

Project Update: September 2016

A total of 73 purse seining events have been sampled (with surveys still underway); 31 of these have involved depredation by Indian humpback dolphins. Observations and basic analysis have given us insights into the spatial distribution of these incidents, the group dynamics of the dolphins involved, and the target species and/or assemblages involved in them. A number of fishery-independent sightings of these dolphins and of finless porpoises have also been recorded. Interviews to augment these surveys are also continuing.

We have also opportunistically documented other rare/under-recorded fauna in the region, including Arabian common dolphins, Bryde's whales, pantropical spotted dolphins, and a number of seabirds including the white-eyed gull and black tern (first and second records within Indian limits respectively).

As part of a sighting reporting initiative, fishermen in the region have regularly been reporting (with basic environmental/location data) noteworthy sightings to us, including a rare, photographically well-documented sighting of orcas.

Additionally, I am happy to share a few popular articles and news snippets that have come out of this project's exploratory work.

<http://www.sanctuaryasia.com/conservation/field-reports/10327-dolphins-in-a-purse.html>

<http://www.conservationindia.org/articles/a-first-hand-account-of-incident-dolphin-entrapment-in-a-fishing-net>

<http://ilrexplora.com/explore/focus/out-of-the-blue>

<http://www.bangaloremirror.com/news/state/A-world-of-marine-mammals-awaits-discovery/articleshow/52179912.cms>

<http://www.bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/news/state/First-confirmed-sighting-of-white-eyed-gull-in-India/articleshow/53918335.cms>

(The seabird records described in the last link have also been published formally: Jamalabad, A., 2016. Records of a White-eyed Gull *Ichthyophaga leucophthalmus* and a Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* from the Karwar coast, Karnataka, India. *Indian BIRDS* 12 (1): 12–14)

Additionally, I have been running a blog where these and other articles can be found - ajamalabad@wordpress.com