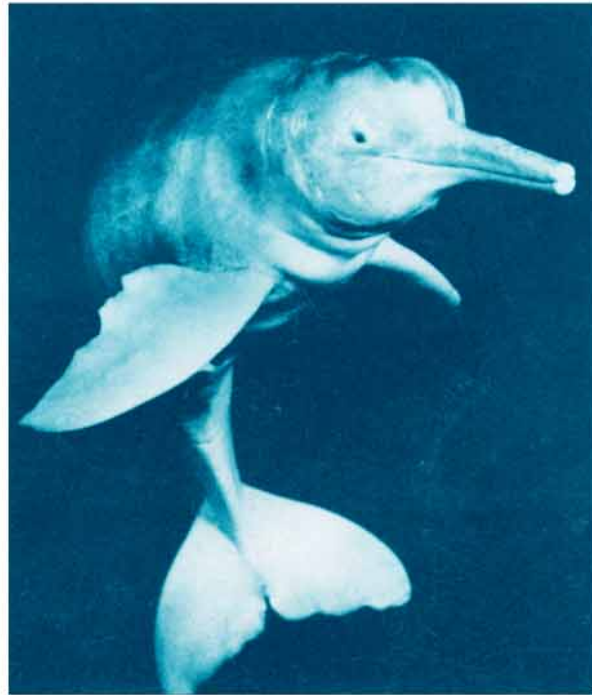


# **Dolphins, Porpoises, and Whales**

**An Action Plan for the Conservation of  
Biological Diversity: 1988-1992**



Compiled by  
W.F. Perrin, Chairman  
IUCN/SSC Cetacean Specialist Group  
and  
U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA  
Second Edition—1989



## Contents

	Page		Page
Foreword .....	ii	Africa .....	11
Preface to 1989 Edition .....	ii	Asia and Australasia .....	11
Introduction .....	iii	Non-regional .....	16
Acknowledgements .....	iii	Other Issues and Projects to be Monitored .....	17
Classification .....	iii	North America and Greenland .....	17
The Problems Faced by Cetaceans .....	1	South America .....	17
Direct Exploitation .....	1	Europe .....	17
Incidental Catch in Fisheries .....	3	Africa .....	18
Competition and Culls .....	4	Asia .....	18
Habitat Loss and Degradation .....	4	Australia .....	18
Status of the Species and Populations .....	5	Worldwide .....	18
The Species .....	5	References .....	19
Populations at Risk for Non-threatened Species .....	5	Appendix 1. Members of the Cetacean Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission .....	22
Recommended Conservation Action .....	8	Appendix 2. List of Agencies, Research Institutions, and Conservation Organizations in Problem Areas .....	23
Specific Projects and Actions .....	8	Appendix 3. Progress Report .....	27
North America .....	8		
South America .....	8		
Europe .....	11		

## Foreword

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With this Action Plan, one of many being produced for IUCN's Species Survival Commission by its active Specialist Groups, we have scientifically based schemes and plans laid out for conservation of both the whales and the smaller cetacean species.

It is with considerable pride that I write this short foreword, as this Specialist Group, under the most able leadership of Bill Perrin, has consistently led the field, both in the Group's members' individual capacities and as a Group, in ensuring that

IUCN has the best possible data available on which to lead the conservation thrust for these majestic creatures worldwide. The Plan provides for the next phase, one might say, for conservation action. It must be funded and the Action Plan turned into action.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Cetacean Specialist Group on their Action Plan, and commend its findings for immediate funding.

Grenville L.I. Lucas  
Chairman  
IUCN Species Survival Commission

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Demand for copies of this action plan has been large enough to exhaust the supply, hence this reprinting. A few changes and additions have been made. In the classification (page iv), the subfamily Orcaellinae has been moved from the Monodontidae to the Delphinidae. A new project, no. 39 "Convene workshop to assess small cetaceans exploited by Japan", has been added.

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**Cover Photo: The boto, or Amazon river dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis*) (Photo by Kamogawa Sea World, courtesy of Teruo Tobayama)**

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## Introduction

Man has not yet driven any cetacean species to extinction. This may change, however, and soon. For some species, only a few hundred individuals remain. For others, populations of larger or unknown size may be declining rapidly. The primary goal of the Cetacean Specialist Group in putting forward this action plan is to precipitate activity to prevent extinction of the species and populations currently in danger. The proposed actions also aim to promote sustainable relationships between cetaceans and people, in order to secure the long-term future for all cetacean species and populations.

This plan focuses on the small cetaceans, in particular the river dolphins. There are several reasons for this focus. First, the most endangered species are small cetaceans. With the possible exception of the northern right whale, none of the great whales are in imminent danger of extinction. However, some of the river dolphins face extinction in this century unless present trends are reversed. Second, the river dolphins are largely tropical and therefore occur entirely within the boundaries of the developing nations, where human population growth is the greatest and environmental conservation is most difficult and in early stages of development. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that riverine habitat is restricted and highly vulnerable to degradation.

An additional reason for placing emphasis in this plan on the small cetaceans is that heretofore conservationists working to protect cetaceans have given most attention to the great whales. This has resulted in a substantive increase in much-needed research, legislation, and management, and in relatively well-organized systems of conservation monitoring and feedback.

The small cetaceans have received far less attention, despite the fact that many species face severe problems. There are many problems in conservation of the great whales yet to be solved, especially those regarding the regulation of whaling, but many organizations and agencies are working to solve the problems. This is not as true for the small cetaceans.

Secondarily, this plan emphasizes coastal small cetaceans. By comparison with pelagic habitats, coastal habitats are more restricted and more vulnerable to degradation and depletion.

The plan considers endangered populations as well as species and formally designated subspecies. Formal description and naming of subspecific taxa have not been a common practice in cetacean systematics in recent years. For example, Robineau (1986) suggested that the very distinctive Kerguelan race of *Cephalorhynchus commersonii* be accorded "subspecific status" but did not formally describe a subspecies or propose a trinomial. The morphologically distinct populations that have been defined but not formally named for several small cetaceans correspond in degree of distinctness to the entities in terrestrial mammals that have received subspecific scientific names. Thus, an endangered small-cetacean population that might find a place in lists of endangered "species" were it described as a subspecies does not receive such recognition. For this reason, the plan includes not only species that are formally designated in the Red List as Endangered, Vulnerable, etc., but also those nonlisted species for which one population or more may be in peril. The implication is that in these cases potentially significant genetic variability and unique components of regional ecosystems are at risk.

## Acknowledgments

The compiler wishes to thank the members of the Cetacean Specialist Group (Appendix 1) for their extensive and invaluable help in preparing this action plan. Others who provided information and advice include N. Atkins, R. Bastida, J. Cárdenas, H. Castello, G. Chen, I. Gusmão, J. Harwood, A. Lichter, C. Pinedo, R. Praderi, A. Read, Li Rongao, J. Maigret, D. Robineau, W. Schevill, and V. da Silva. J. F. Oates provided an admirable model in the Action Plan for African Primate Conservation: 1986-1990. S. Stuart saw the

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## Classification

As for most major groups, there is a certain amount of flux in the taxonomy of the cetaceans. They currently comprise 77 species: 66 toothed whales (Odontoceti) and 11 baleen whales (Mysticeti). The treatment here (Table 1) is not meant to be definitive or revisionary, but only to reflect the compiler's perception of mainstream thinking about the species and populations. The taxa above the species level follow Barnes et al. (1985), as later revised by Barnes (1985a,b). The monophyly of the cetaceans is now firmly established based on several lines of evidence (Barnes 1984, Barnes et al. 1985) and

the odontocetes and mysticetes accordingly are included in the single order Cetacea. The species largely follow Honacki et al. (1982) and Jones et al. (1986) and incorporate revisions of the spotted dolphins by Perrin et al. (1987a) and the porpoises and platanistoid dolphins by Barnes (1985a,b). Treatment of the right whales follows Brownell et al. (1987). The first-listed common names of the species follow IWC (1977, 1980-1988), with minor changes (Perrin et al. 1987a, Perrin and Brownell 1989).

**Table 1. Classification of the living cetaceans, order Cetacea.**

Suborder Odontoceti		Subfamily Cephalorhynchinae	
Superfamily Platanistoidea		<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>	Commerson's dolphin
Family Platanistidae		<i>Cephalorhynchus eutropia</i>	black dolphin, Chilean dolphin
<i>Platanista gangetica</i>	Ganges river dolphin, Ganges susu	<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i>	Heaviside's dolphin
<i>Platanista minor</i>	Indus River dolphin, Indus susu	<i>Cephalorhynchus hectori</i>	Hector's dolphin
Family Pontoporiidae		Subfamily Globicephalinae	
Subfamily Lipotinae		<i>Peponocephala electra</i>	melon-headed whale, electra dolphin
<i>Lipotes vexillifer</i>	baiji, Yangtze or Chinese river dolphin	<i>Feresa attenuata</i>	pygmy killer whale
Subfamily Pontoporiinae		<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	false killer whale
<i>Pontoporia blainvillei</i>	franciscana, cachimbo, La Plata dolphin	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	killer whale
Family Iniidae		<i>Globicephala melas</i>	long-finned pilot whale
<i>Inia geoffrensis</i>	boto, boutu, bufeo, Amazon river dolphin	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>	short-finned pilot whale
Superfamily Delphinoidea		Superfamily Ziphioidea	
Family Monodontidae		Family Ziphiidae	
Subfamily Delphinapterinae		<i>Tasmacetus shepherdi</i>	Shepherd's beaked whale
<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	white whale, beluga	<i>Berardius bairdii</i>	Baird's beaked whale
Subfamily Monodontinae		<i>Berardius arnuxii</i>	Arnoux's beaked whale
<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	narwhal	<i>Mesoplodon pacificus</i>	Longman's beaked whale
Family Phocoenidae		<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>	Sowerby's beaked whale
Subfamily Phocoeninae		<i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i>	Blainville's beaked whale
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	harbor porpoise	<i>Mesoplodon europaeus</i>	Gervais' beaked whale
<i>Phocoena spinipinnis</i>	Burmeister's porpoise	<i>Mesoplodon layardii</i>	strap-toothed whale
<i>Phocoena sinus</i>	vaquita, Gulf of California	<i>Mesoplodon hectori</i>	Hector's beaked whale
<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides</i>	finless porpoise	<i>Mesoplodon grayi</i>	Gray's beaked whale
Subfamily Phocoenoidinae		<i>Mesoplodon stejnegeri</i>	Stejneger's beaked whale
<i>Australophocaena dioptrica</i>	spectacled porpoise	<i>Mesoplodon bowdoini</i>	Andrews' beaked whale
<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>	Dall's porpoise	<i>Mesoplodon mirus</i>	True's beaked whale
Family Delphinidae		<i>Mesoplodon ginkgodens</i>	ginkgo-toothed beaked whale
Subfamily Steninae		<i>Mesoplodon carlhubbsi</i>	Hubbs' beaked whale
<i>Steno bredanensis</i>	rough-toothed dolphin	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	Cuvier's beaked whale
<i>Sousa chinensis</i>	Indopacific hump-backed dolphin	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	northern bottlenose whale
<i>Sousa teuszii</i>	Atlantic hump-backed dolphin	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>	southern bottlenose whale
<i>Sotalia fluviatilis</i>	tucuxi	Superfamily Physeteroidea	
Subfamily Delphininae		Family Physeteridae	
<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	white-beaked dolphin	Subfamily Physeterinae	
<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	Atlantic white-sided dolphin	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	sperm whale
<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>	dusky dolphin	Family Kogiidae	
<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>	Pacific white-sided dolphin	<i>Kogia breviceps</i>	pygmy sperm whale
<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>	hourglass dolphin	<i>Kogia simus</i>	dwarf sperm whale
<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	Peale's dolphin	Suborder Mysticeti	
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Risso's dolphin	Family Balaenidae	
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	bottlenose dolphin	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	bowhead whale
<i>Stenella frontalis</i>	Atlantic spotted dolphin	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	southern right whale
<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	pantropical spotted dolphin	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	northern right whale
<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	spinner dolphin	Family Neobalaenidae	
<i>Stenella clymene</i>	clymene dolphin	<i>Caperea marginata</i>	pygmy right whale
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	striped dolphin	Family Eschrichtiidae	
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	common dolphin	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	gray whale
<i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i>	Fraser's dolphin	Family Balaenopteridae	
Subfamily Lissodelphininae		Subfamily Balaenopterinae	
<i>Lissodelphis borealis</i>	northern right whale dolphin	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	minke whale
<i>Lissodelphis peronii</i>	southern right whale dolphin	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	sei whale
Subfamily Orcaellinae		<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>	Bryde's whale
<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i>	Irrawaddy dolphin, pesut	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	blue whale
		<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	fin whale, finback
		Subfamily Megapterinae	
		<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	humpback whale

# The Problems Faced by Cetaceans



Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*) are harpooned in large numbers in the coastal waters of northern Japan. (Photograph by W. F. Perrin)

The number and complexity of factors preventing effective conservation of whales, dolphins, and porpoises are ever increasing. As the world human population booms and industrialization proceeds, there are shifts in the types of problems that are the most immediate and urgent, but the old problems do not necessarily disappear. Indigenous peoples still take whales and dolphins with harpoons; in some areas direct exploitation takes place side-by-side with degradation of habitat by modern petroleum and hydroelectric developments and development of crucial wetlands.

