

Project Update: September 2016

I have chosen two field sites, one each in the Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar. These chosen field sites have considerable humpback dolphin presence and diverse artisanal fishing practice. I'm documenting monthly fish catch and effort at these field sites, and plan to document catch/effort of a maximum of 80 to 100 boats per month based on the fishing season. In-depth interview sessions are ongoing in both these field sites. I have conducted a couple of fishing vessel based surveys. More surveys are to be carried out from October 2016 onward, with the commencement of fishing season. The first phase of boat-based surveys to assess population density and habitat use of humpback dolphins in the Palk Bay are complete. During these surveys, I encountered three dolphin groups totalling 10 animals. Second phase of boat-based surveys will be carried out in Gulf of Mannar in November/December 2016.



An adult Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin leaps out of water while feeding on cuttlefish off the Adam's bridge area in Pamban Island, Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu.