voice) Look at this guy; he's coming straight at us again.

Celeste Anderson:

We would like to keep these animals around so that our children's children can enjoy them and our dolphin operators can stay in business and our pod stays healthy as well and they stay within the Florida Keys area and the National Marine Sanctuary.