It is also becoming more difficult to identify and assess the problems in time to effect solutions. Industrial and agricultural development, especially, can operate to the detriment of cetaceans in subtle or hidden ways that often are recognized only after much damage has been done or after the momentum of development is so great that conservation of the mammals becomes impossible or impractical. Thus it is very important that the level of action addressing such problems increase now, because there will be even more and difficult problems to cope with in the future.

And, of course, there is the moral dilemma created by attempts to balance the short-term welfare and interests of specific human populations with the longer-term benefits of conserving species and ecosystems. Such considerations permeate nearly every problem of conservation of cetaceans. The policy of the Cetacean Specialist Group (CSG) on such conflict is that of IUCN, i.e., to promote rational utilization

and management on a sustainable basis, recognizing that decisions about the relative importance to be given to wildlife conservation and short-term human welfare must rest with national peoples and governments. These goals are also embodied in the UNEP Global Plan of Action for Marine Mammals (FAO/IUCN/IWC/UNEP 1985, Nielsen 1986). There is much correspondence between the two plans. Our main concerns in the CSG are to identify the most critical and immediate conservation problems and help prevent extinction of species and populations wherever such efforts are possible and welcomed.

## Direct Exploitation

To date, the main danger faced by the great whales has been overhunting. Whaling in the last hundred years has greatly reduced the populations of most species. Most whaling is now regulated through the IWC, with the stated management goal of sustainable exploitation. However, as explained lucidly by Holt (1986), it has been extremely difficult to determine what is sustainable, and modern exploitation in practice has seriously overshot sustainable levels in many cases and resulted in further depletion of the whale stocks. An IWC-mandated moratorium on commercial whaling is in effect until at least 1990, to provide an interval during which better ways of assessing the whale populations and the impacts of whaling can be developed and overexploited whale stocks can be given a chance to recover. It is to be expected that large-scale commercial whaling will recommence at some point; the resources are too extensive and valuable to escape systematic exploitation for long. In point of fact, substantial "research whaling" that could be construed as thinly disguised commercial whaling by some nations has continued during the supposed moratorium.

This action plan focuses on the small cetaceans, which also are exploited directly. Much of the take is for subsistence. Subsistence hunting can also deplete a population; for example, as noted below in the section on status of populations, several white whale stocks in Canada have been severely depleted by native hunters; other exploited populations of white whales in the USSR and populations of narwhals and harbor porpoise in Canada and Greenland are of unknown status. While the takes from such populations are for subsistence by indigenous hunters, growing human populations and the increasing use of modern technology (for example, rifles)





Incidental kills in tuna purse seines have reduced the population of the eastern spinner dolphin (a morphologically distinct race of *Senella longirostris* endemic to the eastern Pacific) to less than half its original size. (Photo by J. A. Thompson, courtesy of Nu Venture Films)

have caused some hunts to exceed the long-standing levels of indigenous harvests in some regions. In other small-cetacean fisheries for subsistence, recent takes have fluctuated around levels that have existed for very long periods of time, for example in the Faroe Islands, where catches of pilot whales comparable to current catches have occurred cyclically over the last 500 years or more (Joensen and Zachariassen 1982, Hoydal 1986). In even these cases, however, downward trends in abundance could be masked by changes in fishing methods and intensity, and a long history of exploitation cannot be assumed to indicate necessarily that no problem exists.

Most of the remaining commercial directed fisheries for small cetaceans are operated out of Japan (IWC 1987b). Small whaling vessels equipped with harpoon guns take short-finned pilot whales from local stocks and Baird's beaked whales; smaller boats take Dall's porpoise, pilot whales, and dolphins of several species with hand harpoons; and drive fisheries annually capture thousands of dolphins and small whales, mainly striped dolphins, spotted dolphins, bottlenose dolphins, common dolphins, pilot whales, and false killer whales (Anon. 1987). Some of these takes are large enough to lead to concern about possible depletion of populations (see section on status of species and populations). It is possible that the demand for small-cetacean meat in Japan may increase as the supplies of whale meat decline because of the moratorium on commercial exploitation of the great whales. Such an increased demand would increase the pressure on the populations of dolphins, porpoise, and small whales.

A special category of directed fishery that is unsettling in its implications is that in which incidental take becomes transformed into a directed fishery. This has happened in Peru (Gaskin et al. 1987), where some incidental catch of dolphins and porpoises in coastal gillnet fisheries for sciaenids and sharks has been known to occur since at least the 1960s (Mitchell 1975); the meat was sold locally for human consumption. In the 1970s, unfavorable oceanographic conditions combined with overfishing to drive the Peruvian stocks of anchoveta to near extinction. The anchoveta fishery was at the time the largest fishery in the world, and its collapse put thousands of fishermen out of work. It now appears that many of these fishermen shifted to using gillnets to hunt dolphins, in particular *Lagenorhynchus obscurus*, exploiting the market created previously by the sale of dolphins caught incidentally in other fisheries. The catch of dolphins in the directed fishery may now exceed 10,000 in some years and may be sufficient to endanger the population(s). By-catches of dolphins and porpoises occur in hundreds of gillnet and purse-seine fisheries around the world (discussed below); the meat is marketed in many regions. The Peruvian example suggests that economic dislocations could well cause the fishermen to shift from smaller accidental to larger directed takes imperiling the cetacean populations. The likelihood is increased by the fact that such shifts are most likely to happen in the least developed and most impoverished and isolated parts of the world and thus often escape notice and regulation.

Even very small directed catches can be significant if the species or population is already depleted. For example, river dolphins are still hunted (illegally) in India, Pakistan, and Nepal (Perrin and Brownell 1989), where the remaining populations are either critically endangered or rapidly declining toward that condition. In such cases the catches, although small, are obviously significant.

## Incidental Catch in Fisheries

By far the largest takes of cetaceans today are by-catches. For example, in 1986 the international fleet of tuna seiners in the eastern tropical Pacific killed an estimated 129,000 dolphins, primarily *Stenella attenuata*, *Stenella longirostris*, and *Delphinus delphis* (Allen 1985, Hall and Boyer 1987), and gillnet fisheries for salmon and squid operated by several nations in the North Pacific may have killed as many as 16,000 Dall's porpoise annually in recent years (Dolan 1987). In both these cases the incidentally caught mammals are not utilized but rather thrown back into the sea. There are many other gillnet fisheries around the world that take small cetaceans (and some great whales) incidentally. In the developed nations, the by-catch is usually discarded or retained for scientific analysis only (for example in California—DeMaster et al. 1985, Barlow 1987); in less prosperous nations the catch is usually marketed locally for human consumption (for example, in Sri Lanka, where as many as 42,000 dolphins and small whales, mainly *Stenella longirostris*, *Stenella coeruleoalba*, *Stenella attenuata*, *Tursiops truncatus*, and *Grampus griseus*, are taken annually in gillnets as by-catch and marketed—Alling 1985). As noted above, such incidental catches can easily become directed catches. Fisheries that take or could take cetaceans incidentally are listed and briefly described in an excellent recent worldwide review of interactions between marine mammals and fisheries commissioned by FAO (Northridge 1984).

The impacts of the incidental catches on the populations are unknown in nearly all cases. In the case of the largest known kills, in the tuna fishery in the eastern tropical Pacific, there is little doubt that some of the dolphin populations have declined. However, debate continues about the extent of the declines and whether or not the populations are continuing to decline (Smith 1983, Buckland and Anganuzzi 1987, IWC 1988). Current assessment efforts for that fishery are concentrating on detection of population trends rather than on estimating absolute abundance and degree of depletion. Many of the catches in other fisheries are large enough that they may be non-sustainable; such fisheries must be considered to be dangerous to the well-being of populations until they are shown not to be. As in the case of directed takes, even small incidental takes can be dangerous to a severely depleted species or population. An example is the baiji in the Yangtze River (Perrin and Brownell 1989), which is accidentally snagged in small but significant numbers on bottom long lines set for fish.



Bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and other dolphins and small whales are taken incidentally in gillnet fisheries around Sri Lanka. (Photograph by S. Leatherwood)

## Competition and Culls

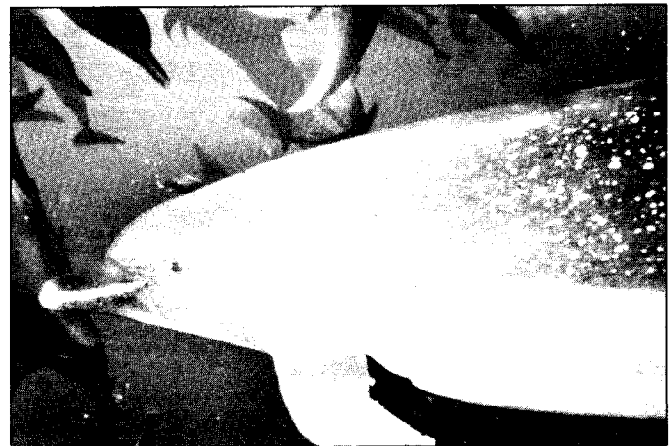
There are at least two situations in which cetaceans have been suspected of competing with fishermen for prey and have, therefore, been systematically culled on a large scale (IUCN 1981). In Norway, coastal killer whales were thought to be preventing recovery of an important stock of herring (*Clupea harengus*), so at least 327 whales were culled during the period 1978-1980 (IWC 1980, 1981, 1982). At Iki Island, Japan, fishermen became convinced in the 1960s that dolphins and small whales were eating, damaging, or scaring away most of the yellowtail (*Seriola* sp.) and squid on which the local fishery depended, so a massive program of government-supported culls ensued. The peak years of the control program were 1976-1980, when 934, 1332, 1646, and 1819 small cetaceans were killed, respectively; the species involved were *Tursiops truncatus*, *Pseudorca crassidens*, *Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*, and *Grampus griseus* (Kasuya 1985).

In Norway, the action was taken based on a general perception of adverse impact by the cetaceans, rather than on quantitative assessments. A later modeling study was "unable to find any combination of initial size, growth rate, and predation rate of the local killer whale population which could allow a take of a few hundred whales per year to be justified as expediting the recovery of the herring" (IUCN 1981). In the case of Iki Island, the cetaceans were undeniably interfering with the operations of the fisheries (stealing catches and scaring away fish and squid), but as yet there is no scientific basis for supposing any significant dynamic interactions between cetacean and fish or squid populations; the falling catch-per-effort in the fisheries could well be caused by overfishing (IUCN 1981), a problem for many of the Japanese home-island fisheries. In any case, the culls in both Norway and Japan were precipitated by falling fish catches, and thus it is likely that, whether or not cetaceans really are competitors with man for fishery resources to a significant degree (and they could be), many more such perceived conflicts will arise as human populations increase and fishery resources decline.

## Habitat Loss and Degradation

Riverine habitats are highly vulnerable, and the great declines in many river dolphin populations can be attributed mainly to impingement by human activities other than hunting or fishing (Perrin and Brownell 1989). Construction of dams and barrages on the Indus River and its tributaries has divided the population of Indus river dolphins into many small fragments, some of which have disappeared, perhaps because of disruption of their food supplies (Khan and Niazi 1989). The same thing is happening to the Ganges river dolphin in Nepal (Shrestha 1989) and India (Mohan 1989) and may happen to the boto in Brazil if planned developments proceed (Best and da Silva 1989). Dams and other water impoundments along the Yangtze River may have affected the supplies of fish that sustain the baiji, of which probably less than 400 remain (Chen and Hua 1989). Another detrimental factor is the substantial and growing boat traffic on the rivers in developing nations that support populations of dolphins; for example, several baiji are thought to die annually in collisions with vessels on the Yangtze. Rivers are also extremely vulnerable to pollution by industrial effluent and agricultural runoff. Pollution is thought to be a major problem for the Ganges river dolphin in India (Mohan 1989).

Coastal marine habitats as well as riverine habitats can be damaged by development and pollution, and populations of the cetaceans that are found only in shallow coastal waters or must migrate through them (e.g., *Sousa chinensis*, *Sousa teuszii*, *Neophocaena phocaenoides*, *Orcaella brevirostris*, *Eschrichtius robustus*, *Balaena mysticetus*, *Eubalaena* spp., *Megaptera novaeangliae*) can be put at risk by this degradation. For example, if petroleum exploration and development were to be allowed in the breeding lagoons of the gray whale in Mexico, the single remaining viable population of the species could be endangered. Even the high seas are not immune; plastic debris (including lost, or "ghost" fishing nets) may be responsible for the continuing decline of the Pribilof Islands fur seal herd (Fowler 1985) and could be entangling or otherwise affecting cetaceans as well.



The pantropical spotted dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*) is captured incidentally in tuna purse seines in large numbers in the eastern tropical Pacific. (Photo by W. High, courtesy of U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service)

# Status of the Species and Populations

## The Species

The cetacean species considered by the IUCN to be threatened are included in the Red List (IUCN 1988) under several categories:

**Endangered:** In danger of extinction, survival unlikely if causal factors continue operating. Includes taxa whose numbers have been reduced to a critical level or whose habitats have been so drastically reduced that they are deemed to be in immediate danger of extinction. Also included are taxa that are possibly already extinct but have definitely been seen in the wild in the past 50 years.

**Vulnerable:** Taxa believed likely to move into the Endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating. Included are taxa of which most or all of the populations are decreasing because of overexploitation, extensive destruction of habitat or other environmental disturbance; taxa with populations that have been seriously depleted and whose ultimate security has not yet been assured and taxa with populations that are still abundant but are under threat from severe adverse factors throughout their range.

