

## **Project Update: November 2012**

During the field season from March 2012 to November 2012, my team and I have achieved the following:

- 1) Interview survey completed (April 2012 to May 2012).
- 2) Transect survey phase one completed (November 2012).

In this course of time we came across 11 cases of incidental cetacean mortality, which included *Sousa chinensis*, *Neophocaena phocaenoides*, two unidentified carcasses and one unidentified baleen whale. Local fishermen, with whom we had established a good rapport during interviews, reported many of these cases. This is a positive development with regards to our plan of establishing a community based cetacean monitoring network. Many fishermen are curious about our work and are glad to provide information and gain knowledge regarding cetaceans. This will be a good platform for the awareness campaign to be conducted in the next phase.

We will commence phases 2 and 3 of transect survey in December 2012 and January 2013.