

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

A. Proposal: Inclusion of Lagenorhynchus australis 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>Lagenorhynchus australis</u> (Peale, 1848)
1.5. Common Name(s)	
English:	Peale's dolphin
Spanish:	delfin austral
French:	dauphin de Peale

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution (current and historical)

Confined to the coastal waters of southern South America. There are no records of this species farther north than Valparaiso on the Pacific coast and about Golfo San Matias on the Atlantic coast. It is common in the Beagle Channel and in waters around the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands (Aguayo, 1975; Goodall, 1978; Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983).

2.2. Population (estimates and trends)

No estimates of population size or stocks are available for this species.

2.3. Habitat (short description and trends)

Peale's dolphin is found mainly in coastal waters within or coastward of kelp beds, entering bays and channels (Sielfeld, 1983; Cardenas et al., 1986; Leatherwood et al., 1989). It has also been recorded up to 200 miles from the shore (Aguayo, 1975, quoting information from Norris, 1968). Oporto (1986) observed the species in water ranging from 4 to 300 m deep. Little information has been published about feeding habits, but inshore squids and fishes are reportedly eaten (Goodall and Galeazzi, 1985).

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

No information.

3. Threat data

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

This species is victim of deliberate capture to be used as bait in the fishery for king crab (*Lithodes antarctica*) and false king crab (*Paralomis granulosa*) in the Magallanes region. In Chile, the direct catch of Peale's dolphins and other small cetaceans dates back to 1976. For that year, Torres et al. (1979) estimated that around 1,200 dolphins were taken for crab bait. Sielfeld et al. (1977) estimated the take for the seasons 1977-78 and 1978-79 at 2,400 and 4,102 respectively, with Commerson's dolphin (*Cephalorhynchus commersonii*) and Peale's dolphin as the species most affected. A recent report of the crab industry accounts for a bait deficit of nearly 1,500 tons, an amount that fishermen cover with the illegal catch of dolphins and other marine vertebrates (Cardenas et al., 1987; Stone et al., 1987; Lescrauwaet, 1989; J. Oporto, pers. comm.). In Argentina some clandestine harpooning may still take in the eastern Beagle Channel (Goodall et al., 1988).

Incidental catches in gillnets have been reported in southern Chile and recently in shore seines and shore based nets in Argentina (Mitchell, 1975; Goodall and Cameron, 1980; Goodall et al., 1988).

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

The present operation of the crab fishery in the Beagle Channel may cause disturbance in an area where Peale's dolphin is said to be more common. There is concern about the increasing use of protected bays in southern Chile by the salmon rearing industry. Nets are being used to close the mouths of these bays, a typical habitat of Peale's dolphins (J. Oporto, pers. comm.).

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 main use of Peale's dolphin is as bait in the king crab and false king crab fisheries in southern South America (Torres et al., 1977; Stone et al., 1987). A few specimens entangled in fishing nets are used as dog food in southern Chile (J. Oporto, pers. comm.)

4. Protection status and needs

4.1. National protection status.

The species is protected by law in Argentina and Chile.

4.2. International protection status.

Listed in Appendix II of CITES, but no international trade has been recorded (Klinowska, in press). Although the species is listed as "Not Threatened" by IUCN, the population in the waters of southern Chile and Argentina is considered "At Risk" (Perrin, 1989).

4.3. Additional protection needs

Recommended actions for conservation include enforcement of regulations in both Argentina and Chile, cooperative research on biology and abundance, collection of definite statistics on bait usage and development of alternative sources of bait. In addition, public awareness should be developed within the local population and the nations importing crab meat.

5. Range States

Argentina, Chile, United Kingdom (Falkland Islands).

6. Comments from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

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