

Submission of marine mammal information for the assistance in identifying Ecologically or Biologically Important Marine Areas (EBSAs) at the North-west (Dubai) and North-east (Colombo) EBSA Regional workshops 2015

Compiled by the acting secretariat on Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) and the IUCN Joint SSC-WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Taskforce (MMPATF)

Please find below a map of marine mammal Areas of Interest – Aols (Figure 1). These have been identified by the acting Secretariat, with the aid regional partners, as areas within which appropriate evidence on marine mammal distribution, abundance and life-history stages is considered valuable for further investigation as marine mammal based EBSAs and candidate IMMAs (cIMMAs).

These areas do not preclude other non-Aol zones not highlighted as being suitable as EBSAs containing marine mammals but that no significant evidence was available regarding the distribution or abundance of marine mammals. For further information on the IMMA process please see the [Report of the Workshop for the Development of Important Marine Mammal Area \(IMMA\) Criteria, Marseille, October 22, 2013](#).

Also find a selection of extracted figures from publications attached with this summary submitted as containing pertinent information for the two workshops (Figures 2-14).

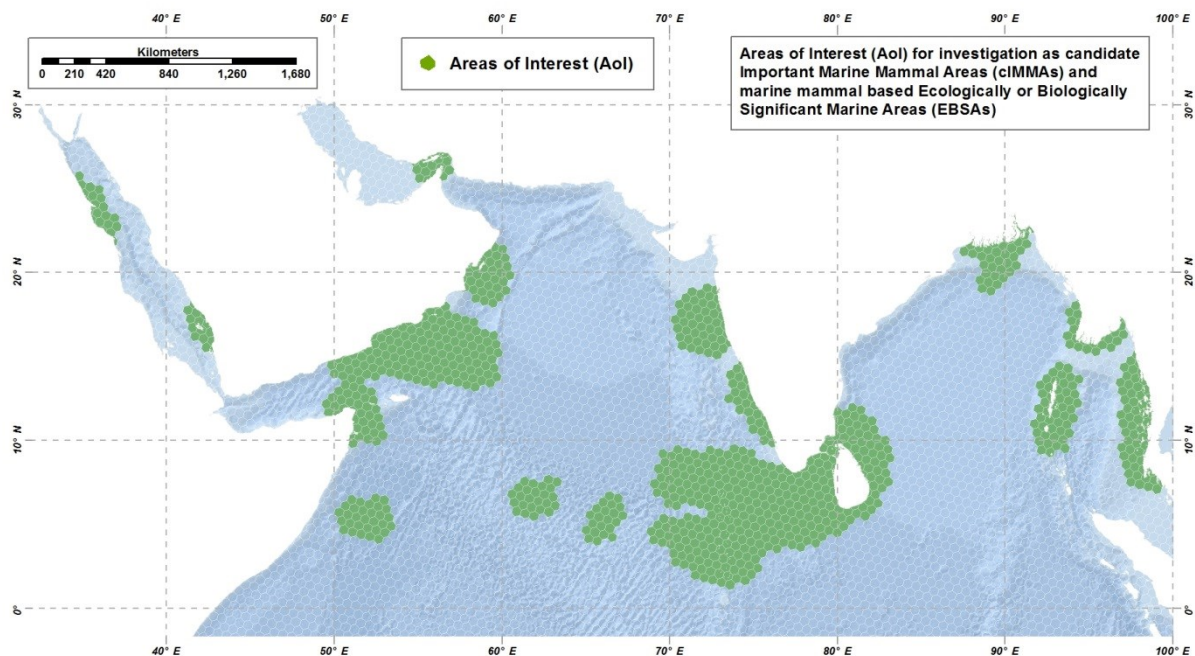


Figure 1. Areas of Interest (Aol) as identified by the acting secretariat on Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) as areas within which appropriate evidence on marine mammal distribution, abundance and life-history stages is considered valuable for further investigation as marine mammal based EBSAs and candidate IMMAs (cIMMAs).

