

DOLPHINS – WHAT WE KNOW...

	<i>Orcaella / Sousa</i>	<i>Tursiops / Delphinus</i>
Population Structure	O-Site fidelity; limited genetics; S-low diversity	T-genetics unresolved in world context; D-unknown
Abundance	Only for Cleveland Bay (O,S), Moreton Bay (S)	T-Shark Bay known, Aus-wide unknown
Trends*	?	?
Habitat	Inshore, river mouths, tidal flows, seagrass, mangroves	Specifics unknown
Distribution	Broadly known; specifics unknown	Inshore partly known Offshore - unknown
Life History	?	T-Shark Bay well known; D-unknown
Taxonomy	O-new described sp; S-?	D-well known; T-?

*Management actions shouldn't wait for trend information to be known

DOLPHINS – THREATS

(alphabetical)

**Cumulative impacts must be considered*

- **Entanglement in fishing gear: gill nets (commercial, bather protection program); trawl nets; aquaculture ops**
- **Habitat degradation / displacement / fragmentation resulting from a range of activities including coastal development, trawling**
- **Intentional killing (*Tursiops*, *Delphinus*)**
- **Tourism (mainly *Tursiops*)**
- **Water quality-disease (*Toxoplasmosis* in *Sousa*, *Orcaella*, *T/D*-?)**

DOLPHINS – RESEARCH NEEDS

(alphabetical)

Sousa, Orcaella, Tursiops, Delphinus

- **Fishing entanglement mitigation strategies (S,O,T, D)**
 - Net: acoustic deterrent devices - appropriateness, spatial/temporal closures
- **Life history characteristics (better use of strandings)**
- **Population structure, distribution, habitat ID, abundance (T,D,S,O)**
- **Publishing existing information**
- **Tourism – dedicated & incidental (T-NSW, Vic, SA, O-WA; S-Qld)**

DOLPHINS – SUMMARY

Sousa, Orcaella, Tursiops, Delphinus

- **General lack of knowledge about species hinders ability to understand population level impacts. Some impacts occur at individual level.**
 - **Compiling & publishing (peer-reviewed) cross-jurisdictional data sets/analyses so comprehensive statements can be made for whole of Australia**
 - **Requiring incidentally captured animals in commercial fisheries to be thoroughly examined for life history/pop structure information**
 - **Encouraging/funding State/NT agencies to maximise stranding carcass information**
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