

# KOREA (Rep. of) PROGRESS REPORT ON CETACEAN RESEARCH, WITH STATISTICAL DATA FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2002

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This report summarizes information on cetacean research in Korea compiled by the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) from January to December 2002. The NFRDI conducted the whale research to collect scientific data instructed by the Government and the IWC for the conservation and management of cetaceans in Korean waters.

## 1. Species and stocks studied

Common name	Scientific name	Area/stock(s)	Items referred to
Fin whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalius</i>	East Sea	4.2,6.2
Minke whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	East, South and Yellow Sea	2.1.1,4.2,6.2
Baird's beaked whale	<i>Berardius bairdii</i>	East Sea	7.1
Stejneger's beaked whale	<i>Mesoplodon stejnegeri</i>	East Sea	7.1
Killer whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Yellow Sea	7.1
Risso's dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	East Sea	2.1.1,7.1
Common dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	East and South Sea	2.1.1,7.1
Pacific white-sided dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>	East Sea	2.1.1,7.1
Bottlenose dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	East Sea	7.1,9
Dall's porpoise	<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>	East Sea	7.1
Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	East Sea	7.1
Finless porpoise	<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides</i>	East, South and Yellow Sea	2.1.1,7.1,9

## 2. Sightings data 2.1

### Field work 2.1.1

#### SYSTEMATIC

The NFRDI carried out two systematic sighting surveys in the East and Yellow Sea in terms of the RMP, based on the plan endorsed in the SC. Using R/V Tamgu 3 equipped with top barrel (stern trawler, 360 G/T), one was done from 16 May -9 June (25 days) and the other from 26 August -18 September (24 days) in the area within the Korean EEZ of the East and Yellow Sea respectively. The zigzag form of track line was set in the survey area and divided into several blocks. The sighting results of spring and autumn are summarized in the table 2-1 and 2-2, respectively.

Table 2-1. Number of sightings (schools-animals) in the spring survey using the R/V Tamgu 3.

Date	Sighting distance (n.m.)	Number of whales and dolphins sighted											
		Minke whale			Common dol.			PacificWS dol.			Risso's dol.		
		pri.	sec.	off.	pri.	sec.	off.	pri.	sec.	off.	pri.	sec.	off.
19-May	85.6	2-2											
20-May	57.5												
21-May	142.6	6-6	1-2		1-50								
22-May	97.4	1-1			3-65								
23-May	8.7												
26-May	80.8	2-2	1-1		1-15						2-21		
27-May	115.8	3-3									1-12		
28-May	104.5	1-2									1-15		
31-May	104.3	1-1									1-10		
02-Jun	93.5	3-3						1-25					
03-Jun	65.1	6-6			1-400								
05-Jun	68.5												
06-Jun	82.4	1-1											
07-Jun	55.5	4-4											
Total	1,162.4	30-31	2-3		5-515	1-15		1-25			5-36		1-4

Table 2-2 Number of sightings (schools-animals) in the Autumn survey using the R/V by Tamgu 3.

Date	Sighting distance (n.m.)	Number of whales and dolphins sighted					
		Minke whale			Finless porpoise		
		pri.	sec.	off.	pri.	sec.	off.
28-Aug	102.7		3-3				
02-Sep	60.8						
08-Sep	49.8	3-4					
09-Sep	144.3						
10-Sep	139.8						
11-Sep	145.5						
14-Sep	101.8	4-4			2-5		
15-Sep	55.3						
Total		799.9					

**4. Tissue/biological samples collected**

The NFRDI collected biological samples of cetacean bycaught into various coastal fishing gears or stranded, aiming at contribution to genetic study and pollutant contaminants.

