



## Dorsal fin identification sheet

Species: bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops aduncus*)

Bottlenose dolphins are distributed around Australia. They are the most common dolphin species in the Pilbara region. We use the shape of their dorsal fins and the permanent nicks, notches and scars that they gain over time to identify and track individuals. The sighting histories include when and where we see each individual and what behaviour they are doing. This data is managed in an online database that allows us to estimate population size and habitat use through modelling and statistics.

Onslow and Thevenard Island  
 Produced: October 2015 by  
 Marine Science Program,  
 Corrine Severin & Holly Raudino.



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Species: Australian humpback dolphins  
(*Sousa sahulensis*)

Australian humpback dolphins are only found in northern Australia. Therefore, they are important and need to be conserved. We use the shape of their dorsal fins and the permanent nicks, notches and scars that they gain over time to identify and track individuals. They also apparently lose pigmentation from their dorsal fin with age, particularly males. The sighting histories include when and where we see each individual and what behaviour they are doing. This data is managed in an online database that allows us to estimate population size and habitat use through modelling and statistics.

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Department of  
Parks and Wildlife

