GETTING TO KNOW THAI–CAMBODIAN COASTAL DOLPHINS
THE PRESENCE OF DOLPHINS SIGNALS A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM IN
THE EASTERN GULF OF THAILAND
RESULT FROM SURVEYS IN TRAT, THAILAND 2019

200 INDIVIDUALS
HUMAN BODY
50 INDIVIDUALS
15 INDIVIDUALS

DID YOU KNOW?
DOLPHINS ARE NOT FISH BUT “MAMMALS”

Blowhole
Dolphins breathe on the water’s surface through a blowhole. They can hold their breath under water for several minutes.
* If you see live stranded dolphins, do not pour water into their blowhole as they need assisted breathing.

Dorsal fin
Researchers take photographs of their dorsal fins to identify individuals and estimate their populations.

Fluke
The dolphin’s tail is called fluke and is a horizontal tail that moves up and down. In contrast, fish tails are vertical and move side to side.

Mammary glands
Dolphins’ calves are able to roll their tongue like a straw and have little finger-like projections on the sides of their tongue that act like a zipper. These keep the mother’s milk in the calf’s mouth and keep salt water out.

Dolphins take oxygen from the air into their lungs. Fish take oxygen from the water into their gills.

DOLPHINS ARE AT THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN.
THEY ARE INDICATORS OF A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM.

Phytoplankton
Zooplankton
shrimp, clam, crab, fish, squid

How Humans and Dolphins Can Sustainably Live Together

1. Always move parallel to the dolphin’s direction.
2. Do not follow the same dolphin group over 30 mins.
3. Do not approach from behind, head on or cross the path of a dolphin pod.
4. If you find a stranded dolphin, please call the rescue team of Thailand’s Department of Marine and Coastal Resources.

035-661-093, 086-343-3498 (Dr. PhD)

IRRAWADDY DOLPHINS are protected from international trade by CITES. The Convention on
International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Appendix I, which forbids all
commercial trade (permitted only in exceptional licensed circumstances).
Irrawaddy Dolphins are listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as “Endangered” however,
some sub-populations are classified as “Critically Endangered” such as the Melong River and
Songkhla Lake sub-populations.

CAUSES OF DOLPHIN DEATHS IN TRAT
65% Unknown
23% Human activities including killing, garbage in the sea, etc.
12% Natural causes such as disease, weather

SAVE
“DOLPHINS” SAVE US
HOW TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE FOR SUSTAINABLE WELL-BEING

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature
Transboundary Dolphin Conservation Project
Trat, Thailand- Koh Kong, Cambodia

Conserving natural resources through eco-tourism?
Guidelines for dolphin watching...

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THE EASTERN GULF OF THAILAND—HOME FOR DOLPHINS

Coastal dolphins can be spotted near-shore, mangrove and river mouth areas where they meet the sea. Rivers bring nutrients and nutrients in the form of sediment, resulting in shallow or low salinity water and an abundance of phytoplankton at the beginning of the dolphin’s food chain. That is why we often find dolphins in Trat Bay, Thailand as well as in the Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary in Cambodia.

Over the past 3-4 years, a large number of dolphins have been found dead, while the birthrate is low. This has led to serious concerns about the survival of the remaining dolphin population in this area. Therefore, local and regional action is needed for successful dolphin conservation.