

Long-term Monitoring of Local Cetaceans

A longitudinal study on Chinese white dolphins and finless porpoises has been conducted in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta region since 1995, which is primarily conducted by Hong Kong Cetacean Research Project (HKCRP) and primarily funded by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. The multi-disciplinary research programme aims at providing critical scientific information to the Hong Kong SAR Government to formulate sound management and conservation strategies for the local populations of dolphins and porpoises. Results from these integrated studies have been used to establish several systematic databases, which can be used to estimate population size, to monitor trends in abundance, distribution and habitat use over time, and to keep track of levels and changes in mortality rates as well as several life history parameters of local cetaceans (see [Literature Database](#)).

Since its establishment in 2003, HKDCS has contributed to this long-term monitoring research in numerous ways, and still conducts regular boat surveys of cetaceans in Hong Kong waters to provide supplementary scientific data. From 2004-10, HKDCS has collected over 1,200 km of survey effort and over 300 dolphin sightings, and has



identified many individual dolphins. These credible data has contributed to various studies of Chinese white dolphins in the Pearl River Estuary. Since 2007, we have been conducting regular research boat trips and land-based observations on local dolphins. To learn more about the summaries of these trips, please click [here](#) to find a list of past activities organized by HKDCS.