

Report on the FAO/ACMRR Party on Marine
Mammals, Ad Hoc Group II - Small Cetaceans
and Sirenians.

By

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The Ad Hoc Group met at Southwest Fisheries Center in La Jolla 16-19 December 1974 under chairmanship of Dr. E. Mitchell, Canada. Eleven of the Ad Hoc Groups twelve members were present at the meeting, and also representatives for ACMRR Working Party, FAO/UNEP, and eighteen other scientists working with small Cetaceans or Sirenians.

A total of 47 documents dealing with small Cetaceans and Sirenians were presented and reviewed during the meeting. The report of the IWC Subcommittee on smaller Cetaceans, and IUCN summary of the world fisheries for small Cetaceans, served as a point of departure for discussions.

The Chairman had compiled a list in which he had divided the small Cetaceans in four categories. Within each category he had evaluated the animals based upon the designations used in the SSC Red Data Book (Endangered, Vulnerable, Rare, Out of Danger, Indeterminate).

The categories were:

Category A) Species that are fished heavily now, or have been in

the past, and for which there is urgent need of population assessment.

Category B) Species which have been taken locally in only small to moderate numbers, but for which such numbers may represent a significant impact on the level of these local stocks.

Category C) Species which have been directly or incidentally exploited at apparently low levels, but which do not now seem to be of much commercial interest or other use.

Category D) Species not generally known to have been taken, or to presently be captured, except for scientific purposes or uniquely and accidentally.

The list was discussed, and some species were changed from one to another category, and other were changed in designations.

The following species of small cetaceans were discussed, and recommendations including collection of catch statistics, study of population biology and assessment of the impact of the catch level on the population were given.

<u>Hyperoodon ampullatus</u> ,	Northern Bottlenose Whale.
<u>Phocoenoides dalli</u> ,	Doll's porpoise, Northern Pacific populations.
<u>Stenella attenuata</u> ,	Spotted Dolphin, Eastern Tropical Pacific populations.
<u>Stenella coeruleoalba</u> ,	Striped Dolphin, Northwest Pacific population.
<u>Platanista indi</u> ,	Indus Susu, Indus River system.
<u>Lipotes vexillifer</u> ,	White Flag Dolphin, Tung Ting Lake (People's Republic of China).
<u>Platanista gangetica</u> ,	Ganges Susu, Ganges-Bramaputra River.
<u>Phocoena spinipinnis</u> ,	Burmeister's Porpoise. Coastal Southern South America, especially the Pacific.

<u>Pontoporia blainvillei</u> ,	Franciscana, Coastal Atlantic's South America.
<u>Stenella longirostris</u> ,	Spinner Dolphin, Stocks in Eastern Tropical Pacific.
<u>Delphinus delphis</u> ,	Common or Whitebelly Dolphin. Eastern Pacific and Black Sea.
<u>Phocoena phocoena</u> ,	Common or Harbour Porpoise, West Greenland, Black Sea and European waters.
<u>Phocoena sinus</u> ,	Cochito. Gulf of California (Mexico).
<u>Delphinapterus leucas</u> ,	White Whale or Beluga, Asian Arctic.

Problems for coastal dolphins in South Africa waters were also discussed.

A summary of available informations for the Sirenians Research program, and recommendations for the following species were discussed:

<u>Trichechus senegalensis</u> ,	West African Manatee.
<u>Trichechus inunguis</u> ,	Amazonian Manatee.
<u>Trichechus manatus</u> ,	West Indian Manatee.
<u>Dugong dugong</u> ,	Dugong.

Regarding Ecological interaction, the following aspects were discussed:

- 1) Effects on eco-system of changes in size of marine mammal population.
- 2) Effects on human requirements and activities of changes in size of marine mammal populations.
- 3_A) Human activities, other than exploitation, affecting size of marine mammal populations.
- 3_B) Effects of human activities, other than exploitation, on distribution of marine mammal populations.

- 4) Factors influencing future trends in exploitation of marine mammals.

From the discussion of Program of Research, the following was emphasized: Many of the species of the small Cetaceans have very wide geographical distribution, they need therefore to be the object of internationally coordinated research programs. The basic knowledge remains highly inadequate - in many cases even taxonomy is obscure. Basic biological data are not available, nor the elementary statistics of catching operations. Age determination of Odontocetes and Sirenians and methods and techniques of study of female reproductive cycle for Cetaceans as a whole, in workshops meeting are urgently required.

Management of smaller Cetaceans and Sirenians were also discussed. A special subcommittee will prepare specific recommendations from the report.

A detailed report on the meeting of Ad Hoc Group II has been prepared for the FAO/ACMRR Party on Marine Mammals.