

Proposal for Inclusion of Species on the Appendices of the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild
Animals

A. Proposal: Inclusion of Stenella coeruleoalba (eastern
tropical Pacific population) in Appendix II.

B. Proponent:

C. Supporting Statement

1. Taxon

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1.1. Classis | Mammalia |
| 1.2. Ordo | CETACEA |
| 1.3. Familia | Delphinidae |
| 1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies | <u>Stenella coeruleoalba</u> (Meyen, 1833) |
| 1.5. Common Name(s) | |
| English: | striped dolphin |
| Spanish: | delfin listado |
| French: | dauphin bleu et blanc |
| Dutch: | gestreepte dolfijn |
| Japanese: | suzi-iruka |

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution (current and historical)

The striped dolphin is found in all temperate, subtropical, and tropical waters of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans and in the Mediterranean and Red Seas. Its presence has been recorded as far south as New Zealand and as far north as Greenland (Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983; Wilson et al., 1987).

2.2. Population (estimates and trends)

Little is known about geographical variation or stocks of this species. In the eastern Pacific, the range of the species has been divided into management units based on apparent latitudinal gaps of low density, but studies of stock identity and estimations of abundance are precluded due to the little information collected to date (Perrin et al., 1985).

2.3. Habitat (short description and trends)

Striped dolphins are basically pelagic, travelling in large groups of several hundreds and even thousands of individuals. In the eastern tropical Pacific they prefer equatorial and subtropical waters with relatively large seasonal changes in surface temperature and thermocline depth and with seasonal upwelling (Au and Perryman, 1985).

The diet comprises a variety of fish, cephalopods and crustaceans (Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983).

2.4. Migrations (kinds of movement, distance, proportion of the population migrating)

Sighting data suggest seasonal movements of this species in the eastern tropical Pacific (Au and Perryman, 1985).

3. Threat data

3.1. Direct threats to the population (factors, intensity)

The species is also involved in the tuna fishery in the eastern tropical Pacific, but the levels of catches are very small compared with the other Stenella species and common dolphins. The observed incidental mortality of the species for 1988 was 300 animals (Hall and Boyer, 1990) and it is currently included with other species in the catch statistics.

3.2. Habitat destruction (quality of changes, quantity of loss)

Relatively high concentrations of DDT and PCBs have been found in some dolphin species in the eastern tropical Pacific and the western North Pacific. For example O'Shea et al. (1980) reported that DDT and PCB concentrations were higher in striped dolphins from the ETP than in those from Japanese waters. The source of contamination in these tropical waters is unknown.

3.3. Indirect threat (e.g. reduction of breeding success by pesticide contamination)

No information.

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

No information.

3.5. National and international utilization

Dolphins caught in the tuna fishery are not utilized and discarded.

4. Protection status and needs

4.1. National protection status

This species is included in general national legislation of several countries (Klinowska, in press).

4.2. International protection status

Stenella coeruleoalba is listed in Appendix II of CITES and is also listed in Appendix II of the Berne Convention (Klinowska, in press).
The species is categorized as "Not Threatened" by the IUCN (Perrin, 1989).

4.3. Additional protection needs

Research on stock identity and abundance, population parameters, incidental mortality in the tuna fishery and the effects of pollutants are the immediate actions to be taken.

5. Range States

Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, France (Clipperton Island), Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, the Netherlands*, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Spain*, the USA and Vanuatu*.

6. Comments from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

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Hall, M.A., and S.D. Boyer. 1990. Incidental mortality of dolphins in the tuna purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean during 1988. Rep. Int. Whal. Commn 40:461-462.

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Leatherwood, S. and R. Reeves. 1983. The Sierra Club Handbook of Whales and Dolphins. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco. 302 pp.

O'Shea, T., R.L. Brownell, Jr., D.R. Clark, W.A. Walker, M.L. Gay and T.G. Lamont. 1980. Organochloride pollutants in small cetaceans from the Pacific and South Atlantic Oceans, November 1968-June 1976. Pesticides Monitoring J. 14:35-46.

Perrin, W.F. 1989. Dolphins, Porpoises, and Whales. An Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity:1988-1992. IUCN, Gland. 27 pp.

Perrin, W.F., M.D. Scott, G.J. Walker and V.L. Cass. 1985. Review of geographical stocks of tropical dolphins (Stenella spp. and Delphinus delphis) in the eastern Pacific. NOAA Tech. Report NMFS 28. 28 pp.

Footnote

*Participants in the tuna fishery from outside the area.

Wilson, C.E., W.F. Perrin, J.W. Gilpatrick, Jr, and S.
Leatherwood. 1987. Summary of worldwide locality records of the
striped dolphin, Stenella coeruleoalba. NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFC-90.
65 pp.