**Insufficiently Known:** Taxa that are suspected but not definitely known to belong to any of the above categories, because of lack of information.

There are three additional available categories not currently applied to any cetacean species:

**Rare:** Taxa with small world populations that are not at present Endangered or Vulnerable but are at risk. These taxa are usually localized within restricted geographical areas or habitats or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range.

**Indeterminate:** Taxa known to be Endangered, Vulnerable, or Rare, but where there is not enough information to say which of the three categories is appropriate.

**Out of Danger:** Taxa formerly included in one of the above categories, but which are now considered relatively secure because effective conservation measures have been taken or the previous threat to their survival has been removed.

In addition to the standard categories, the additional category of Not Threatened\* has been developed for cetaceans (M. Klinowska, in litt.). These are taxa not at present sufficiently threatened to be included in one of the above categories but which are likely to qualify if the causal factors continue operating.

The Red List (IUCN 1988) status for each threatened cetacean species is given in Table 2; the non-threatened species are listed in Table 3. Summary accounts of status of all the species will be given in a new Red Data Book under development (M. Klinowska, in litt.); the status of some species is under review, and their classifications may change.

## Populations at Risk for Non-threatened Species

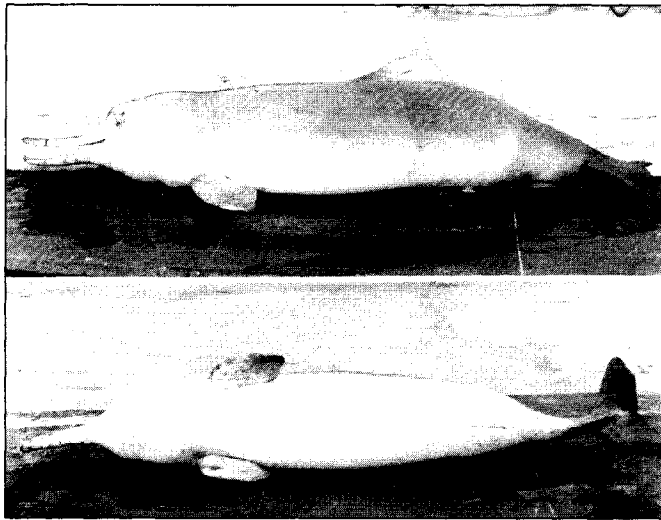
For many cetacean species that are not threatened with extinction or likely to be (Red List categories Endangered, Vulnerable, or Insufficiently Known), one or more populations are extinct, severely depleted, or currently under heavy pressure. For example, the striped dolphin inhabits warm-temperate and tropical waters around the world and is in no danger of extinction as a species, but the population that passes annually through the coastal waters of Japan has probably been overexploited in recent years and may have declined (IWC 1983a, Kasuya 1985). This action plan includes consideration of such threatened populations as well as entire threatened species. The inclusion of populations for the small cetaceans in the following summary list of populations at risk is conservative, i.e., if a population has been considered in recent years to be at least possibly at risk, it is included. For the whales that have been managed in the IWC (indicated with asterisk), all management units classified as Protection Stocks are included, with the exception of the stocks of *Caperea marginata*, for which there is no evidence of significant present or past exploitation (IWC 1987a). The list is, of course, provisional, as many situations involving directed or incidental exploitation of cetaceans are dynamic and volatile. It is certainly not comprehensive; new cases needing attention will continue to come to light.

*Phocoena spinipinnis*—Populations in Peruvian coastal waters (Gaskin et al. 1987)

*Neophocaena phocaenoides*—Yangtze and Chinese coastal populations (Wang 1984b)

*Phocoenoides dalli*—Western-central North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Japanese coastal populations (IWC 1984, Jones et al. 1987, Breiwick 1987, Miyashita and Kasuya 1987)

*Sousa chinensis*—All populations (of unknown but probably small size and highly susceptible to habitat degradation, e.g., in South African waters—Ross et al. 1987)



The baiji, or Yangtze river dolphin (*Lipotes vexillifer*), is the most endangered cetacean; only about 300 remain. (Photo by Zhou Kaiya)

Table 2. List of threatened cetacean species (IUCN 1988).

**Endangered**

<i>Platanista minor</i>	Indus river dolphin
<i>Lipotes vexillifer</i>	baiji, Yangtze river dolphin
<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	blue whale
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	humpback whale
<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	bowhead
<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	northern right whale

**Vulnerable**

<i>Platanista gangetica</i>	Ganges river dolphin, Ganges susu
<i>Inia geoffrensis</i>	boto, Amazon river dolphin
<i>Phocoena sinus</i>	vaquita
<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	northern bottlenose whale
<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	southern right whale
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	fin whale

**Insufficiently Known**

<i>Pontoporia blainvillei</i>	franciscana, La Plata dolphin
<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i>	Irrawaddy dolphin
<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	white whale, beluga
<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	narwhal
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	harbor porpoise
<i>Cephalorhynchus</i> spp.	(4)

Table 3. List of non-threatened species. See text for explanation of Not Threatened\* category.

**Not Threatened\***

<i>Phocoena spinipinnis</i>	Burmeister's porpoise
<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides</i>	finless porpoise
<i>Australophocaena dioptrica</i>	spectacled porpoise
<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>	Dall's porpoise
<i>Sousa chinensis</i>	Indopacific hump-backed dolphin
<i>Sousa teuszii</i>	Atlantic hump-backed dolphin
<i>Sotalia fluviatilis</i>	tucuxi
<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>	dusky dolphin
<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	Peale's dolphin
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	bottlenose dolphin
<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	panropical spotted dolphin
<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	spinner dolphin
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	striped dolphin
<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	gray whale

**Not Threatened**

<i>Steno bredanensis</i>	rough-toothed dolphin
<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	white-beaked dolphin
<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	Atlantic white-sided dolphin
<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>	Pacific white-sided dolphin
<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>	hourglass dolphin
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Risso's dolphin
<i>Stenella frontalis</i>	Atlantic spotted dolphin
<i>Stenella clymene</i>	clymene dolphin
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	common dolphin
<i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i>	Fraser's dolphin
<i>Lissodelphis borealis</i>	northern right whale dolphin
<i>Lissodelphis peronii</i>	southern right whale dolphin
<i>Peponocephala electra</i>	melon-headed whale
<i>Feresa attenuata</i>	pygmy killer whale
<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	false killer whale
<i>Orcinus orca</i>	killer whale
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	long-finned pilot whale
<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>	short-finned pilot whale
<i>Tasmacetus shepherdi</i>	Shepherd's beaked whale
<i>Berardius bairdii</i>	Baird's beaked whale
<i>Berardius arnuxii</i>	Arnoux's beaked whale
<i>Mesoplodon</i> spp.	(12)
<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	Cuvier's beaked whale
<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>	southern bottlenose whale
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	sperm whale
<i>Kogia breviceps</i>	pygmy sperm whale
<i>Kogia simus</i>	dwarf sperm whale
<i>Caperea marginata</i>	pygmy right whale
<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	sei whale
<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>	Bryde's whale
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	minke whale

- Sousa teuszii*—All populations (small and highly susceptible to habitat encroachment—Maigret 1980)
- Sotalia fluviatilis*—Riverine populations in Brazil (da Silva and Best 1984)
- Lagenorhynchus obscurus*—Peruvian population (Gaskin et al. 1987)
- Lagenorhynchus australis*—Population in waters of Chile (Cardenas et al. 1987) and Argentina (Goodall and Cameron 1980)
- Grampus griseus*—Populations in the Indian Ocean, e.g., off Sri Lanka (Alling 1985, Kruse et al. 1987)
- Stenella attenuata*—“Northern offshore stock” in eastern tropical Pacific (Smith 1983, Buckland and Anganuzzi 1987, IWC 1988), populations in coastal waters of Indian Ocean (Alling 1985, Kruse et al. 1987)
- Stenella longirostris*—“eastern stock” and “northern white-belly stock” in eastern tropical Pacific (Smith 1983, Buckland and Anganuzzi 1987, IWC 1988), populations in coastal waters of Indian Ocean, e.g., off Sri Lanka (Alling 1985)
- Stenella coeruleoalba*—Population passing through waters of Japan during annual migration (IWC 1983a), populations in the Indian Ocean (Alling 1985, Kruse et al. 1987)
- Delphinus delphis*—Black Sea population (IWC 1983a), northeastern Mediterranean population(s) (Aguilar 1986), coastal populations in eastern tropical Pacific (Hall and Boyer 1987, Buckland and Anganuzzi 1987)
- Globicephala melas*—North Atlantic population(s) (exploited at Faroes, but status unknown—IWC 1987b)
- Globicephala macrorhynchus*—Population in northern Japanese waters (IWC 1987b)
- Berardius bairdii*—Western Pacific population(s) (exploited but status unknown—IWC 1986)
- Physeter macrocephalus*\*—North Pacific stock (western division) (Note: the status of this and other stocks around the world has been the subject of much scientific controversy within the IWC; e.g., see IWC 1983b).
- Eschrichtius robustus*\*—Western [Pacific] stock
- Balaenoptera acutorostrata*\*—Sea of Japan/Yellow Sea/East China Sea stock, West Greenland stock, West Norway/Faroe Islands stock
- Balaenoptera borealis*\*—All southern hemisphere stocks, all North Pacific stocks, Nova Scotia stock
- Balaenoptera edeni*\*—East China Sea stock

# Recommended Conservation Action

## Specific Projects and Actions

The following is a list of projects that the Cetacean Specialist Group believes should have priority for initiation or assistance. The brief explanatory comments are only meant to introduce the projects; fuller proposals or more details can be obtained from members of the Group (Appendix 1) or from research entities, governmental agencies, or conservation organizations in the region involved (Appendix 2). In many cases the cost estimates are rough initial approximations only—no detailed budgets have yet been compiled—but full proposals are being prepared and will be available on request.

There is an emphasis in these projects on regional, national, and local planning and participation in research and conservation activism; this is of course necessary if conservation and management of cetaceans is ever to be carried out on a continuing basis in the developing nations where most of the problems of survival of species and populations occur.

Several projects are of the very highest priority, clearly relating to risk of imminent extinction of species or populations. These are indicated with asterisks (\*).

### North America

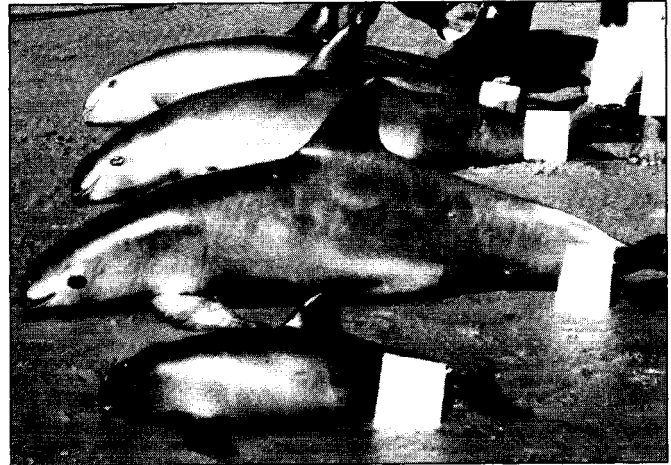
#### 1. \*Monitor incidental catches of vaquita in Gulf of California, Mexico \$20,000

The vaquita, or Gulf of California harbor porpoise, *Phocoena sinus*, is endemic to the upper Gulf of California. Large numbers have been killed in gillnet fisheries, and the species' status is uncertain; it is rare and thought to be vulnerable because of its limited range (Barlow 1986). A census survey is in progress (in 1987), but field surveys and monitoring are needed to determine the rates of incidental kill in all gillnet fisheries within the range. A report on the problem will be submitted to the Mexican government, with recommendations for fishery management actions and an educational program to increase lay awareness of the uniqueness of this endemic Mexican species and the threats to its survival. The cost estimate is for one year of fieldwork and data collation and preparation of the report.

### South America

#### 2. \*Reduce illegal use of small cetaceans for crab bait in South America \$50,000

Several thousand dolphins and porpoises are harpooned annually for use as bait in the Chilean crab fishery, along with fur



The vaquita, or Gulf of California harbor porpoise (*Phocoena sinus*), has the most limited distribution of any cetacean species, being limited to the upper Gulf of California. Incidental takes in gillnets set for sharks and fish are a threat to the species. (Photo by A. Robles)

seals, sea lions, penguins, guanacos, and other wildlife (Leatherwood et al. 1984, Cárdenas et al. 1986, 1987). The abundance of at least one dolphin, *Cephalorhynchus commersonii*, may have been drastically reduced. Other species involved are *Lagenorhynchus australis*, *L. obscurus*, *Cephalorhynchus eutropia*, and *Phocoena spinipinnis*. Only 4 of 26 crab companies operating in the Magallanes area provide bait to the crab fishermen, and even in those cases the amount supplied is grossly inadequate. The crab fishery is expanding rapidly and now extends to the area south of the Beagle Channel, which is being fished extremely heavily at present. The multimillion-dollar catch is exported to the U.S.A., Germany, France, Holland, Belgium (a re-exporter), Japan, and Italy. The fishery operates freely in an illegal mode because of isolation of the area and non-enforcement of national laws. Funds are needed to develop national and international information campaigns to inform the citizenry, environmental organizations, and the governments of the importing nations of the illegal nature and the serious environmental effects of the crab fishery. Support is also needed for the development of cetacean research projects in the area that involve the authorities, universities, NGOs, and liaison with similar programs and governmental agencies in Argentina, so as to establish a strong scientific presence in the region to foster local awareness of the importance of resource conservation and observance of wildlife laws. This program will also provide training for local and

national researchers. Emphasis in the research will be on collection of more definitive statistics on bait usage, on survey of the marine mammal populations affected and on development of alternative sources of bait.

