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Dolphin Project Returns to The Cove

TAIJI: For the 14th consecutive year, Dolphin Project will once again, be on the shores of the cove in Taiji, Japan for the 2016/17 dolphin hunting season.

Every year from approximately September 1 to March 1, a notoriously cruel hunt of some of the most sentient and sensitive creatures on the planet takes place in Taiji, Japan, made famous by the 2009 Academy award-winning movie "The Cove." During this period, fisherman, or more appropriately, dolphin hunters, "drive" the mammals to their capture or deaths via means of physical violence and acoustic torture.

The Japanese government's official quota is 1,820 dolphins of various species. Trainers, working alongside hunters, will also select approximately 150 wild bottlenose dolphins, "presold" to marine parks in Japan and overseas – a process where an untold number of animals are injured and/or killed, their numbers never recorded.

"They used to do this in Futo and Iki Island too," explained Ric O'Barry, Founder/Director of Dolphin Project. He continued: "The only reason they stopped is because they killed them all. I'm afraid the same thing is going to happen in Taiji. It's genocide."

Although a 19-day incarceration last winter, resulting in Ric's deportation from Japan will prevent him from going to Taiji, our team of Dolphin Project Cove Monitors will be on the ground throughout the entire killing season to live stream and disseminate information to the rest of the world. Dolphin Project is currently appealing the deportation through the Japanese legal system.

Ric will be in London on September 1 for Japan Dolphins Day – one of 50 events across the world where thousands of people will voice their opposition against the Taiji dolphin slaughters.

Dolphin Project is the only organization to have been on the ground in Taiji since 2003. We have revolutionized live streaming and broadcast throughout the entire season.

Ric O'Barry's Dolphin Project is a non-profit charitable organization, dedicated to the welfare and protection of dolphins worldwide. Founded by Richard (Ric) O'Barry on Earth Day, April 22, 1970, the mission of the Dolphin Project is to end dolphin exploitation and slaughter, as dolphins are routinely captured, harassed, slaughtered and sold into captivity around the world – all in the name of profit.

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Dolphin Project works not only to halt these slaughters but also to rehabilitate captive dolphins, investigate and advocate for economic alternatives to dolphin slaughter exploitation and to put a permanent end to dolphin captivity. This work has been chronicled in films such as, 'A Fall From Freedom,' the Oscar-winning documentary 'The Cove,' and in the Animal Planet mini-series, 'Blood Dolphin\$.'

For more information and breaking news:

Website: DolphinProject.com

Facebook: Ric O'Barry's Dolphin Project

Twitter: [@Dolphin_Project](https://twitter.com/Dolphin_Project)

Instagram: [@Dolphin_Project](https://www.instagram.com/Dolphin_Project)

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