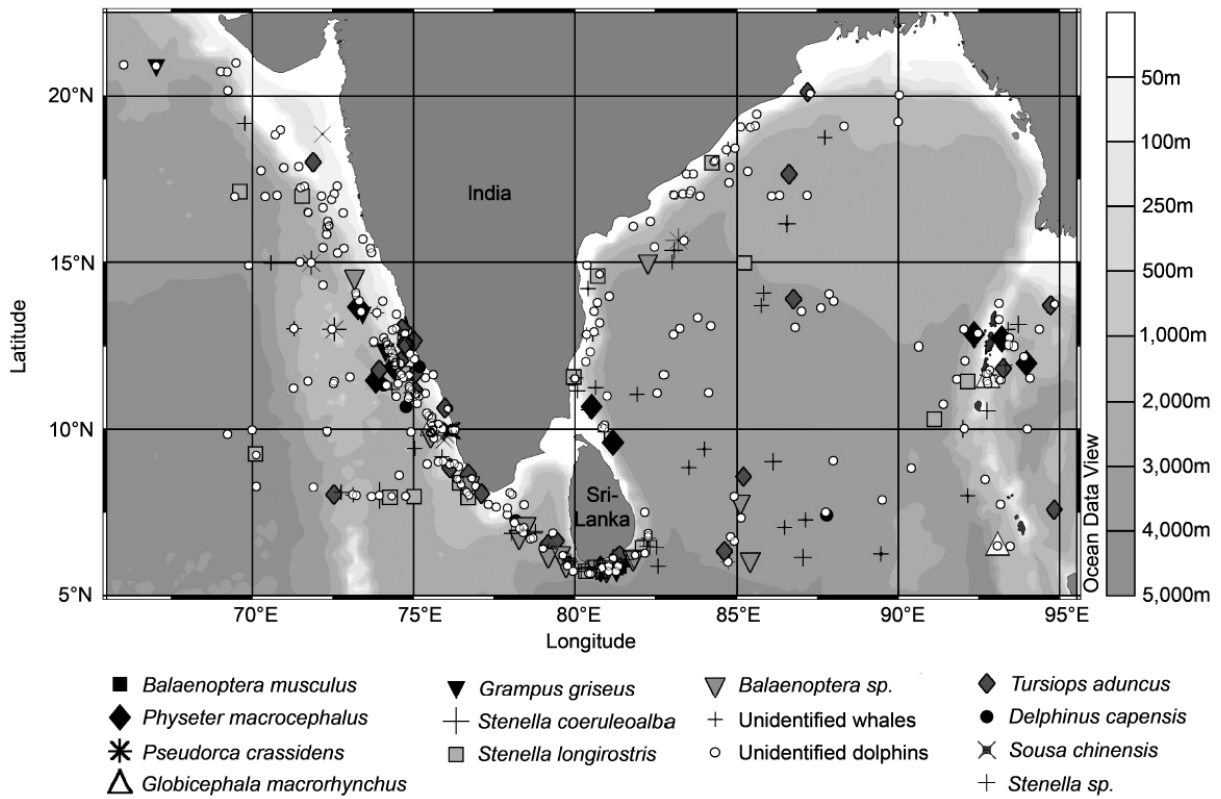


Fig. 2. Distribution map of cetacean species based on FORV *Sagar Sampada* sighting cruises during October 2003-February 2007.

Figure 2. All cetacean species records for Indian EEZ 2003-2007 (Afzal *et al.*, 2008)