### **3. Continue work on fishery interactions and direct exploitation in Peru** **\$20,000**

A survey conducted in 1984-1986 showed that a wide variety of small cetaceans is taken incidentally in gillnets and deliberately in seines and by harpoon and landed at several fishing ports in Peru for human consumption (Gaskin et al. 1987). The major species involved are *Lagenorhynchus obscurus*, *Phocoena spinipinnis*, *Delphinus delphis*, *Tursiops truncatus*, and a pilot whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus* or *G. melas*). More than 500 small cetaceans were landed at one small port during a period of about 200 days, and the total catch may approach 10,000 in some years. The impacts of this on the cetacean populations are unknown; the numbers taken of *L. obscurus* in particular is of concern. The official catch statistics presently collected are accurate, but do not break the catch down by species or number. Further funding is needed to produce training materials and conduct training sessions in species identification and the collection of dolphin-fishing effort data for the fishery officials who monitor the catches at the major ports. Planning should also begin for research to assess the status of the population(s) of *L. obscurus* and to address the possible need for regulation of the directed fishery for that species. Collection of biological samples from carcasses landed at several ports should continue, to provide baseline data which could be used to detect changes in reproductive parameters, body condition, or feeding habits related to exploitation and/or large-scale environmental changes such as occurred during the recent major El Niño event. The cost estimate is for the training program and for one year of continued sampling of the landings.

### **4. Conduct survey of coastal fishery interactions in Brazil** **\$30,000**

Small cetaceans are killed incidentally in gillnets and seines and harpooned in many places along the central and northern coasts of Brazil (unpublished information from Fundação Brasileira Para a Conservação da Natureza). They are used for shark bait, for human consumption, and as a source of "love charms." *Sotalia fluviatilis* is known to be taken (Anon. 1985), but the degree of involvement of other species and the size of the kill are unknown. Preliminary data exist on the incidental kill and direct take of *Tursiops truncatus*, *Sotalia fluviatilis*, and *Pontoporia blainvillei* in southern Brazil (Anon. 1985, Praderi et al. in press), but more precise information is needed, particularly for the first two species. Preliminary surveys to identify landing ports and collect data on the size and species composition of the catches in northern and central Brazil are badly needed, and the survey work begun in southern Brazil should be expanded to collect additional data on species composition, size, seasonality, value, and utilization of the catches. The surveys would best be conducted in three parts: 1) northern Brazil from Belem to Salvador (Bahia) (major ports are Belem, São Luis, Parnaíba, Fortaleza, Natal, João Pessoa, Recife, Maceio, and Sergipe), 2) central Brazil from

Salvador to São Paulo (Salvador, Ilheus, Vitoria, Macae, Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, and other, smaller ports), and 3) southern Brazil (Paranaguá, São Francisco do Sul, Itajaí, Florianópolis, Laguna, and Tôrres). The southern effort should be coupled with northward expansion of the existing stranding salvage program at Rio Grande do Sul. This project would coordinate with an existing WWF-funded project by FBCN-GMA to monitor incidental catches of *Pontoporia blainvillei* in the Rio de Janeiro region and a national marine mammal stranding/salvage network presently being organized.

### **5. Continue monitoring of incidental kill of franciscanas in Uruguay** **\$15,000**

The incidental take of *Pontoporia blainvillei* in Uruguayan coastal fisheries has been well documented and is presently at a relatively low level (Praderi et al. 1989), but the situation needs monitoring on a continuing basis because of possible changes in operations or intensity of the shark gillnet fishery. In addition, the incidental catch should be monitored closely to detect any changes in age or sex composition, or in reproductive parameters. The ecological relationships between the dolphins and the exploited fishes and sharks should also be examined, as well as the mechanics of the incidental kill and possible solutions. Data should also be collected on other dolphins taken in the fishery. This project would coordinate with an existing similar effort in Brazil (Project 4 above). Funds are needed for field subsistence, supplies, and equipment, for purchase of incidentally killed dolphins, and for extraction of fishery statistics.

### **6. Improve statistics on fishery interactions in Argentina** **\$20,000**

At least several hundred franciscanas, *Pontoporia blainvillei*, and unknown numbers of dolphins of other species are killed annually in gillnet fisheries in northern Argentina, but the data for several important ports are lacking or incomplete (Pérez Macri and Crespo 1989). Along the central coast, *Globicephala melas* and *Tursiops truncatus* are known to be taken in trawl nets (Bastida and Lichtschein 1986), but the available data are fragmentary. In southern Argentina, *Cephalorhynchus commersonii*, *Phocoena spinipinnis*, and *Lagenorhynchus australis* are taken incidentally in crab nets and harpooned for crab bait (Goodall and Cameron 1980, Anon. 1985). The collection of kill statistics in both areas needs to be expanded and regularized and the impacts on the populations of small cetaceans assessed. This would most efficiently be done by division of the coastline into zones corresponding to the major fishery areas: 1) the coast north of Buenos Aires, 2) the Buenos Aires region, 3) northern Patagonia, and 4) southern Patagonia including Tierra del Fuego (where cetaceans are taken for crab-bait as in Chile (see Project 2 above); the subprograms would be based at universities and other institutions in the respective areas and would coordinate their activities closely. Funds are needed for an organizational meeting to develop a national research plan, for subsistence, for fuel and other supplies, and equipment for field work, and for collation and publication of data, technical reports, and reports to government agencies to recommend management actions.



**7. Assess right whale habitat in Argentina \$5,000**

The region surrounding the breeding habitat of the southern right whale, *Eubalaena australis*, near Peninsula Valdes in Argentina is undergoing rapid industrial development (Bastida et al. 1985). Commercial fishing in the area is increasing, and exploration for petroleum is likely to occur in the near future. An evaluation of the necessary extent of a breeding sanctuary and the probable impacts of the new developments is badly needed. The report of this evaluation will go to the Argentine agency responsible for establishment and management of wildlife reserves and to the agencies responsible for petroleum development.

**8. Promote regional plan to coordinate research on franciscana in Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina \$5,000**

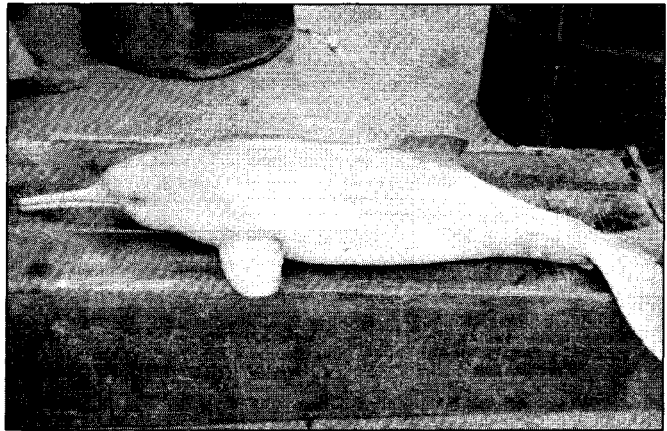
The franciscanas involved in gillnet fisheries in Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina may belong to a single large population or may consist of two or more populations (Perrin and Brownell 1989). There may be seasonal north-south migrations. Investigators in government agencies and other institutions in the three countries should meet to draft a cooperative plan for coordinated research, to maximize the cost efficiency of the research and to give attention to possible cross-boundary migration and fishery effects.

**9. Design survey to estimate population size of franciscana \$10,000**

There is no estimate of abundance and it is not known how many populations exist. The probable incidental gillnet kill of tens of thousands over the last 30 years may have had a significant impact on the population(s) (Praderi et al. 1989). Key researchers in Uruguay, Brazil, and Argentina should consult to select a survey method and site, and a pilot survey to establish feasibility and lay a basis for estimating overall costs should begin as soon as possible. This should be coupled with stranding surveys to determine seasonal changes in total range. Following the pilot survey, plans should be developed for a larger-scale comprehensive survey perhaps involving the territories and resources of more than one nation. The results of the survey, in combination with improved estimates of incidental kill (see 4, 5, and 6 above) will form the basis for recommendations for management action. The cost estimate is for the initial consultations, the pilot survey and the subsequent development of the overall survey plan.

**10. Monitor incidental kill of dolphins in Amazon fisheries in Brazil \$25,000**

Both *Inia geoffrensis* and *Sotalia fluviatilis* are killed incidentally in fisheries on the Amazon and its tributaries, and dolphin parts enter trade for use as love charms (Best and da Silva 1989). Statistics collected to date are fragmentary. A minimum two-year pilot program to collect comprehensive data on incidental kills should be designed and started. The project should be headquartered at INPA in Manaus, where the previous work has been done, and utilize field surveys at all of the significant fishing ports on the river. The field program should include collection of specimens and data from carcasses for studies of the reproductive capacity of the populations. At the end of two years, the results should be evaluated to determine if monitoring must continue on a permanent basis.



The franciscana (*Pontoporia blainvillei*) is one of the smallest cetaceans; adults may be less than 1.3 m long and weigh less than 30 kg. (Photo by R. Praderi)

**11. Promote establishment of river dolphin conservation areas in Brazil \$15,000**

Development of the Amazon basin is proceeding rapidly, and riverbank deforestation, construction of hydroelectric dams, commercial fishing, and other activities are leading to massive degradation and loss of habitat essential to populations of river dolphins and other components of the riverine fauna such as manatees, crocodiles, turtles, endemic fishes, and aquatic birds (Best and da Silva 1989). While there is still time, areas of prime aquatic habitat containing large numbers of river dolphins should be identified and be given protection as conservation areas in which the perturbing and destructive activities are prohibited or their impacts substantially minimized. The first step will be to prepare an inventory and prioritization of habitat areas. Some field survey may be required. The inventory and recommendations for designation and management of habitat reserve areas will be submitted to the appropriate Brazilian agencies and will be published for broader dissemination.

**12. Promote legislation to fully protect river dolphins in Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela \$5,000**

River dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis*) are explicitly protected in Brazil and Bolivia but have no protection, only partial protection, or are of uncertain status in the other countries including parts of the basins of the Amazon and Orinoco (Atkins 1989). A thorough inventory of existing wildlife protection laws and regulations in these countries and an analysis of the adequacy of these legal measures given the known threats to river dolphins is needed, so that detailed recommendations and justifications can be prepared and given to the appropriate government agencies.

**13. Promote enforcement of existing laws protecting river dolphins in South America \$8,000**

Existing laws fully protect river dolphins in Brazil and Bolivia, and the dolphins are partially or implicitly protected by wildlife laws in Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela (Atkins 1989). Enforcement of the relevant laws and regulations is not adequate because of shortages of resources, including patrol boats, enforcement agents, and field posts. Direct funding is

required to recruit and train enforcement agents, purchase or refurbish patrol boats, construct or purchase field facilities, and provision field patrols. The first step would be to request information and preproposals from the respective national wildlife agencies and to develop a logistical plan and comprehensive proposal; the cost estimate is for this initial phase.

**14. Establish dialogue on river dolphin conservation and management among Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Bolivia** **\$10,000**

The river basins that comprise dolphin habitat extend to all of these countries, and in some cases it is clear that dolphin populations are likely also shared (Best and da Silva 1989). The goal in consultations and discussion among the countries should be to develop coordinated regional approaches to conservation of the riverine habitats and faunas. The first step would be a consultative meeting of scientists working with river dolphins in South America and representatives of the national wildlife and development agencies. The immediate goal would be to establish an ad hoc regional liaison committee and draft lists of concerns and recommendations. Possible umbrellas for this include the IUCN and the Treaty for Amazonian Cooperation, to which all of the nations involved are parties. Possible national cooperating groups are listed in Appendix 2.

## Europe

**15. Assess status of common dolphin in western Mediterranean** **\$20,000**

The western Mediterranean population of *Delphinus delphis* seems to have declined precipitously in recent years. Museum records show that the common dolphin was an abundant species in the northern basin up to the early 1970s, but it has since become extremely rare. Since 1978, there have been no strandings in northern Spain or in northern Italy, and only 7 of 238 cetaceans stranded on the Mediterranean coast of France were of this species (Aguilar 1986). The species continues to be abundant in the southern basin (Duguay et al. 1983). The cause of the apparent decline is unknown, but possible causes include pollution, overfishing of food resources, unregulated direct exploitation in Spain and indirect catches (known to exist but of unknown size) in Spain, France, and Italy. It has also been suggested that the common dolphin has been replaced by an expanding population of the striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*). Aerial and/or boat surveys are needed to determine present distribution, estimate density, and examine possible interaction and overlapping of distributions of the two species. Likely sources of mortality should be identified more clearly, and, if possible, quantified. Questions of stock identity (especially between Mediterranean and Atlantic populations) should be investigated by means of tagging studies using artificial or natural marks and biochemical approaches. Because the common dolphin and striped dolphin have been confused in the past (e.g., Richard 1936), a thorough review of existing data and specimens in Spain, Portugal, France, and Italy should be carried out. If human-related causes are implicated in change in abundance of the dolphin, appropriate recommendations for feasible action will be submitted to the governments of the nations bordering the western

Mediterranean. The cost estimate is for field and laboratory work to examine density, distribution, and stock identity off Spain and in the Strait of Gibraltar, evaluation of the magnitude of direct catches off southern Spain, and review of all existing material.

