



Dolphins of the kelp
presents



Photo Identification Catalogues

Falkland Islands Nov-2016 / Apr-2017



Peale's dolphin

Lagenorhynchus australis

Photo-identification is a **non-invasive** technique used worldwide to study animal population including dolphins and whales

Photo ID is based on the fact that each animal within a population has **particular, unique and distinctive** markings that allow to **distinguish** it from other individuals

Using this technique, it is possible to estimate the **number of animals** in a population, monitor their **movements** and learn about their **social structure**

Once marked individuals have been photographed and identified, they are added to the **catalogue**

Pictures of notches, nicks and/or scars on the dorsal fin and/or upper part of the body are used to **permanently identify** one individual

SAERI has been using photo ID to study the **Peale's** and **Commerson's** dolphins in the **Falklands** establishing the first catalogue for both species

Individual distinctiveness

Code	Description	Example
HM (highly marked)	Very distinctive; features evident even in distant or poor quality pictures	Deformed Mutilated Big chunk missing Tip missing 1+ notch 2+ nicks
	Distinctive; average amount of information content	1 nick and 1+ small nicks 4+ small nicks Peculiar shape
LM (low marked)	Distinctive, little amount of information	1 nick only 3 small nicks
NID (Non IDentifiable)	Very little/no information	1-2 small nicks Clean fin

**HIGHLY
MARKED**

LA0011



LA0028



LA0037



LA0043



LA0016



LA0045



LA0048



LA0020



LA0033



**LOW
MARKED**

LA0001



LA0002



LA0003



LA0005



LA0007



LA0009



LA0010



LA0012



LA0014



LA0017



LA0018



LA0019



LA0024



LA0025



LA0027



LA0029



LA0030



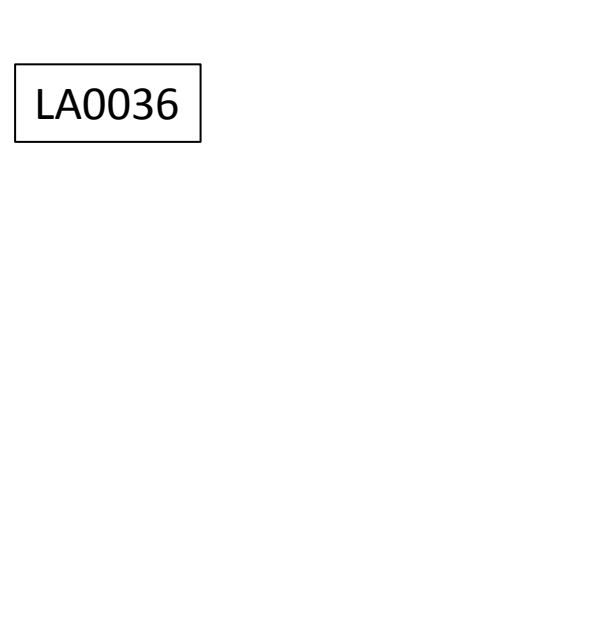
LA0032



LA0035



LA0036



LA0039



LA0044



LA0044



LA0052



LA0041



LA0049



LA0050



NID

LA0004



LA0006



LA0008



LA0013



LA0015



LA0021



LA0023



LA0026



LA0031



LA0038



LA0040



LA0040-SON1



LA0042



LA0046



LA0051



NID NUMBERS

001-A1



010-A1



015-A1



016-A1



017-A1



091-A1



093-A1



093-A2



098-A1



100-A1



You can help

We are interested in obtaining pictures of dolphins which might be suitable for photo-identification.

If you have a reasonable SLR camera and lens you could contribute to the research in the Falklands Islands, by sending your images to:

mcosta@env.institute.ac.fk

Or bringing them to the SAERI office (Ross Road west).

Useful Photo ID tips

- 1) Try to **focus** on the dorsal fin
- 2) Picture of the dorsal fin should be **parallel** to the photographer
- 3) Try to photograph **both** the **left** and **right** sides of the dorsal fin
- 4) Try to photograph **all individuals** in the group
- 5) Note down **date, time, location** and group **size** of the encounter



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Thank you!

