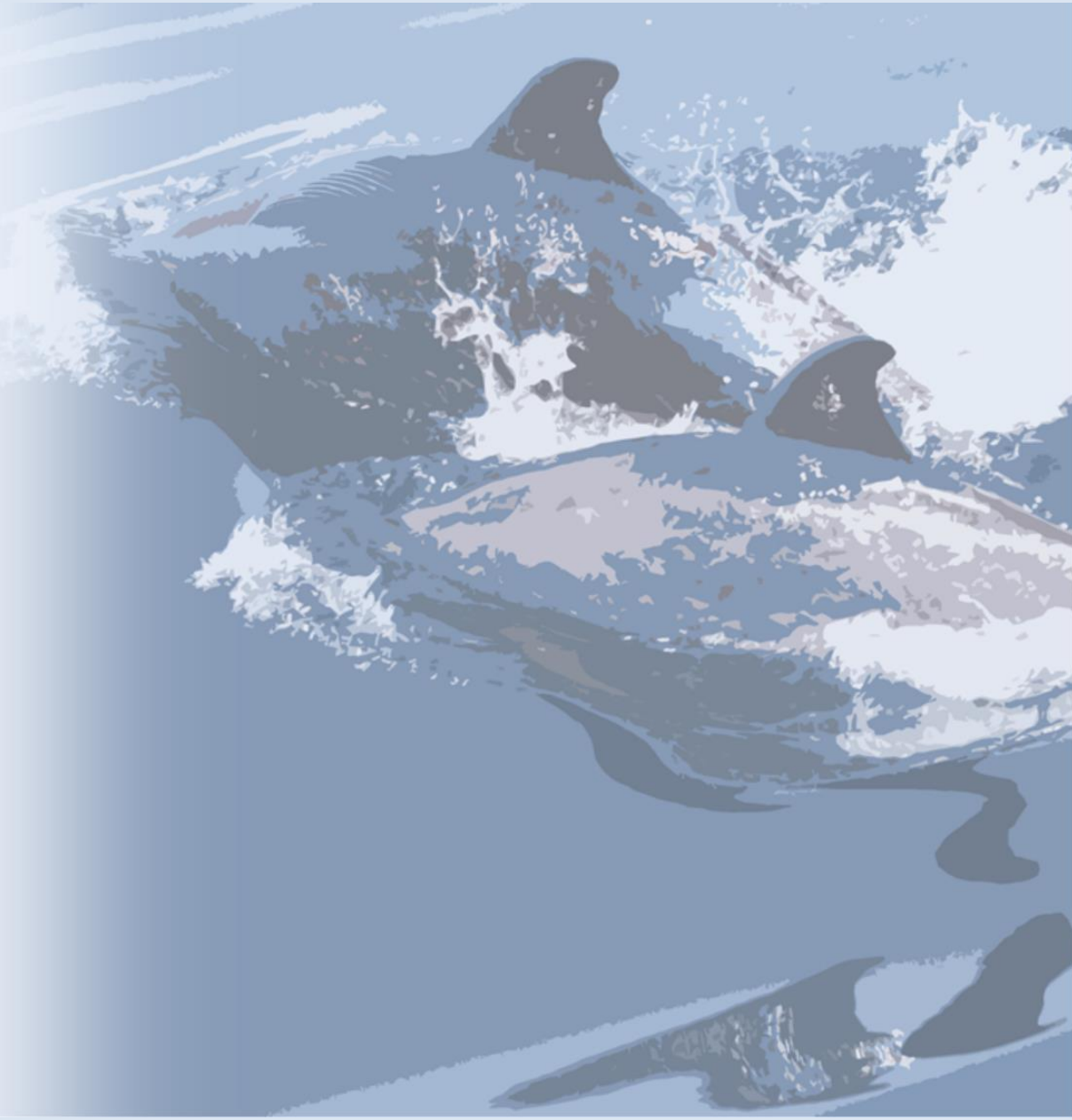
MONTENEGRO
DOLPHIN RESEARCH

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mdr
ISTRAŽIVANJE DELFINA CRNE GORE

Join the Crew of Montenegro Dolphin Research in the Southern Adriatic!

-**2026**-



THE PROJECT



MDR - Montenegro Dolphin Research aims to achieve a full record of all the cetacean species that are present in Montenegro. We study the area using onshore and offshore surveys in order to conduct comprehensive research and collect reliable scientific data. Our research mainly focuses on Montenegro's dolphin species, specifically targeting the bottlenose dolphin populations, and consists of subjects such as the population statuses, photo identification, abundances, general distribution of the common species, social structure, behavioural alterations and existing human pressure.

Our research primarily focuses on the dolphin species found along the Montenegrin coast, particularly bottlenose dolphins. Key research areas include:

- Population abundance and distribution.
- Photo-identification and individual sighting histories.
- Social structure and behavioural patterns.
- Habitat use and seasonal occurrence.
- Human activities and their potential impacts on marine mammals.

Beyond scientific research, MDR also works to promote marine conservation through public outreach, environmental education, stakeholder engagement and citizen-science initiatives, connecting scientific research with practical conservation efforts.

