

Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin carcass at East Coast beach

Subject: Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin, *Sousa chinensis* (Mammalia: Cetacea: Delphinidae).

Subject identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, East Coast Park Beach near Big Splash water theme park; 19 July 2014; morning.

Habitat: Beach with fine sand, at above the high-tide mark.

Observers: Contributor, Liew Qi and others.

Observation: The 2.2 m long carcass, apparently female, and estimated to have been dead for about 3 to 5 days, was found by a member of the public at the beach on the morning of 19 July 2014. By the time the contributor saw the carcass the next morning on 20 July 2014, it had already been collected by the National Environment Agency (see accompanying picture).

Remarks: Although classified as an 'endangered' species in Singapore (Lim et al., 2008: 202), this species appears to be the most commonly seen cetacean in Singapore waters, where it was likely to have been mistaken for common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) in the past (Sigurdsson & Yang, 1990: 30-32). The skeleton of the present carcass will be deposited at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore.

References:

- Lim, K. K. P., R. Subaraj, S. H. Yeo, N. Lim, D. Lane & B. Y. H. Lee. 2008. Mammals. In: Davison, G. W. H., P. K. L. Ng & H. C. Ho (eds.). *The Singapore Red Data Book Threatened Plants & Animals of Singapore*. Second edition. Nature Society (Singapore). pp. 190-207.
- Sigurdsson, J. B. & C. M. Yang, 1990. Marine mammals of Singapore. In: Chou L. M. & P. K. L. Ng (eds.). *Essays in Zoology*. Papers commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Department of Zoology, National University of Singapore. pp. 25-37.



Photograph by Marcus A. H. Chua

Note: The contributor is grateful to the National Parks Board, in particular Cheo Pei Rong (National Biodiversity Centre) and Liew Qi (Coastal Parks) for kindly informing him about the dolphin carcass.

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