## Africa

**16. Assess populations of bottlenose dolphins in Natal, South Africa** **\$10,000/year for 3 years**

Anti-shark nets off bathing beaches may have removed as much as 30-34% of the local population of bottlenose dolphins (the long-beaked "aduncus" form of *Tursiops truncatus*) off southern Natal during the period 1980-1985 (Ross et al. 1987). The Indo-Pacific humpbacked dolphin, *Sousa chinensis*, is also involved. Aerial surveys have not proved effective because of water turbidity. A census based on individual-animal recognition is needed urgently, to allow assessment of the status of the population and estimate impact of the nets with more confidence.

**17. Review incidental kills and direct exploitation of small cetaceans in West Africa** **\$40,000**

There is a long history of subsistence take and incidental kill of small cetaceans in coastal fisheries of several West African nations (Cadenat 1959, Maigret 1980, 1981), but there has been no survey of the fisheries since the widespread introduction of monofilament gillnets. Large pelagic trawlers fishing the continental shelf also capture some small cetaceans. The species involved include *Delphinus delphis*, *Tursiops truncatus*, *Stenella attenuata*, *Stenella longirostris*, *Stenella frontalis*, *Stenella clymene*, *Steno bredanensis*, *Sousa teuszii*, *Kogia* sp., and possibly others. The nations known to be involved are Mauritania, Senegal, and the Ivory Coast; others likely have similar coastal fisheries and catches of cetaceans. A preliminary survey of the coastal fisheries in all of the West African nations is badly needed. This would be carried out in close collaboration with the respective national fishery services, which routinely collect fishery data through local contacts and agents. Funds are needed to commission the collection of additional information by the national agencies and to support an investigator to visit the nations involved and to collate and report the findings. The products will include reports to the appropriate governmental agencies of nations where potentially significant fishery interactions are identified, with recommendations for management action.

## Asia and Australasia

**18. Estimate catches and status of populations of dolphins in Taiwan** **\$14,000**

*Tursiops truncatus* and dolphins of other species are captured in a drive fishery and other fisheries in Taiwan and sold for human consumption within the country (Wang 1984a). The bottlenose dolphins are of the long-beaked tropical "aduncus" variety of the species (see Ross 1984). At present the catches are not monitored, and the distribution, size, and status of the dolphin populations are unknown. A catch monitoring and sampling program needs to be established, and research to assess the bottlenose dolphin population should begin. The

cost estimate is for first-year costs of the catch-monitoring program only. Four years of research on samples collected from the fishery would cost approximately \$40,000. The cost of aerial or ship surveys to census the population would depend on the survey platform chosen and the geographical extent of the surveys but would likely be less than \$100,000. Should this pilot study reveal a likely significant level of fishery take, the products will include recommendations to the Government of Taiwan for a broader investigation and/or management action.

#### 19. Monitor incidental gillnet catches in Sri Lanka

**\$25,000**

Many thousands of dolphins die annually in coastal gillnet fisheries in Sri Lanka (Alling 1985). The primary species are *Stenella longirostris*, *Stenella coeruleoalba*, *Stenella attenuata*, and *Grampus griseus*. A preliminary survey of the principal ports has been carried out; the need now is for a network of observers to monitor the catches on a continuing basis, so that seasonal and regional variation can be accounted for in estimating total catches and in later assessment of the dolphin populations and the impacts of the catches. An ultimate goal of the program will be to develop recommendations for management actions such as seasonal or area closures to minimize the fishery impacts on the cetacean populations. Funds are needed to train village people to collect data in fisheries in their areas, to set up a system to gather the information in a central location, and to analyze the data and publish the results.

#### 20. Monitor incidental gillnet catches in India \$20,000

Large numbers of dolphins are killed in Indian coastal gillnet fisheries (Mohan 1985). The meat is consumed locally. *Stenella longirostris* and *Tursiops truncatus* are the principal species. The size and status of the populations are unknown. The Central Marine Fisheries Institute in Calicut has recently established a system for collection of data on incidental catches, using personnel already sampling the fish catches. The monitoring centers are at Veraval, Bombay, Goa, Mangalore, Calicut, Cochin, Trivandrum, the Cape, Mandapam Camp, Madras, Kakinada, Waltair, Puri, and Calcutta. The monitoring centers will also collect information on stranded cetaceans, including evidence of fishery involvement. Incidental catches, strandings, and sightings will be used to determine ranges of the species and populations in Indian waters. Funds are needed to train the samplers in cetacean identification and determination of sex, length, and reproductive condition, and to support collation and analysis of the data and publication of the results, including possible recommendations for management actions to ameliorate identified critical problems.

#### 21. Examine status of dwarf spinner dolphin in Thailand

**\$5,000**

A dwarf form of *Stenella longirostris* has recently been discovered in the Gulf of Thailand (Perrin et al. 1987b). The range of the population may be limited and total abundance small. Carcasses are unloaded by fishing vessels at Bangkok and sold locally for human consumption. It is not known if these are captured intentionally or incidentally, nor are the size or the exact location of the catches known. Funds are needed for



Bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) are captured for human consumption in coastal waters of Taiwan. (Photo by N. C. H. Lo)

locally-based monitoring of the landings and for research into their source. Should the levels of incidental take prove potentially significant, a broader program of research to estimate the fishery impact and develop management recommendations will be designed.

#### 22.\* Census populations of Ganges river dolphin in India

**\$30,000**

No complete census of river dolphins, *Platanista gangetica*, has been carried out in India. It is thought that populations there are declining rapidly, primarily due to habitat degradation (Mohan 1989), and it is very important that a baseline census be carried out so that trends can be monitored. It is especially important that the Brahmaputra River be surveyed in detail. Efforts will be made to standardize survey techniques with those used in other censuses of the species in Bangladesh and Nepal, so that results can be combined and compared. Funds are needed for training, support, and transportation of census personnel, and for hire of river vessels. The results of these studies and those of similar census efforts proposed for other parts of the range of the species (Projects 26 and 27) will feed into the initiatives to establish reserves (Projects 24 and 28) and develop regional approaches to assessment and conservation of the species (Projects 30 and 31).

**23. Develop alternative to use of dolphin oil as fish lure in India \$10,000**

The directed fishery for the Ganges river dolphin in India can be slowed or stopped if an inexpensive and readily available substitute can be found for the dolphin oil used by fishermen to lure catfish into their nets (Mohan 1989). Biochemical analysis is needed to determine the active principle in the oil, and technological research is needed to test alternate substances in laboratory and field conditions.

**24. Promote establishment of dolphin sanctuaries in the Brahmaputra River in India \$4,000**

Ganges river dolphin habitat is rapidly being degraded in India (Mohan 1989). Field surveys are needed to identify and inventory relatively intact stretches of prime habitat along the Brahmaputra River. The areas must be prioritized, and reports and recommendations directed to the agencies responsible for establishment of parks and reserves. This project would be carried out in conjunction with Project 22 above, the survey of population sizes. The cost estimate is for the preparation and publication of reports.

**25. Investigate effects of dams on Ganges river dolphin in India \$10,000**

Draw-down of rivers, in particular, is thought to have had serious adverse effects on dolphin habitat and population size (Mohan 1989). More impoundments and control projects are planned. Funding is needed to support field research on existing dams, impact assessment studies for planned dams and preparation of recommendations to governmental planning and development agencies.

**26.\* Census populations of Ganges river dolphin in Bangladesh \$10,000**

As in India, abundance of river dolphins in Bangladesh seems to be declining sharply (Aminul Haque in litt.) and the populations have not been adequately surveyed. Action is needed quickly to establish baseline population estimates. Funds are needed for training, support, and transportation of field personnel and for hire of river vessels.

**27.\* Census populations of Ganges river dolphin in Nepal \$10,000**

The two river systems surveyed to date contain less than 50 dolphins (Shrestha 1989). Census surveys should be carried out on all of the rivers in Nepal containing or suspected to contain dolphins, and the populations should be monitored on a regular basis. Funds are needed for transportation and for hire of survey vessels.

**28.\* Inventory river dolphin habitat in Nepal and promote establishment of sanctuaries \$4,000**

Dolphin habitat in Nepal is different from that in India and Pakistan, involving deeper, clearer water and swifter currents, and is rapidly diminishing due primarily to hydroelectric development (Shrestha 1989). The ecological characteristics of the dolphin habitat in the Karnali River (where a high dam is planned to be constructed in the near future) should be fully described and the likely future impacts of flood, drought, and oversilting evaluated. The information gained should be used to inventory prime areas of dolphin habitat throughout Nepal

and identify those that are in danger from planned development and those that are the best candidates for dolphin sanctuaries. Funds are needed for field survey and preparation of reports and recommendations.

**29. Reduce medicinal use of dolphin oil in Nepal \$2,000**

Dolphins are netted by Nepalese fishermen and marketed for their oil, which is used as a remedy for a wide variety of diseases (Shrestha 1989). Support is needed for educational posters and lectures in the villages to inform local people of the endangered status of the dolphin and to suggest alternative and more efficacious medications.

**30. Establish regional river dolphin research committee \$5,000**

A regional research committee with members from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan should be formed and meet in a central location to discuss research plans, standardize methods, and evaluate results. As this committee would be international, the IUCN or WWF would be suitable parent organizations. Funds would be required for transportation to committee meetings; the cost estimate is for the initial organizational meeting.

**31. Establish IUCN river dolphin project \$20,000**

Focal centers of research on the Ganges river dolphin and its ecosystem should be established at major universities on the Ganges/Brahmaputra River systems. These would include Gauhati University on the Brahmaputra and Benares University on the Ganges in India, Chittagong University on the Karnaphuli and Mymensingh University on the Ganges in Bangladesh, Tribhuvan University in Nepal, and Thimphu University in Bhutan. Initial steps would include correspondence with professors to acquaint them with the important research and conservation problems that must be addressed for this species and placement of books, reports, and reprints in university libraries. Attempts would be made to initiate projects on reproductive biology and behavior, ecology, population dynamics and movements, in addition to the higher-priority projects identified in the action plan. Funds would be solicited and activities coordinated under an umbrella River Dolphin Project similar to the highly successful Tiger Project. The cost estimate is for the first two years of operation, including purchase and posting of reference materials and several very small "seed-money" research stipends. A heavy emphasis would be placed on developing recommendations to governments for conservation and management actions. The project could also serve as a base of coordination for the regional research review committee (Project 30 above).

**32.\* Reverse decline of Indus river dolphin in Punjab \$83,000**

Only about 500 Indus dolphins remain (Khan and Niazi in press). Most of these (over 400) are in the dolphin reserve between the Guddu and Sukkur barrages in the Sind, where they are well protected. The situation in the Pakistan Punjab is critical; only 62-72 survive in the thousands of km of habitat above the Guddu Barrage in the Punjab in four isolated and unprotected populations, and monitoring surveys indicate that these populations are declining rapidly. Other populations



Several gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) become entangled in coastal gillnets and die each year during seasonal migrations along the California coast. (Photo by S. Leatherwood)

known to have existed in the past in the region have disappeared. Field research is urgently needed to determine and quantify the cause(s) of mortality and to project the future course of the populations. It is likely that the establishment of one or more reserves and enforcement of legal bans on hunting by the governments of Pakistan and the Punjab will be needed if the species is not to become extinct in the Punjab and its overall range in Pakistan to shrink to a very small portion of its original size. In addition to bans on killing dolphins, a prohibition is needed on possession, sale, or purchase of dolphin meat, oil, or bones. Funding is needed for survey of potential reserve areas, preparation of reports and recommendations, hiring and training of enforcement agents, boats and vehicles for research and patrol, field subsistence, and education of the villagers. The budget estimate is for a two-year program.

**33. Expand research on Indus river dolphin in Sind, Pakistan \$30,000**

In addition to continuing regular population censuses, research in Sind should concentrate on obtaining quantitative estimates of calf production and mortality and on determining limiting habitat parameters and precisely mapping and monitoring existing utilized and vacant habitat along the full length of the river. It is critical that it be determined whether the population is indeed increasing and what the future trend will likely be, so the recommendations can be made to the Sind Government for further management actions if necessary. Funding is needed for salaries, field surveys, equipment, supplies, laboratory work, and preparation of reports.

**34.\* Reduce kill of baiji in Yangtze River \$100,000**

Despite legal protection, significant numbers of dolphins are killed incidentally in fisheries and accidentally by vessels and by explosions during river bank construction (Chen and Hua 1989). Every effort must be made to eliminate or reduce the use of the "rolling hook" fishing gear in the regions of high dolphin density and to develop procedures to ensure that dolphins are absent or removed from the area before high explosives are used in construction on the river. Regulations concerning vessel traffic in existing and proposed reserves must be enforced. At present, resources available to enforce existing legal protection are not adequate. Funding is needed for a patrol vessel for enforcing regulations in the reserves and elsewhere along the river.

**35.\* Complete baseline studies for baiji reserve at Shi Shou, China \$35,000**

Before dolphins can be placed in the proposed semi-natural reserve at Shi Shou, studies must be carried out on the probable effects of high-dam construction upriver, levels of contaminants in the water, bottom sediments and food fish, and seasonal changes in the quantity and nutritive quality of naturally occurring food fish. Funds are needed for hydrologic analyses, field surveys, and laboratory analyses.

