



MAY 2015  
VOL. 227 • NO. 5

In Laos, critics of a planned hydroelectric dam say it will block fish migration on the Mekong River, where this fisherman plies his trade.

## 102 Harnessing the Mekong

Running for more than 2,600 miles, the Mekong River produces fish when it flows free and clean electricity when it's dammed. Therein lies Southeast Asia's dilemma.

By Michelle Nijhuis Photographs by David Guttenfelder

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#### It's Time for a Conversation

When one of Earth's smartest creatures vocalizes, it fuels a heated debate among scientists: Are dolphins actually speaking a complex language?

By Joshua Foer  
Photographs by Brian Skerry

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#### Taking Back Detroit

With its bankruptcy in the rearview mirror, the Motor City is attracting investors, innovators, and adventurous would-be fixers.

By Susan Ager  
Photographs by Wayne Lawrence

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#### Quest for a Superbee

Honeybees top the list of insect pollinators on which one-third of food crops depend. Can we breed a hardier bee?

By Charles C. Mann  
Photographs by Anand Varma

#### 130 Proof | Walking the Way

A pilgrimage through France and Spain is "an ancient tradition thriving in a modern world."

Story and Photographs by Michael George

**On the Cover** Scientists working with bottlenose dolphins (this one lives at a Vallejo, California, animal park) are looking for a link between the animals' many vocalizations and their behaviors. Photo by Brian Skerry

**Corrections and Clarifications** Go to [ngm.com/more](http://ngm.com/more).