

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

A. Proposal: Inclusion of Sousa chinensis 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>Sousa chinensis</u> (Osbeck, 1765)

1.5. Common Name(s)

English:	Indo-Pacific hump-backed dolphin
Spanish:	delfin jorobado del Indopacifico
French:	dauphin blanc de Chine
Hindi:	telugu
Sri Lanka:	kabara-kuzira
Kuwait:	darfeel
Iraq:	dughoo
Myanmar:	la-maing
Pakistan:	malar
Malayalam:	eadi
Indian:	ongi
Tamil:	gadamo

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution (current and historical)

The Indo-Pacific hump-backed dolphin is widely distributed in coastal and inshore waters of the Indian and western Pacific Oceans. Its presence has been confirmed from the southern tip of Africa northward along the east coast of the continent to the Suez Canal; in the Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf; along the Indian subcontinent; throughout much of Indonesia; in Australia, from the middle of the west coast northward, eastward and southward to Sydney on the east coast; in New Guinea, and from Borneo northward along the Indo-Chinese coast to the Canton River. It is likely to be present in the Philippines, although no records are yet reported (Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983).

2.2. Population (estimates and trends)

There are no population estimates for any of the regions where the species exists, although it is always reported as common.

2.3. Habitat (short description and trends)

Indo-Pacific hump-backed dolphins prefer shallow nearshore or inshore waters. Off South Africa they are rarely found more than 1 km offshore or in waters more than 20 m in depth (Ross, 1984). In other areas they can be found within 5 km from shore (Mohan, 1990). In many areas except some zones in South Africa these dolphins are truly coastal, entering estuaries and frequenting mangrove zones or the open sea in the vicinity of coasts and islands. Occasionally they may move into rivers (Pilleri and Pilleri, 1979; Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983). The food reported for this species comprises oil sardines, mackerel, mullet and other near-shore fishes (Mohan, 1990). Off southern Africa the species seems to feed on or close to reefs along rocky coastal areas in preference to areas with sandy bottoms (Ross, 1984).

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

Indo-Pacific hump-backed dolphins are present year-round in the Indus Delta. Migration of the species along the coast is related to the movements of the fishes on which they feed (Pilleri and Pilleri, 1979; Mohan, 1990). In other areas, movements are poorly understood.

3. Threat data

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

Small numbers have been taken in the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf. This practice may be still in operation (Mitchell, 1975; Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983). Entanglements in gillnets are reported from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Iraq and Kuwait (Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983; Klinowska, in press). Some were taken in an offshore drifnet fishery operating off northern Australia (Harwood and Hembree, 1987). Between 30-40 were taken incidentally in gillnets off the south west coast of India (Mohan, 1985), while a minimum of 67 were reportedly taken in gillnets off Natal, South Africa between 1980 and 1988 (Cockcroft, 1989). Anti-shark nets are also a source of incidental mortality in Australia and South Africa (Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983).

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

A coastal species such as the Indo-Pacific hump-backed dolphin is subject to habitat encroachment in particular in mangrove zones. Construction of harbour facilities in the Indus Delta and subsequent boat traffic may disturb the habitat. Pollution and destruction of mangrove areas is of particular concern in the Indus Delta. Dolphins are no longer present in the lower reaches of rivers because of the construction of dams, silting of river mouths and increasing pollution (Mohan, 1990).

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

Organochlorine levels are the highest found in any marine mammal off the South African coast. These levels may affect the reproductive efficiency of males and be lethal to neonates of females pregnant for the first time (Cockcroft, 1989).

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

No information

3.5. National and international utilization

In the Red Sea, Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf the meat is used for human consumption and the oil is used to oil the boats (Mitchell, 1975). Some animals have been kept in captivity in Australia, South Africa and Honk Kong (IWC, 1984).

4. Protection status and needs

4.1. National protection status

National legislation protects the species, among other cetaceans, in India, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Oman, Iran, South Africa and Australia. No information is available from other countries in the range (Klinowska, in press).

4.2. International protection status

Sousa chinensis is listed in Appendix I of CITES. All populations of this species are categorized "At Risk" by the IUCN (Perrin, 1989).

4.3. Additional protection needs

Assessment of ecological impact should be requested for development projects through the range. Information on abundance, direct takes and incidental mortality must be compiled.

5. Range States

Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kampuchea, Kenya, Kuwait, Malagasy Republic, Malaysia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, People's Republic of China, Portugal (Macau), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Tanzania, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom (Hong Kong), Vietnam and Yemen.

6. Comments from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

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