

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

A. Proposal: Inclusion of Cephalorhynchus heavisidii 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>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</u> (Gray, 1828)
1.5. Common Name(s)	
English:	Heaviside's dolphin
Spanish:	delfin de Heaviside
French:	cephalorhynque du Cap
Afrikaans:	biskoppie

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution (current and historical)

Heaviside's dolphin is confined to the coastal waters of the west coast of southern Africa. Sighting data confirm its presence from Cape Point (ca 34°20'S), South Africa, northward at least to Boshuisbaai (ca 17°23'S), Namibia and possibly further north to southern Angola (Rice and Saayman, 1984, 1989; Best, 1984, 1988).

2.2. Population (estimates and trends)

No reasonable estimate is possible from available data. The species is by no means rare, although it is not abundant anywhere within the known range. Surveys off the coast of southern Africa yield approximate densities of 4.69 sightings per 100 n miles within 5 nm of the coast, with relatively fewer sightings further from the coast (Best, 1984).

2.3. Habitat (short description and trends)

This is a coastal species. Most of the reports are from waters less than 150 m deep and within 5 nm of the coast. Some animals have been observed as far as 20 nm from the coast (Best, 1984; Rice and Saayman, 1989). Sightings occurred in waters ranging from 9° to 19°C, although most were in waters of less than 15°C (Best, 1984).

These dolphins have been observed feeding in shallow inshore waters, but stomach-content analyses indicate that the diet is comprised of a mixture of bottom-dwelling organisms, demersal and mesopelagic fishes, as well as pelagic species widely distributed in the water column (Rice and Saayman, 1984; Best, 1984).

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

Movements of this species are not well known. Repeated sightings of individually recognizable specimens (including a pure white animal) over a long period indicate that certain groups may be resident in some areas (Rice and Saayman, 1984, 1989). The home range then would not be large.

3. Threat data

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

Directed takes of about 100 dolphins per year, including Heaviside's dolphin and two other species, have been reported by Best and Ross (1977). The dolphins, which are fully protected legally, are taken with hand-thrown harpoons, but shooting is also reported (Rice and Saayman, 1984, 1989). Ten specimens were taken for scientific purposes (Best, 1988) and an illegal live-capture of five individuals took place in 1975 (Best, 1984).

Heaviside's dolphins have been taken incidentally in purse-seine operations off Namibia. According to Best (1984) the estimated catch was 5.26 dolphins/100 sets, with a mortality rate of 0.96/100 sets, based on 209 sets observed between 1979 and 1983. Estimated total catches and kills of dolphins in 7,013 sets off Namibia in 1983 were 369 and 67, respectively (C. heavisidii and Lagenorhynchus obscurus combined). The same rates applied to vessels operating off South Africa resulted in an estimate of 310 dolphins captured and 57 killed (C. heavisidii, L. obscurus and Delphinus delphis combined) although the relative composition by species was unknown (Best, 1984; IWC, 1985). Other reported sources of incidental mortality were set nets in waters close to the shore of Namibia, although data on catch rates or mortality are lacking (IWC, 1985). Rice and Saayman (1989) reported that the operation of set nets off the Namibian coast has been banned by the Government since 1986. However, some illegal set netting may continue, posing a threat to Heaviside's dolphins. There are unconfirmed reports of specimens taken in a bottom trawl fishery (Best, 1984; IWC, 1985).

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

Considering the relatively small home range of the species and their restricted distribution in coastal waters, pollution and boat traffic may be causes of concern.

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

The meat of this and other small cetacean species is used for human consumption (Best and Ross, 1977).

4. Protection status and needs

4.1. National protection status

Heaviside's dolphin is protected within the 200-mile Exclusive Fishery Zone (EFZ) of South Africa, where all delphinids are protected under the Sea Fisheries Act of 1973 (IWC, 1985). Similar protection is given in Namibia's 12-mile EFZ.

4.2. International protection status

Cephalorhynchus heavisidii is listed in Appendix II of CITES. No other international agreement includes the species (Klinowska, in press). It is categorized as "Insufficiently Known" by the IUCN (Perrin, 1989).

4.3. Additional protection needs

Information is needed on the probable distribution of the species in Angola, which needs further consideration as a Range State. Research on distribution and abundance is urgently needed. More information on the nature and extent of incidental and direct catches is required to assess the status of this species.

5. Range States

Namibia and Republic of South Africa.

6. Comments from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

Best, P.B. 1984. Studies on Heaviside's dolphin (Cephalorhynchus heavisidii). IWC/SC/36 SM19 (unpublished).

Best, P.B. 1988. The external appearance of Heaviside's dolphin, Cephalorhynchus heavisidii (Gray, 1828). Rep. Int. Whal. Commn (Special Issue 9):279-299.

Best, P. and G.J.B. Ross. 1977. Exploitation of small cetaceans off southern Africa. Rep. Int. Whal. Commn 27:494-497.

IWC, 1985. Report of the Scientific Committee, Annex I. Report of the sub-committee on small cetaceans. Rep. Int. Whal. Commn 35:130-140.

Klinowska, M. (In press). Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises of the World. The IUCN Cetacean Red Data Book. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

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

Rice, F.H. and G.S. Saayman. 1984. Movements and behaviour of Heaviside's dolphins (Cephalorhynchus heavisidii) off the western coasts of southern Africa. Investigations on Cetacea 16:49-63.

Rice, F.H. and G.S. Saayman. 1989. Further information on movements and behaviour of Heaviside's dolphin (Cephalorhynchus heavisidii) off the western coasts of southern Africa. Informal Paper No T: January 1989 (Mimeo).