**36.\* Continue monitoring baiji population \$20,000/year**

Only a few hundred baiji remain; it is the most endangered cetacean (Chen and Hua 1989). At present, resources are not available to continue the population monitoring that began in

1985 and 1986. It is critical that the monitoring continue, so that the trajectory of the population can be estimated, the effects of existing protection measures assessed and additional measures recommended. The survey lasts several weeks and requires the charter of small fishing vessels as well as the use of research vessels.

**37.\* Determine movements and population structure of baiji \$63,000**

The extent of movement of individual dolphins along the Yangtze is not known (Perrin and Brownell 1989). This information is vital to population survey design and evaluation of results and to determine the degree of isolation of groups or subpopulations along the several thousand km of river. The results will be critical to evaluation of the effectiveness of existing and proposed reserves. Studies should begin immediately to monitor movements; possible techniques include use of conventional tags, radio-tracking, and compilation of a catalog of individuals using natural marks. Funding is needed for consultation with researchers experienced in studying dolphin movements, for photographic equipment and film, for radiotags, and for logistical support of field research, including charter of several fishing vessels for capture operations.

**38. Survey the status of cetaceans in Chinese waters \$35,000**

Very little is known about the marine cetacean fauna of China (Wang 1984a and b). A survey of coastal regions and fishing ports to determine the species present and document any involvement with fisheries is badly needed. A network of coastally located scientists, fishery officials, and other interested officials should be established to collect data on strandings and fishery catches. Creation of such a network will require availability of a Chinese-language guide to identification of cetaceans; such a guide does not exist and must be written and published. The cost estimate is for preparation of a guide, the initial establishment of the network and preparation of an interim report on fishery interactions to the appropriate governmental agencies.

**39. Convene workshop to assess small cetaceans exploited by Japan \$16,000**

Several small cetaceans may be seriously over-exploited in the western Pacific. In 1988, Japan took over 33,000 Dall's porpoise in harpoon fisheries. This is clearly unsustainable if the current estimate of the total population (of the two or more stocks involved) of about 110,000 is correct (IWC 1989). Concern has also been expressed about increased takes of Baird's beaked whales and pilot whales. The small-cetacean meat is being substituted for large-whale meat in commerce as the Japanese access to the great whales declines. The small cetaceans are not managed by the IWC. Although national quotas have been set by Japan for beaked whales and pilot whales, these may be too high, and the Dall's porpoise take has been largely unregulated. A workshop meeting involving international small-cetacean experts and experts in whale assessment and management is needed, to assemble and review the existing data, to identify and plan needed research to achieve adequate assessments, and to formulate recommendations for interim management.

**40. Assess and reduce incidental kill of Hector's dolphin in New Zealand \$20,000**

Hector's dolphin, *Cephalorhynchus hectori*, is endemic to New Zealand coastal waters. A survey of distribution and abundance in 1984-1985 indicated a total population of only 3,000-4,000 (Dawson and Slooten 1989 and in press). Entanglement in gillnets (commercial and recreational) may be a threat to continued existence of the species; in an area for which data were collected, 10-15% of the population is estimated to be killed in nets annually (Slooten and Dawson 1989 and in press). Better data are needed on kill rate and population size. Funds are also needed to develop management strategies (e.g., net modifications and/or fishing regulations).

**Non-regional**

**41.\* Convene workshop on gillnets and cetaceans**

**\$40,000**

Many of the emerging problems of cetacean conservation involve coastal and pelagic gillnet fisheries. An international workshop meeting of national fishery experts and cetologists is needed to focus research and management efforts to define and ameliorate these problems. Emphases will be to identify gillnet fisheries that impact cetaceans, to design programs to collect adequate statistics on incidental kill and to discuss possible ways to reduce the incidental kills through technological research and innovative management. It will be especially important to involve participants from the developing nations that are placing high priority on coastal and offshore fishery development. Nations in which incidental kill in gillnets likely occurs but for which there is almost no information include Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines, the Malagasy Republic, Papua New Guinea, Surinam, Brazil, Argentina, the French Antilles, Venezuela, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, the Somali Republic, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Kampuchea, Vietnam, and many others. Participants should also be included from the nations where research and management programs have been developed to address the problem, such as the U.S., Japan, Canada, and Australia.

**42. Resolve taxonomy and distribution of the humpbacked dolphins, *Sousa* spp. \$8,000-10,000**

Two species, the Indo-Pacific humpbacked dolphin, *S. chinensis*, and the Atlantic humpbacked dolphin, *S. teuszii*, are currently recognized by most cetologists (Ross 1984), although some recognize a third, *S. plumbeus* (e.g., Zhou et al. 1980), or even a fourth, *S. lentiginosa*, and a fifth, *S. borneensis* (e.g., Pilleri and Gahr 1980). All are restricted to shallow coastal waters. Recent research indicates that it is possible that only a single species exists, with very greatly differentiated regional populations that differ in average coloration, size, shape, and skull characters (Ross 1984). These populations are presumably morphologically adapted to local ecological conditions. Because of the vulnerability of the local populations of these small coastal cetaceans to habitat degradation and direct and indirect exploitation, it is extremely important that the species structure of the group be critically examined, the regional populations identified and their ranges delineated.

The problem is especially urgent in West Africa, where local populations may consist of less than 100 individuals (Maigret 1980). The undertaking will involve as a first phase the comprehensive examination of museum specimens, available photographs, and published and unpublished locality records. The cost of this first phase will depend on where the investigators are located. A second phase may include several field surveys to establish limits of distribution and delineate habitats (not included in cost estimate).

A third phase would include assessment of the status of the populations most at risk and development of recommendations for national management actions.

**43.\* Promote increased consideration of river faunas in internationally funded development \$20,000**

Planning for the protection of river dolphins and the associated aquatic fauna should be an integral part of regional planning for the entire river system or basin (Perrin and Brownell 1989). In this planning, consideration of the dolphins should be part of a broad attempt to accommodate the needs of wildlife, fisheries, and economic development. International funding agencies should be informed of the vulnerable position of the river dolphins and be requested to use appropriate guidelines in environmental assessments. Funding is needed to commission preparation (through correspondence) of detailed draft guidelines to be recommended to the organizations, such as the World Bank, multinational corporations, and international joint ventures, presently engaged in or planning developments in major tropical river basins. These guidelines would not be meant to substitute for expert on-site consulting, but would serve to alert the planners to the issues.

**44. Review effects of disturbance on coastal and riverine cetaceans \$18,000**

Rapidly increasing vessel traffic, mining, and petroleum developments and fishery activities are impinging progressively on the habitats of riverine and coastal dolphins, porpoises, and whales. Noise, physical intrusion, sea bottom destruction, and overall habitat alteration are the consequences of these developments. Their effects on behavior and migrations have been investigated for large whales, especially in relation to petroleum resource developments (Geraci and St. Aubin 1980, Stirling and Calvert 1983, Sorensen et al. 1984), but nearly nothing is known of effects on small cetaceans. Research indicates that reaction of cetaceans to specific human activities varies according to the species, type, and intensity of human activity, feeding habits of the species studied, and possibly other factors (Sorensen et al. 1984, Watkins 1986). Funding is needed to commission a review of existing knowledge on both small and large cetaceans and to organize a workshop meeting of experts (about 50 people for 5 days, in Europe) to identify cetaceans populations most likely to be affected and to draw up and prioritize recommendations for research.

**45. Conduct workshop on population-census methods for coastal and riverine dolphins \$25,000**

Census methods for oceanic cetaceans are well-advanced; the line transect method is in wide use and yields accurate and adequately precise estimates for management. However, the line transect method is not entirely suitable or practicable for

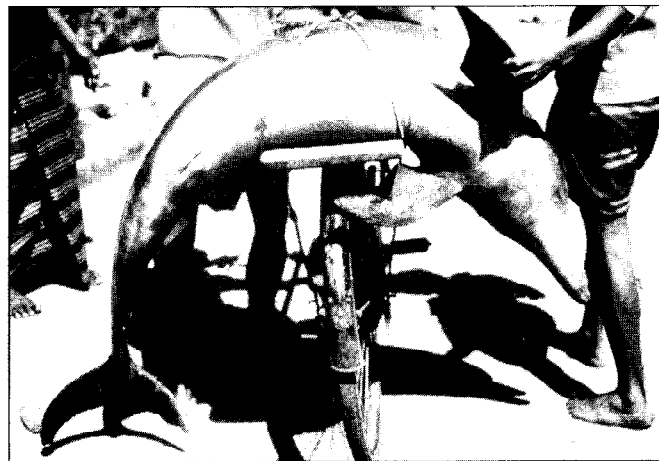
dolphins in a nearshore habitat or in a river, and none of the other methods in use are fully satisfactory either (Perrin and Brownell 1989). A workshop meeting is needed to compare and critique the methods presently in use and develop improved approaches. It is very important that survey methods be improved and standardized so that the results of the several survey efforts proposed or in the offing be reliable and comparable.

## Other Issues and Projects to be Monitored

Many national and international agencies and organizations are actively endeavoring to conserve and manage cetaceans. In some cases these efforts are successful; in others the outcome is still uncertain. In some situations of obvious potential for overexploitation, research to assess the populations is underway; in some other situations, there is no apparent immediate or long-term risk of extinction of populations under present circumstances. IUCN's strong support for the internationally agreed moratorium on commercial whaling (that theoretically took effect in 1986), has been made clear in its statements to the annual International Whaling Commission meetings over the last several years. IUCN regrets that even now the moratorium has not been completely implemented. Some issues, such as what should constitute whaling under scientific permit issued by parties to the International Convention on Whaling, are under intensive debate and may or may not be resolved during the term of this Action Plan. In addition to attempting to launch or assist the specific projects recommended above, the Cetacean Specialist Group will monitor these issues and situations and, if necessary, add projects to the Plan in line with developments. The Group endorses the research ongoing in relation to these issues and believes that it should continue. The list that follows is not exhaustive; items will be added as they come to the attention of the Group. Background information on nearly all of these topics can be found in Report of the International Whaling Commission, Volumes 30-38 (1980-1988).

### North America and Greenland

1. Status of white whales exploited by native peoples in Alaska, Canada, and Greenland.
2. Status of white whales exploited in the USSR.
3. Status of narwhals exploited by native peoples in Canada and Greenland.
4. Incidental kill of harbor porpoise in the Bay of Fundy, Canada.
5. Entrapment of large whales in fishing gear in eastern Canada.
6. Incidental kill of harbor porpoise, pilot whales, and gray whales in gillnets in California.
7. Incidental kill of Dall's porpoise in Japanese salmon gillnet fisheries in the North Pacific.



Dolphins killed in gillnets off Sri Lanka are marketed locally for human consumption. (Photograph by A. Alling, courtesy of World Wide Fund for Nature)

8. Incidental kill of cetaceans in squid and tuna gillnet fisheries of Japan, Taiwan, and Republic of Korea in the central North Pacific.
9. Population trends in dolphins killed incidentally in tuna purse-seine fisheries of the U.S., Mexico, and other nations in the eastern tropical Pacific.
10. Conservation of gray whale breeding habitat in Mexico.
11. Exploitation of harbor porpoise in Greenland.
12. Status of the bowhead population exploited by native peoples in Alaska and Greenland.
13. Status of the bowhead whale in eastern Canada and Greenland.
14. Population identity of humpback whales in the North Pacific and North Atlantic.
15. Status of right whales in the western North Atlantic.

### South America

16. Protection of spinner dolphin habitat at Fernando de Noronha Island off Brazil.
17. Status of the right whale in the western South Atlantic.

### Europe

18. Status of the northern bottlenose whale.
19. Incidental kill of harbor porpoise in gillnets in the eastern North Atlantic.
20. Exploitation of pilot whales at the Faroe Islands.
21. Status of the harbor porpoise in the North Sea and Baltic Sea.
22. Status of the dolphin and porpoise fishery and the exploited populations in the Black Sea.



23. Pollutant levels in dolphin populations of the western Mediterranean.

#### Africa

24. Recovery of right whales in the eastern South Atlantic.

25. Recovery of humpback whales off East Africa and stock identity in the Indian Ocean.

26. Incidental kill of small cetaceans in tuna purse-seine fisheries in the eastern tropical Atlantic.

#### Asia

27. Status of dolphins and small whales exploited in drive and harpoon fisheries in Japan, including dolphin culls.

28. Status of Baird's beaked whales off Japan.

29. Incidental kill of small cetaceans in Japanese coastal fisheries.

30. Status of the finless porpoise in the Sea of Japan.

31. Conservation of river dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) habitat in Indonesia.

32. Monitoring of Indus river dolphin population in Sind, Pakistan.

33. Construction of baiji reserve at Tongling, China.

#### Australasia

34. Incidental kill of dolphins in gillnet fisheries off Australia.

#### Worldwide

35. Whaling by IWC members under scientific permit.

36. Reporting of by-catches of small cetaceans by IWC members and their dependencies.

37. Local subsistence fisheries (e.g., Solomon Islands, Lesser Antilles, St Helena, Indonesia, Indian offshore islands, Senegal).

38. Interactions between recovering populations of protected whale species and fisheries, including direct conflicts and competition.

