

Project Update: September 2012

The 2012 fieldwork has now been completed in Plettenberg Bay, East London and False Bay during which 26 biopsy samples were collected and 54 individual Bryde's whales photographically identified. There are currently no matches between individuals photographed in each area, providing some new insight into possible spatial preferences of individuals which will be explored further after the second sampling occasion (2013) has been completed. In May 2012, an oral presentation 'Estimating the Abundance of South African Bryde's whales' was given at the African Marine Mammal Colloquium in Kleinbaai, South Africa. Details of this research were also publicised through a number of popular media platforms throughout 2012: Africa Geographic magazine (Oct); 'Voice of the Cape' radio interview (Aug), Cape Times newspaper (Sept) and regional newspapers at each fieldwork site. Public presentations were given at each site providing details on the research and acknowledgement of RSG for funding support.



A biopsy dart for collecting a small skin sample is fired at a Bryde's whale in East London, South Africa.



A highly distinctive dorsal fin of a Bryde's whale photographed in False Bay, Cape Town.