OUR INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The MDR Conservation and Research Internship is designed for individuals with different academic backgrounds, interests and levels of experience. All interns become part of our ongoing research and conservation activities, contributing to marine mammal research in Montenegro while gaining practical experience and developing their own skill.

Alongside their shared responsibilities, each intern is assigned an individual project tailored to their previous experience, interests and length of stay. These projects can range from smaller-scale, practical or activity-based initiatives to more extensive research projects involving the analysis of existing MDR datasets.

Interns with relevant experience and suitable length of stay may have the opportunity to take on more independent, long term research projects. This includes opportunities for Bachelors and Masters students to develop their thesis while using MDR data. All interns receive guidance and support from the supervisors throughout their placement, with additional scientific support from our Scientific Director for more extensive research projects. This may include assistance with research design, methodology, data analysis, interpretation of results and scientific writing.

We also offer training sessions and workshops tailored to the intern's background, interests, individual project and length of stay. These provide opportunities to develop new skills and deepen existing knowledge in areas such as photo-identification, GIS, statistical analysis and acoustic monitoring.

In addition to research activities, all interns take part in MDR's conservation and public outreach work, helping raise awareness and supporting the local community.

Our aim is to provide an environment in which interns can actively contribute to MDR's work. This includes raising awareness about marine mammals and the importance of protecting their habitats, as well as supporting citizen science initiatives that encourage the public to contribute to marine mammal research and conservation.





FIELD WORK AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Conducting surveys:

- Land-based surveys: Land-based surveys take place throughout the year, usually around sunrise or sunset, and last approximately three hours. In small teams, our team collects spatial data on their positions and movements, as well as information on their behaviour, environmental conditions and marine vessel presence.
- Boat-based surveys: Boat-based surveys are conducted depending on weather conditions and boat availability. They focus on collecting photographs for photo-identification and acoustic recordings using hydrophones, alongside observations of dolphin presence and behaviour.
- Kayak Surveys: Kayak surveys provide an additional platform for observing marine mammals at close range and collecting acoustic recordings.

Office work:

- Data entry, data manipulation and data analysis
- Cataloguing dolphin sightings and matching individuals using specialised photo-identification software.
- Public Outreach activities: Presentations, workshops, Beach Cleanups, Crafts & Art Sessions
- Raising stakeholder awareness through conservation actions and promoting citizen-science activities
- Individual (Research-) Projects

INITIAL TRAINING

At the beginning of each internship, our team provides introductory lectures and practical fieldwork training to familiarise interns with MDR's research activities and methodologies. This ensures that all interns understand how our surveys are conducted and how to contribute to data collection. The initial training covers:

- Introduction to MDR's different survey types and fieldwork procedures
- fieldwork equipment: Theodolite operation and the use of Pythagoras software
- Principles of behavioural sampling and systematic data collection

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS

In addition to the initial training, interns may participate in optional workshops to develop more specialised skills and deepen their

knowledge of marine mammal research. Possible workshop topics include:

- GIS mapping and spatial data analysis
- Data management and statistical analysis using R
- Acoustic analysis using Raven and PAMGuard
- Photo-identification and matching
- Survey design and methodology
- Population size estimation using MARK and other relevant methods



ACCOMMODATIONS & FACILITIES



Our base is located in Krašići, a small coastal village just across the bay from Tivat. Accommodation is included in the participation fee and is provided in our intern house, which consists of two separate apartments. Each apartment is fully equipped with its own kitchen, bathroom, living room, bedrooms, washing machine and terrace or balcony. Across both

apartments, there are four bedrooms with a total of 11 beds. A seasonal supermarket, a bakery and several restaurants are within walking distance. The surrounding area also offers plenty of opportunities for outdoor activities, including hiking, diving and rock climbing.

CONTRIBUTION FEE

COLD SEASON (October - March)	**WARM SEASON** (April - September)
4 weeks with accommodation 1000€ (excl. taxes*)	4 weeks with accommodation 1200€ (excl. taxes*)
12 weeks and more there will be %10 discount for monthly price	12 weeks and more there will be %10 discount for monthly price
A deposit of €600 is required to secure your placement.	A deposit of €600 is required to secure your placement.

All of which goes directly to supporting the projects.
*Taxes will be %21 of the price.

The fee **includes**:

- Accommodation
- Transportation between project sites within Montenegro
- Initial training, lectures and training materials
- Participation in fieldwork activities (land- and boat-based surveys)
- Use of research equipment
- Individual project guidance and supervision
- Access to additional workshops relevant to the interns interests, experience and individual project

The fee does **not include**:

- Transportation to/from Montenegro or transfer to accommodation
- Health and/or travel insurance which is a **mandatory**
- Meals
- Additional training courses:
  - Marine Mammal Observer & Passive Acoustic Monitoring, Certificated by ACCOBAMS

HOW TO APPLY

Please send your CV and motivation letter to info@dmad.org.tr, explaining why you are a suitable asset for our team and what goals you hope to achieve with us! Please mention the period of interest and your duration of stay.