

## Project Update: January 2016

Boat-based surveys are currently underway, with 35 surveys completed to date. Interactions between Indian humpback dolphins and purse seines have been documented on several occasions. Opportunistic sightings of Indian humpback dolphins are also being recorded, and the preparation of a photo-identification catalogue is underway. Finless porpoises have also been sighted and documented in the same coastal waters.

Interview surveys are also currently underway, and in addition to perceptions about cetaceans and their interactions with fisheries, local knowledge about cetacean presence, diversity and history in the region is also being explored. As part of a basic sighting/stranding reporting network, simple visual identification charts in the local language have been provided to fishing crews, using which they have reported sightings along with location and other relevant information, and with photographic records where possible.

Two cetaceans scarcely recorded in the region – long-beaked common dolphins and Bryde's whales - were documented during an opportunistic offshore survey. A number of under-recorded pelagic seabirds have also been observed during surveys.



An Indian humpback dolphin foraging at an active purse seine

A Kannada language dolphin identification chart used aboard a fishing vessel

