
HKDCS PAST ACTIVITIES – DOLPHIN RESEARCH TRIP

HKDCS holds regular dolphin research trips for our members to observe the Chinese white dolphins in their natural habitat around Lantau Island, as well as to learn the research activities that HKDCS researchers conduct to study the dolphins as part of a long-term monitoring research program. Below please find some trip reviews of recent research trip to learn more what these trips are about:

30-5-2010 Dolphin Research Trip

Weather: Cloudy & Rainy

On 30 May, we traveled to the West Lantau area to conduct research survey after departing from Tung Chung Public Pier. In the morning survey, we had a total of 8 sightings, and the dolphins were mainly found near Tai O and Peaked Hill. Here are the summary of these sightings:

- 1st sighting: about 1 dolphin found
- 2nd sighting: about 4 dolphins found
- 3rd sighting: about 2 dolphins found
- 4th sighting: about 7 dolphins found
- 5th sighting: about 5 dolphins found
- 6th sighting: about 5 dolphins found
- 7th sighting: about 1 dolphin found
- 8th sighting: about 5 dolphins found



During the 4th sighting, two mother-calf pairs were seen, and the calves even swam away from mother to explore around. For the entire morning, the participants were fascinated by the active behaviour of dolphins, including lots of aerial behaviours such as breaching and spy-hopping. At times, they were even engaged in socializing activity by making a lot of splashes on the water surface.

However, it was saddening to observe those poorly-behaved small dolphin-watching boats departed from Tai O fishing village. These speed boats approached dolphin groups with high speed. They continuously harassed the dolphins and apparently did not follow the “Code of Conduct for Dolphin Watching” at all.



Till noon, the weather became unstable, forcing the research team to suspend the dolphin survey temporarily for a few times. At about 2 p.m., the team continued the research survey Northwest Lantau. And at the end of the trip, a sighting of two dolphins was made near the northeast corner of the airport platform, capping the trip with an exclamation mark.

13-3-2010 Dolphin Research Trip

Weather: Partly cloudy and misty

The first Dolphin Boat Trip of Hong Kong Dolphin Conservation Society (HKDCS) in 2010 was successfully held on March 13th. On that day, around 30 participants, including some new members, gathered at Tung Chung to embark on a much-anticipated journey.

At around 10 am., the research boat cruised to West Lantau to conduct the survey for the morning. Before the survey, Dr. Samuel Hung, the chairman of HKDCS, provided an informative speech to welcome all participants and introduce the basic biology of Chinese White Dolphin.

The research survey started at around 10:30 am, and a total of five dolphin groups were sighted, with the summary of these sightings as follow:

- 1st sighting: group of 14 dolphins
- 2nd sighting: group of 7 dolphins
- 3rd sighting: a lone dolphin
- 4th sighting: group of 23 dolphins
- 5th sighting: a pair of dolphins





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During the first and fourth sighting, the dolphins were following behind pair trawlers (a type of fishing boat) to feed around the fishing nets. It was quite extraordinary to observe the large group of dolphins found during the fourth sighting. In addition, during the second sighting, the group with seven dolphins approached our boat curiously and played actively. The participants were overjoyed when observing these interesting behaviours. They were also delighted to observe a few pairs of mothers and calves during the day.

In the afternoon, HKDCS researchers continued the research in Northwest Lantau survey area, and traveled back to Tung Chung around about 3 pm to wrap up the wonderful trip.

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