4.2 Samples from directed catches or bycatches					
Species	Area/stock	Calendar year 2002	Archived (Y/N)	Tissue type(s)*	Contact person/institute
Fin Whale	East Sea	1	Y		Z G KIM/NFRDI
Minke whale	East Sea	42	Y	Skin, blubber, muscle etc	
	South Sea	4	Y	"	
	Yellow Sea	47	Y	"	

**4.3 Samples from stranded animals**

Species	Area/stock	Calendar year 2002	Archived (Y/N)	Tissue type(s)*	Contact person/institute
Minke whale	East Sea	3	Y	Skin, blubber, muscle, etc	Z G KIM/NFRDI

**6. Statistics for large cetaceans****6.1 Direct catches of large cetacean**

The MOMAF inspected an accident of illegal take of one minke whale drifted in the east east in the year 2002 and will report the details to the infraction subcommittee of the 55th IWC annual meeting.

**6.2 Other non-natural mortality for the calendar year 2002**

All bycatches from coastal fishing gears were obligatorily reported to maritime police and fisheries authorities in accordance with the guideline of the MOMAF.

Species	Area/stock	Males	Females	Total	Cause	Methodology
Fin Whale	East Sea			1	Gillnet	Postmortem
Minke whale	East Sea	13	5	28	Gillnet	
		8	6	25	Set net	
				1	Squid zigging	
		4	8	17	Trap net	
				1	Trawl	
	South Sea		2	4	Set net	
	Yellow Sea	3	3	7	Stow net	

### 6.3 Earlier year's statistics

An accident of illegal direct catch of one minke whale by hand harpoon onboard the offshore longline fishing vessel in the east sea in the year 2001 was reported by the Korean Government to the infraction subcommittee of the 54th IWC annual meeting.

## 7. Statistics for small cetaceans

### 7.1 For the calendar year 2002

		Directed catch		Incidental mortality			Live-captured	
Species	Area/stock	Reported	Est. total	Reported	Est. total	Source	Reported	
Baird's beaked whale	East Sea	3		1		Drifted		
Stejneger's beaked whale	East Sea			1		Gillnet		
Risso's dolphin	East Sea			1		Drifted		
				1		Gillnet		
Killer whale	East Sea			3		Unidentified		
Common dolphin	East Sea			4		Gillnet		
				3		Long line		
				11		Drift Gillnet		
				47		Gillnet		
				2		Set net		
				2		Squid zigging		
				2		Drifted		
				4		Unidentified		
				3				
				Pacific white-sided dolphin		East Sea		2
6	Drift Gillnet							
11	Gillnet							
31	Set net							
1	Stranded							
1	Trap net							
Bottlenose dolphin	East Sea			2		Drifted		
				1		Trawl		
				1		Trawl		
				2		Drifted		
Dall's porpoise	East Sea			1		Drift Gillnet		
Harbour porpoise	East Sea			8		Drift Gillnet		
				8		Gillnet		
				14		Set net		
				4		Drifted		
Finless porpoise	South Sea			1		Unidentified		
				East Sea		3		Gillnet
						1		Set net
						1		Stranded
Unidentified dolphin	Yellow Sea			2		Drifted		
				7		Unidentified		
				East Sea		2		Drift Gillnet
						1		Gillnet
				1		Drifted		

### 7.1 Earlier year's statistics

The MOMAF reported illegal direct take of 3 common dolphins in the east sea in the year 2001.

## 8. Strandings

Information of stranded small cetaceans was collected in the same way as by catch according to the guideline of the MOMAF. The information of stranded small cetacean is included in item 7.1. and the data about large cetacean is in the below table.

Species	Area/stock	Males	Females	Total	Cause	Contact person/institute
Minke whale	East Sea	2	2	6	Stranding	Z. G. KIM/NFRDI

## 9. Other studies and analysis

NFRDI gave a contract to the Pukyung National University for conducting acoustical study of the Bottlenose dolphins and ecological study of the Finlerrss porpoise.

10. Literature cited

## 11. Publications

PARK, K. J., C. I. Zang, Z. G. KIM and H. SOHN. 2002. Feeding habits and tropic level offinless porpoise, *Neophocaena phocaenoides* in the Yellow Sea. J. Korean Soc. Fish. Res. 5: 52-63.