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### Chinese White Dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*)

**Morphology:** Prominent dorsal hump. Calf born light grey colour, and will turn to the characteristic pinkish body colour when reaching adult age; the greyish spotting on the skin is an indicator of their age: the more spotting, the older the animal.

**Diet:** Feeds mainly on fish, and occasionally cephalopods and crustaceans.

**IUCN\* Conservation status: Vulnerable.** Sharp decline of Hong Kong population in recent years.

Among all the known cetaceans species around the world, **only two species are found all year-round in Hong Kong waters:** the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (or Chinese white dolphin or "pink" dolphin) and the Indo-Pacific finless porpoise. In Hong Kong, Chinese white dolphins are commonly found in western waters, while finless porpoises are most abundant in the eastern and southern waters.

### Did you know?

Dolphins and porpoises have whiskers on their upper jaw for a few days around the time of birth?



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### Threats:

- Habitat loss and degradation
- Water and noise pollution
- Diseases
- Entanglement in fishing gear
- Vessel disturbance and trauma



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### Finless Porpoise (*Neophocaena phocaenoides*)

**Morphology:** No dorsal fin, but small tubercles on top of the dorsal ridge (3-6 cm); calf pale grey and adults are dark grey

**Diet:** Feeds on benthic invertebrates, squids, octopuses, shrimps, prawns and fish.

**IUCN\* Conservation status: Vulnerable.** Recent increase in number of stranded porpoises.

\*International Union for Conservation of Nature

## What is 'One Health'?

The 'One Health' concept links up wildlife, environmental and human health components to solve complex health problems.

- Environmental changes and degradation leads to loss of biodiversity.
- Increasing evidence shows that the emergence of diseases is a consequence of human impacts on the environment and wildlife.
- As a predator in the food chain, not only do the marine mammals ensure the balance of the marine ecosystem, but they also act as indicators of ocean health.



## Our scientific research and actions

- By attending to stranded dolphins and porpoises to understand their health status, we are able to evaluate the threats they are facing.
- Our research guides conservation actions to improve the survival of the population of dolphins and porpoises in Hong Kong.



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## What should I do if I encounter a stranded dolphin or porpoise ?

Call **1823** or use the '1823' app as soon as possible and inform Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. Take a photo and be ready to provide:

- Date and time of discovery
- Location (be as specific as possible)
- Status of the animal (e.g. alive, freshly dead, decomposed, skeleton)
- Type and size of the stranded animal

### • Keep at a safe distance to avoid injury or disease transmission

- Do not touch and harass the animal

The Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) protects all wild marine mammals in Hong Kong waters, hunting or wilfully disturbing them are considered illegal acts.



The Hong Kong Wildlife Health Foundation is a non-profit organisation founded in 2012, which promotes and conducts veterinary scientific research on wildlife and exotic species in Hong Kong to address animal conservation issues and to maintain ecosystem health by approaching it from a transdisciplinary, one health perspective. Health monitoring of stranded dolphins and porpoises in Hong Kong is one of our priority projects.



Want to know more about our projects?

Visit our website

[www.hkwhf.org.hk](http://www.hkwhf.org.hk)

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Wildlife Conservation  
Through Veterinary Science