

## Country Report on Ship Strikes Submitted by the Government of Australia to the Conservation Committee

### Background

This paper is a summary of ship strikes on cetaceans and the associated issues and legislation in Australian waters for the calendar year of 2011.

### Legislation

Under Australia's national environmental legislation, the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, ship strikes involving cetaceans in Commonwealth waters, whether resulting in injury or death, must be reported. State governments have similar reporting requirements.

### Reported Incidents - calendar year 2011

State/Territory	Ship Strikes numbers for 2011 (small and large cetaceans)
Queensland	Humpback whale, unknown sex, hit by a high speed ferry in Moreton Bay, reported by passengers, blood observed in water but whale swam away.
	Humpback whale, unknown sex, Moreton Bay, whale appeared to be seriously injured as blubber and skin was removed from the vessel, the vessel was also damaged.
	Humpback whale, unknown sex, Blue Pearl Bay, Hayman Island, Whitsundays, reported by a research vessel.
Western Australia	Two humpback whales, mother and calf, hit by a high speed personal craft in Fremantle, reported by public, whales swam away but appeared seriously injured.
Victoria	Common dolphin, female, hit by jet-ski or small vessel at Portsea back beach, Mornington Peninsula, post mortem undertaken by Department of Sustainability and Environment.
	Common dolphin, male, hit by large unknown vessel at Point Lonsdale, post mortem undertaken by Department of Sustainability and Environment.
New South Wales	Bottlenose dolphin, unknown sex, suspected boat strike, washed up alive and monitored onsite but subsequently died, northern end of One Mile Beach, Tomaree National Park.
South Australia	Southern right whale, female, 10 km ESE Border Village, unknown vessel, whale fatally wounded.
	Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, female, 4.3 km WSW Port Adelaide, fatal propeller wounds, post mortem undertaken by researchers.

### Management Measures

The Australian Government is currently developing a national strategy aimed at reducing the likelihood and severity of ship strikes occurring in Australian waters. The strategy is focused on public awareness and education, and improved processes for reporting vessel-cetacean incidents. A national ship strike database and associated questionnaire has been developed by the Australian Marine Mammal Centre (AMMC). Data collected in Australia is compatible with the IWC ship strike database. Attempts to submit data from Australian waters directly to the IWC will be redirected back to the AMMC-based portal to ensure all reporting will have national verification.