39. Effects of pollution on cetaceans.



Harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) killed in herring gillnets and other fishing gear in the eastern North Atlantic are usually discarded rather than utilized. (Photo by J. M. Coe)

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## Appendix 1. Members of the Cetacean Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission

- Alex Aguilar  
Department of Zoology  
Faculty of Biology  
University of Barcelona  
Barcelona 087071, Spain
- Moh'd Amour Al Barwani  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Directorate General of Fisheries  
P.O. Box 467, Muscat, Oman
- A. K. M. Aminul Haque  
Bangladesh Agricultural University  
Mymensingh, Bangladesh
- John L. Bannister  
Western Australian Museum  
Francis Street  
Perth, Australia 6000
- Jay Barlow  
Southwest Fisheries Center  
P.O. Box 271  
La Jolla, California 92038  
U.S.A.
- Peter B. Best  
Whale Unit  
Marine Mammal Institute  
University of Pretoria  
c/o South African Museum  
P.O. Box 61  
8000 Cape Town, South Africa
- Peter J. H. van Bree  
Institute of Taxonomic Zoology  
University of Amsterdam  
36 Plantage Kerklaan  
1018 CZ Amsterdam  
Netherlands
- Robert L. Brownell, Jr.  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 70  
San Simeon, California 93452  
U.S.A.
- Douglas G. Chapman  
Center for Quantitative Science  
HR-20  
University of Washington  
3737 15th Ave. N.E.  
Seattle, Washington 98195  
U.S.A.
- Chen Peixun  
Institute of Hydrobiology  
Academia Sinica  
Wuhan, Hubei  
People's Republic of China
- Ivar Christensen  
Institute of Marine Research  
P.O. Box 1870-72  
5000 Bergen, Norway
- Anne Collet  
Oceanographic Museum of La Rochelle  
Port des Minimes  
17000 La Rochelle, France
- Justin G. Cooke  
Center for Long Term Ecosystem Management  
Moos  
7809 Winden im Elztal, 1  
Federal Republic of Germany
- Enrique A. Crespo  
Centro Nacional Patagonico  
28 de Julio 28  
9120 Puerto Madryn  
Chubut, Argentina
- Luis Fleischer  
Centro de Investigaciones Pesqueras  
Km 1, Carretera Pichilingue  
La Paz, B.C.S., Mexico
- Ray Gambell  
International Whaling Commission  
The Red House, Station Road  
Histon, Cambridge CB4 4NP  
United Kingdom
- David E. Gaskin  
Department of Zoology  
College of Biological Science  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1  
Canada
- R. N. P. Goodall  
Sarmiento 44  
9410 Ushuaia  
Tierra del Fuego, Argentina
- John E. Heyning  
Section of Birds and Mammals  
Los Angeles County Museum  
900 Exposition Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90007, U.S.A.
- Toshio Kasuya  
Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory  
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-shi  
Shizuoka-ken 424, Japan
- Khan Mohammad Khan  
Sind Wildlife Management Board  
Stratchen Road  
Karachi-1, Pakistan
- Margaret Klinowska  
Physiological Laboratory  
Cambridge University  
Downing Street  
Cambridge CB2 3EG  
United Kingdom
- J. Stephen Leatherwood  
Sea World Research Institute  
1700 South Shores Road  
San Diego, California 92109  
U.S.A.
- Helene Marsh  
Department of Zoology  
School of Biological Sciences  
James Cook University of North Queensland  
Townsville Q 4811  
Australia
- Alec D. McCall  
Tiburón Laboratory  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
3150 Paradise Dr.  
Tiburón, California 94920  
U.S.A.
- James G. Mead  
Division of Mammals  
U.S. National Museum of Natural History  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D.C. 20560  
U.S.A.
- Edward D. Mitchell, Jr.  
Arctic Biological Station  
P.O. Box 400  
Ste Anne de Bellevue  
Quebec H9X 3L6, Canada
- R. S. Lal Mohan  
Regional Centre of Coastal Marine Fisheries Research Institute  
West Hill, P.O. Calicut  
673 005, India
- Mohammad Sadiq Niazi  
Government of Pakistan  
Marine Fisheries Department  
Fish Harbour, West Wharf  
Karachi, Pakistan
- Kenneth S. Norris  
Joseph M. Long Marine Laboratory  
Institute of Marine Sciences  
University of California  
Santa Cruz, California 95060  
U.S.A.
- Simon P. Northridge  
Marine Assessment Group  
Imperial College of Science and Technology  
48, Prince's Gardens  
London SW7 1LU  
United Kingdom
- Seiji Ohsumi  
Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory  
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-shi  
Shizuoka-ken 424, Japan
- William F. Perrin (Chairman)  
Southwest Fisheries Center  
P.O. Box 271  
La Jolla, California 92038  
U.S.A.
- Dale W. Rice  
National Marine Mammal Laboratory, NMFS  
7600 Sand Point Way, N.E.  
Seattle, Washington 98115  
U.S.A.
- Graham J. B. Ross  
Port Elizabeth Museum  
P.O. Box 13147  
Humewood, 6013  
Port Elizabeth, South Africa
- Tej Kumar Shrestha  
Zoology Instruction Committee  
Tribhuvan University  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Michael F. Tillman  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
NOAA, Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20235  
U.S.A.
- Hal Whitehead  
Newfoundland Institute for Cold Ocean Science  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
St. Johns, Newfoundland  
Canada A1B 3X7
- Alexey V. Yablokov  
Koltzoff Institute of Developmental Biology  
U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences  
Vavilov Street 26  
Moscow 117334, U.S.S.R.
- Zhou Kaiya  
Department of Biology  
Nanjing Normal University  
Nanjing, Jiang Su  
People's Republic of China

## Appendix 2. List of National Agencies, Research Institutions, and Conservation Organizations in Problem Areas <sup>1</sup>

### North America

1. Centro de Investigaciones Pesqueras  
Km 1, Carretera A  
Pichilingue  
La Paz, B.C.S., Mexico
2. Departamento de Biología Marina  
Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur  
Apartado Postal 219  
La Paz, B.C.S., Mexico
3. Departamento de Biología, Facultad de Ciencias  
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México  
Apdo. Postal 70-572  
04510 Mexico, D.F.  
Mexico
4. Laboratorio de Mastozoología  
Instituto de Biología—UNAM  
Apartado Postal 70-153  
Mexico 20, D.F., Mexico
5. Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas de Baja California, A. C.  
Jalisco y Madero  
Apdo. Postal 128  
23060 La Paz, B.C.S.  
Mexico
6. Unidad de Ciencias Marinas  
Universidad Autónoma de Baja California  
Apartado Postal 453  
Ensenada, BCN, Mexico
7. Escuela de Ciencias Marítimas y Alimentarias  
Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey—Unidad Guaymas  
Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico
8. Centro Regional de Investigaciones Pesqueras  
Instituto Nacional de la Pesca  
Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico

9. Sociedad Mexicana para el Estudio de los Mamíferos Marinos, A.C.  
c/o Gilberto Lopez Lira  
Apartado Postal 103-206  
Mexico 04800, Mexico

### South America

1. Sección de Mamíferos  
Instituto de Ciencias Naturales  
Museo de Historia Natural  
Universidad Nacional de Colombia  
Apdo. Aéreo 7495  
Bogotá, D.E., Colombia
2. División Fauna Terrestre, INDERENA  
Apdo. Aéreo 13458  
Bogotá, D.D., Colombia
3. Sociedad Colombiana de Ecología  
A.A. 24228  
Bogotá, D.E., Colombia
4. Centro de Investigaciones Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales  
Universidad de Antioquía  
A.A. 1226  
Medellín, Colombia
5. Museo del Mar  
Universidad de Bogotá  
Calle 23, No. 4-47  
Bogotá, Colombia
6. Instituto Oceanográfico  
Departamento de Biología Marina  
Universidad de Oriente  
Cumaná, Venezuela
7. Ministerio del Ambiente y de los Recursos Naturales Renovables (MARNR)  
Desarrollo Profesional y Rel. Int.  
Apartado 6623  
Caracas, Venezuela
8. Fundación para la Defensa de la Naturaleza (FUDENA)  
Apartado 70376  
Caracas 1071, Venezuela

9. Sociedad Venezolana de Ciencias Naturales  
Apartado 1521, Carmelitas  
Caracas 1010-A, Venezuela
10. Sociedad Conservacionista Audubon de Venezuela  
Apartado 80450  
Caracas, Venezuela
11. Asociación Nacional para la Defensa de la Naturaleza  
Qta. Masapo, Ave. Norte  
Alta Florida, Caracas 1050  
Venezuela
12. Fundación para la Educación Ambiental (EDUCAM)  
1ra Avenida, No. 203-102  
Campo Alegre Chacao  
Caracas, Venezuela
13. Instituto de Recursos Naturales Renovables  
Universidad Simón Bolívar  
Departamento Estudios Ambientales  
A.P. 80659  
Caracas, Venezuela
14. Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA)  
Departamento de Biología de Mamíferos Aquáticos  
Caixa Postal 478  
Cep: 69.000 Manaus  
Brazil
15. Instituto de Biologia, Sector de Ecologia  
Universidade Estadual do Rio de Janeiro  
Rua São Francisco Xavier 524  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
16. Laboratório de Mamíferos Marinhos  
Departamento de Oceanografia  
Fundação Universidade do Rio Grande (FURG)  
Caixa Postal 474,  
Cep: 96.200  
Rio Grande do Sul-RS  
Brazil

17. Fundação Brasileira para a Conservação da Natureza (FBCN)  
Rua Miranda Valverde 103  
Cep: 22.281  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
18. Divisão de Zoologia do Departamento de Biologia  
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina  
Caixa Postal 5132, Campus Universitário  
Cep: 88.000 Campo Grande-MS, Brazil
19. Instituto de Pesquisas da Marinha  
Arraial do Cabo  
Cep: 28.910 Rio de Janeiro  
Brazil
20. Instituto Oceanográfico  
Universidade de São Paulo  
CEP-05508 São Paulo  
Brazil
21. Companhia Energetica de São Paulo (CESP)  
Coordenador de Meio Ambiente e Recursos Naturais  
Av. Paulista, 2064-8o Andar  
01310-São Paulo-SP  
Brazil
22. Coordenadoria de Pesquisa de Recursos Naturais da Secretaria de Agricultura e Abastecimento de São Paulo  
Parque de Agua Branca  
C.P. 1322  
01000 São Paulo-SP, Brazil
23. Fundação Zoobotanica do Rio Grande do Sul  
C.P. 1188  
90.000 Porto Alegre-RS  
Brazil
24. Instituto Brasileiro de Desenvolvimento Florestal (IBDF)  
Departamento de Parques Nacionais e Reservas Equivalentes  
Palacio do Desenvolvimento  
SBN 13o Andar  
70.000 Brasília-DF, Brazil

<sup>1</sup>Relevant organizations not listed should contact the Chairman of the Cetacean Specialist Group, so that they may be included in future versions of this list.

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26. Associação Brasileira de Ecologia Av. Atlantica, 734 Apto. 1201 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
27. Associação de Defesa do Meio Ambiente C.P. 832 04531 São Paulo-SP, Brazil
28. Fundação Pro-Natureza (FUNATURA) SHIS-QI 07-CL Bloco B Sala 201 Lago Sul, 71.600 Brasília-DF, Brazil
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30. Depto Sistemática e Ecologia Universidade Federal da Pará CCEN-Campus Universitário 58.000-João Pessoa PB Brazil
31. Projeto Baleia Jubarte Convenio Ibama/Nema Rua José Hignio, 340/182 Tijuca-Rio de Janeiro RJ 20520, Brazil
32. Museo Nacional de História Natural de Montevideo C. Correo 399 Montevideo, Uruguay
33. Departamento Científico y Tecnológico Industria Lobera y Pesquera del Estado Rbla. Baltasar Brum s/n esq. Fco. Tajos Montevideo, Uruguay
34. Sociedad Uruguaya Cetológica Conchillas Colonia, Uruguay
35. Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina—Grupo Cetáceos Leandro N. Alem 968, Cep: 1001 Buenos Aires Argentina
36. Centro Austral de Investigaciones Científicas (CADIC) C. Correo 92 Cep: 9410 Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego Argentina
37. Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia" (MACN) Av. A. Gallardo 470, C. Correo 220 Cep: 1405 Buenos Aires Argentina
38. Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero (INIDEP) C. Correo 175 Cep: 7600 Mar del Plata Argentina
39. Centro Nacional Patagónico—CONICET 28 de Julio 28 9120 Puerto Madryn, Chubut Argentina
40. Movimiento Ecológico Argentino Callao 741 Buenos Aires, Argentina
41. Instituto di Biología Marina y Pesquera "Almirante Storni" c.c. 104-8520 San Antonio Oeste Rio Negro, Argentina
42. Greenpeace Argentina Junin 45 - 3. Piso 1026 Buenos Aires Argentina
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47. Fundación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (FPCN) Scipión Llona 181-7 Casilla 5396 Lima 18, Peru
48. Pro Defensa de la Naturaleza (PRODNA) Av. Nicolás de Piérola 742 of. 703 Edificio Internacional Lima, Peru
49. Centro de Investigación y Manejo de Mamíferos Marinos (CIMMA) c/o Instituto de Zoología Universidad Austral de Chile C. Correo 567 Valdivia, Chile
50. Comisión de Investigación en Recursos Marinos Comité Nacional pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora (CODEFF) C. Correo 3675 Santiago, Chile
51. Departamento de Oceanología Universidad de Concepción C. Correo 2407, Ap. 10 Concepción, Chile
52. Instituto de la Patagonia Casilla 102-D Punta Arenas, Chile
53. Fundación Ecuatoriana para el Estudio de Mamíferos Marinos Casilla Postal 6637 Guayaquil, Ecuador
54. Grupo Cetáceos Asociación de Ecología y Conservación Vanderghen 560 - 2A Lima 27, Peru
55. Instituto Antártico Chileno Luis Thayer Ojeda 814 Santiago de Chile, Chile
- Europe**
1. Cátedra de Zoología Facultad de Biología Universidad de Barcelona Barcelona 28, Spain
2. Instituto Español de Oceanografía Centro Oceanográfico de Fuengirola (Málaga) Puerto Pesquero, S/N Apartado no. 285 29640-Fuengirola (Málaga) Spain
3. Instituto Español de Oceanografía P.O. Box 130, La Coruña Spain
4. Departamento de Zoología Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas Universidad de Valencia Dr. Molina 50 Burjasot, Valencia, Spain
5. CIESM Working Group on Marine Mammals Institut Océanographique Avenue Saint-Martin Monaco-Ville MC 98000 Monaco
6. Centre National d'Etude des Mammifères Marins Port des Minimes 17000 La Rochelle, France
7. Université Paris VI, Station Zoologique F-06230 Villefranche-sur-Mer France
8. Laboratoire de Biologie Marine Université d'Aix-Marseille III rue HenriPoincaré 13397 Marseille Cedex 4 France
9. Instituto di Zoologia e di Anatomia Comparata Università di Messina 98100 Messina, Italy
10. WWF—Italy via Salaria 290 0199 Rome, Italy
11. Museo di Storia Naturale Corso Venezia 55 2021 Milano, Italy

