

Project Update: June 2013

The 2013 humpback whale survey season in the Babuyan Islands went very well. The research team surveyed around Camiguin Island for a total of 26 days allowing them to photo-identify 43 humpback whale individuals. Eighteen of these were re-sights from previous years. The team also encountered four other cetacean species: short-finned pilot whales, Fraser's dolphins, pan-tropical spotted dolphins and rough-toothed dolphins.

In March 2013, in between surveys, the team conducted Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities in the local schools. An interactive lesson plan was devised to show the importance of the ecosystems in Camiguin Island. The IEC activity had a total reach of 259 students from primary and secondary levels in Camiguin elementary school and Lyceum High school. The questions arising from students and teachers were noticeably about destructive human activities, particularly black sand mining, which is an issue the island is currently facing.



Environmental education talks in the local school photo by Ruby Magturo



IEC activity in the local primary school of Camiguin photo by Ruby Magturo



Pan=tropical spotted dolphin encountered in the Babuyan Islands photo by Jo Marie Acebes



Humpback whale sighted off Camiguin Island photo by Jo Marie Acebes