12. Institute of Animal Biology  
Department of Ecology  
University of Padova  
Via Loredam 10  
35100 Padova, Italy
13. Tethys Research Institute  
Piazza Duce d'Aosta 4  
20124 Milano, Italy
14. Centro Studi Cetacei della  
Societa Italiana de  
Scienze Naturali  
Musco di Storia Naturale  
Corso Venezia 55  
2021 Milano, Italy
15. UNEP Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Leoforos Vassileos  
Konstantinou 48  
Athens 11635, Greece
- Africa**
1. Port Elizabeth Museum  
P.O. Box 13147  
6013 Humewood  
South Africa
2. Whale Unit  
Marine Mammal Institute  
University of Pretoria  
c/o South African Museum  
P.O. Box 61  
8000 Cape Town  
South Africa
3. Marine Mammal  
Laboratory  
Sea Fisheries Institute  
P.O. Box 251  
Cape Town, South Africa
4. Natal Sharks Board  
Private Bag 2  
Umhlanga Rocks  
Natal 4320, South Africa
5. Wildlife Society of  
Southern Africa  
P.O. Box 44189, Linden  
2104 South Africa
6. Oceanographic Research  
Institute  
P.O. Box 10712, Marine  
Parade  
4056 South Africa
7. Endangered Wildlife Trust  
Private Bag X 11,  
Parkview  
2122 South Africa
8. The Dolphin Action and  
Protection Group  
P.O. Box 22227  
Fish Hoek 7975  
South Africa
9. South African Nature  
Foundation  
P.O. Box 456  
Stellenbosch 7600  
South Africa
10. Centre des Recherches  
Océanographiques  
B.P. 2241, Dakar, Senegal
11. Laboratoire de Biologie  
General  
Univrsité Federal de  
Cameroun  
B.P. 812, Yaounde  
Cameroon
12. Centre National de  
Recherches  
Océanographiques et des  
Pêches de Mouadhibou  
B.P. 22, Mouadhibou  
Mauritania
13. Department of Game and  
Wildlife  
P.O. Box M239  
Ministry Post Office  
Accra, Ghana
14. Ministère de la Protection  
de la Nature et de  
l'Environnement  
Abidjan, Ivory Coast
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Foundation  
P.O. Box 467  
Lagos, Nigeria
16. Departement de  
l'Environnement,  
Conservation de la  
Nature et Tourisme  
B.P. 868  
Kinshasa 1, Zaire
17. UNEP Regional Seas  
Programme  
Ocean and Coastal Areas  
Programme Activity  
Centre  
P.O. Box 30552  
Nairobi, Kenya
- Asia**
1. UNEP/Asia and the Pacific  
The United Nations  
Building  
Rajadamnern Avenue  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand
2. Wildlife Fund Thailand  
255 Soi Asoke  
Sukhumvit 21  
Bangkok 10110, Thailand
3. Institute of Hydrobiology  
Academia Sinica  
Luojiashan, Wuhan, Hubei  
People's Republic of China
4. Department of Biology  
Nanjing Normal University  
Nanjing, Jiang Su  
People's Republic of China
5. Division of Natural  
Conservation  
National Environmental  
Protection Agency  
Baiwanzhuang, Beijing  
People's Republic of China
6. Department of Biology  
Shandong College of  
Oceanology  
Qingdao  
People's Republic of China
7. Bureau of Fisheries  
Management  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Animal Husbandry,  
and Fisheries  
31 Ming Feng Lane, Xidan  
Beijing  
People's Republic of China
8. Marine Fisheries Research  
Institute  
Dalian, Liaoning  
People's Republic of China
9. Department of Biology  
Fudan University  
Shanghai  
People's Republic of China
10. Graduate School of  
Fisheries  
National Taiwan College  
of Marine Science and  
Technology  
Keelung, Taiwan
11. Institute of Zoology  
Academia Sinica  
Nankang, Taipei, Taiwan
12. Marine Science Laboratory  
Chinese University of  
Hong Kong  
Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong
13. Far Seas Fisheries  
Research Institute  
5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu-shi  
Shizuoka-ken 424, Japan
14. Ocean Research Institute  
University of Tokyo  
1-15-1 Minamidai,  
Nakano-ko  
Tokyo 164, Japan
15. National Science Museum  
3-23-1 Hyakunin-cho,  
Shinjuku-ku  
Tokyo 160, Japan
16. Department of Environment  
Conservation  
Ehime University  
3-5-7 Tarumi  
Matsuyama 790, Japan
17. Institute of Cetacean  
Research  
Tokyo Suisan Bldg. 4-18  
Toyomi-Cho, Chuo-Ku  
Tokyo 104, Japan
18. Sind Wildlife Management  
Board  
Stratchen Road  
Karachi-1, Pakistan
19. World Wildlife Fund—  
Pakistan  
P.O. Box 1312  
Lahore, Pakistan
20. Punjab Wildlife  
Department  
2 Sanda Road  
Lahore, Pakistan
21. Marine Fisheries  
Department  
Fish Harbour, West Wharf  
Karachi, Pakistan
22. National Council for  
Conservation of Wildlife  
485, Street 84  
G-6/4 Islamabad, Pakistan
23. Government of Pakistan  
Zoological Survey  
Department  
Block No. 61, Pakistan  
Sectt.  
Shahrah-e-Iraq  
Karachi, Pakistan



24. Research Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) Calicut 673005, Kerala India
25. Department of Zoology University College Santinivas, Nanthencode Trivandrum 3, Kerala India
26. Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology Annamalai University, Porto Novo Tamil Nadu, India
27. Fisheries College Tuticorin—628 008, India
28. Department of Zoology University College Trivandrum 1, Kerala India
29. Department of Environment, Forests and Wildlife Bikaner House Shahjahan Road New Delhi 110 011, India
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31. Himalayan Natural History Society Kannar Bldg., Village Bangti Engineghar Banjauli Shimla, H.P. 171 006 India
32. Centre of Wildlife and Ornithology Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh 202 001, India
33. National Museum of Natural History Barakhamba Road New Delhi, India
34. Centre for Environmental Education Nehru Foundation for Development Thaltej Tekra Ahmedabad 380 054, India
35. Zoological Survey of India 34 Chittaranjan Avenue Calcutta 700 012, India
36. Department of Zoology Gauhati University Gauhati 781 014 Assam India
37. Department of Biological Sciences North East Hill University Shillong 793 001 Meghalaya India
38. Ministry of Environment Paryavaran Bhawan, C.G.T. Complex Lodi Road New Delhi 110 003, India
39. Deori Gharial Rearing Centre National Chambal Sanctuary P.O. Box 11 Morena 476 001 M.P. India
40. Similipal Tiger Reserve Khairi - Jashipur Orissa 757 091, India
41. Wildlife Institute of India F.R.I. Campus P.O. New Forest Dehra Dun 248 006 U.P., India
42. Marine Biological Station Zoological Survey of India 100, Santhome High Road Madras 600 028, India
43. Crocodile Research Centre of the Wildlife Institute of India 19-4-319 Lake Dale, Bahadurpura Post Hyderabad 500 264, A.P. India
44. Salim Ali School of Ecology Pondicherry University 3, Rue Vicomte de Souillac Pondicherry 605 001, India
45. Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology Annamalai University Parangipettai 608 502 India
46. Center for Research on Indian Ocean Marine Mammals National Aquatic Resources Agency Crow Island, Mattak Kullya Colombo 15, Sri Lanka
47. Faculty of Fisheries Bangladesh Agricultural University Mymensingh, Bangladesh
48. National Parks Board Department of Environment and Conservation P.O. Box 6601 Boroko, N.C.D., Papua New Guinea
49. Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management (PH and PA) Director General Jalan Ir H. Juanda 9 Bogor, Indonesia
50. Brunei Museum Attn: The Director of Museums Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports Kota Batu Bandar Seri Begawan Brunei Darussalam (via Singapore)
51. Wildlife and National Parks Komplek Pejabat-Pejabat Kerajaan Block k-19, Jalan Duta Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
52. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Malaysia 8th Floor, Wisma Damansara Jalan Semantan P.O. Box 19769 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
53. Ecological Society of the Philippines c/o 53 Tamarind Road Forbes Park Makati, Metro Manila Philippines
54. International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) MCC P.O. Box 1501 Makati, Metro Manila Philippines
55. Tribhuvan University Kirtipur, Kathmandu Nepal
56. Ministry of Agriculture Singh Durbar Kathmandu, Nepal

#### Australasia

1. Marine Mammal Section M.A.F., Fisheries Research Division P.O. Box 297 Wellington, New Zealand
2. Cetos Research 81 Valley Road Christchurch 2 New Zealand
3. National Museum of New Zealand Private Bag, Wellington New Zealand
4. Marine Mammal Investigation Conservation Sciences Center 58 Tory Street, P.O. Box 10-420 Wellington, New Zealand

### Appendix 3. Progress Report

Progress in 1988-89 has not been as great as it should have been, given the urgency of many of the recommended actions, but some headway has been made. Funding (in all cases partial) has been obtained and work begun on four projects:

15. (Common dolphin in western Mediterranean) Partial funding of A. Aguilar, University of Barcelona, by NSF U.S.-Spain Program.
36. and 37. (Continue monitoring of baiji population, and determine movements and population structure) Partial funding of Zhou Kaiya and B. Würsig, by WWF International and Texas A & M University.
41. (Workshop on gillnets and cetaceans) To be convened by International Whaling Commission in September or October 1990 in La Jolla, California; approximately one-half the required funds obtained, from WWF-Sweden, U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, Southwest Fisheries Center of the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, and IUCN.

We are also happy to report that good progress has been made in saving the endemic Hector's dolphin in New Zealand (Project 40); a sanctuary has been established and work begun to assess more effectively the impact of fisheries on the species. Progress has also been made in establishing infrastructure for research on river dolphins at universities in India (Project 31).

Much of the news about cetaceans continues to be grim, however. CSG member R.S. Lal Mohan reports that the susu has become

extinct above the Kaptai Dam in the Karnaphuli River in Bangladesh, probably due to poaching. Results of an ecological study of the probable effects of the planned Three Gorges Dam suggest that dolphin habitat will be destroyed along hundreds of kilometers of the Yangtze River. Information emanating from the 1989 meeting of the International Whaling Commission indicates that Dall's porpoises are being severely over-exploited in the western Pacific (see new Project 39). The latest estimates indicate a very small population of blue whales in the Antarctic despite 20 years of complete protection.

In order to increase the rate of progress toward the goals of the plan, we will take two steps:

1. Each specific recommended action will be assigned to an individual member of the Cetacean Specialist Group. In some cases, this will require adding members to the Group. The member will be charged with the responsibility of preparing proposals (or soliciting proposals from other experts) to agreed potential donors. The proposals will be subject to peer review by other members of the CSG. The review and subsequent submission of the proposals will be coordinated by the Chairman.
2. An office of the CSG will be established. The office will provide core support for the preparation, review, and submission of proposals and for other liaison and coordinating functions. Approximately \$30,000 will be required annually to staff and operate the office; a proposal detailing this need will be prepared and submitted to possible funding agencies as soon as possible.

#### IUCN/SSC Action Plans for the Conservation of Biological Diversity

1. Action Plan for African Primate Conservation: 1986-1990. Compiled by J.F. Oates and the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group, 1986, 41 pp., £7.50, U.S. \$15.00.
2. Action Plan for Asian Primate Conservation: 1987-1991. Compiled by A.A. Eudey and the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group, 1987, 65 pp., £7.50, U.S. \$15.00.
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4. Dolphins, Porpoises, and Whales. An Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity: 1988-1992. Second Edition. Compiled by W.F. Perrin and the IUCN/SSC Cetacean Specialist Group, 1989, 28 pp., £5.00, U.S. \$10.00.
5. The Kouprey. An Action Plan for its Conservation. Compiled by J.R. MacKinnon, S.N. Stuart, and IUCN/SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group, 1988, 19 pp., £5.00, U.S. \$10.00.
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