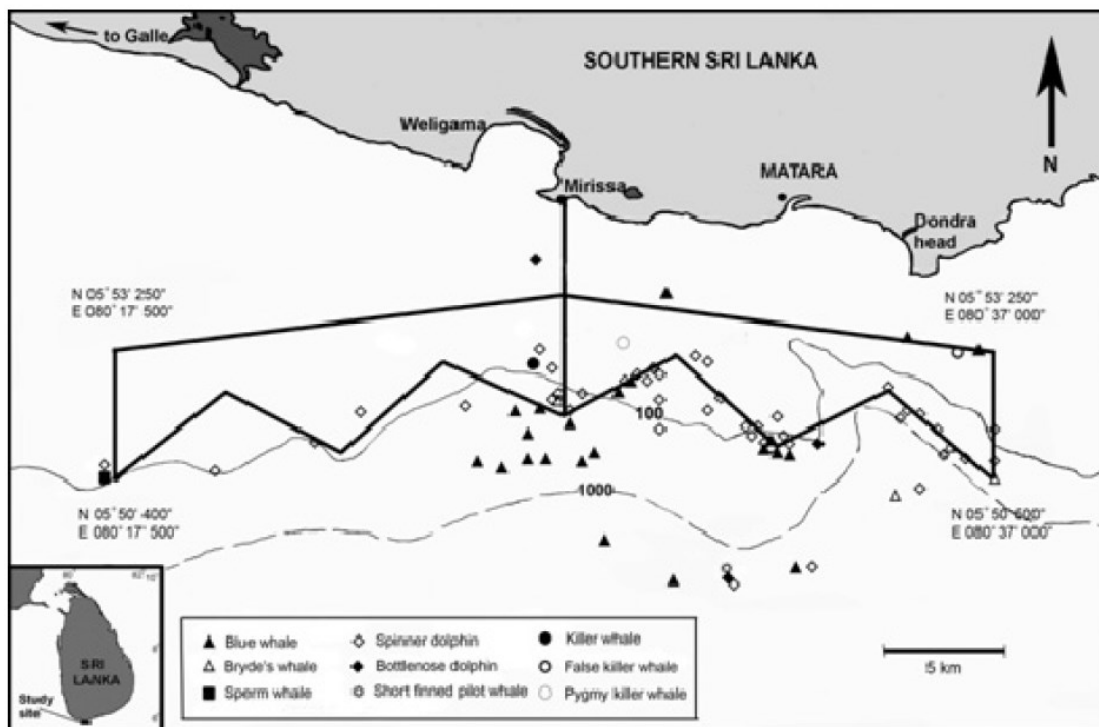


Figure 1. Study site with transect lines and cetacean sightings

Figure 3. Cetaceans in Southern Sri Lanka (Ilangakoon, 2012)

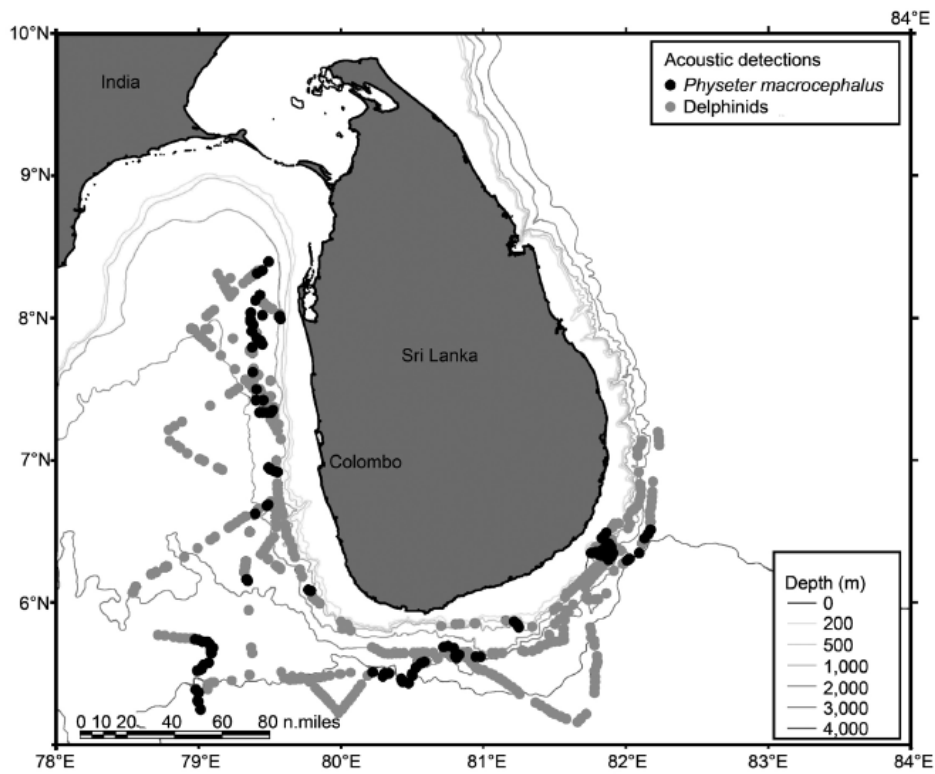


Fig. 3. Acoustic detections along *Odyssey's* track line. Sperm whales (black) and unidentified delphinids (grey).

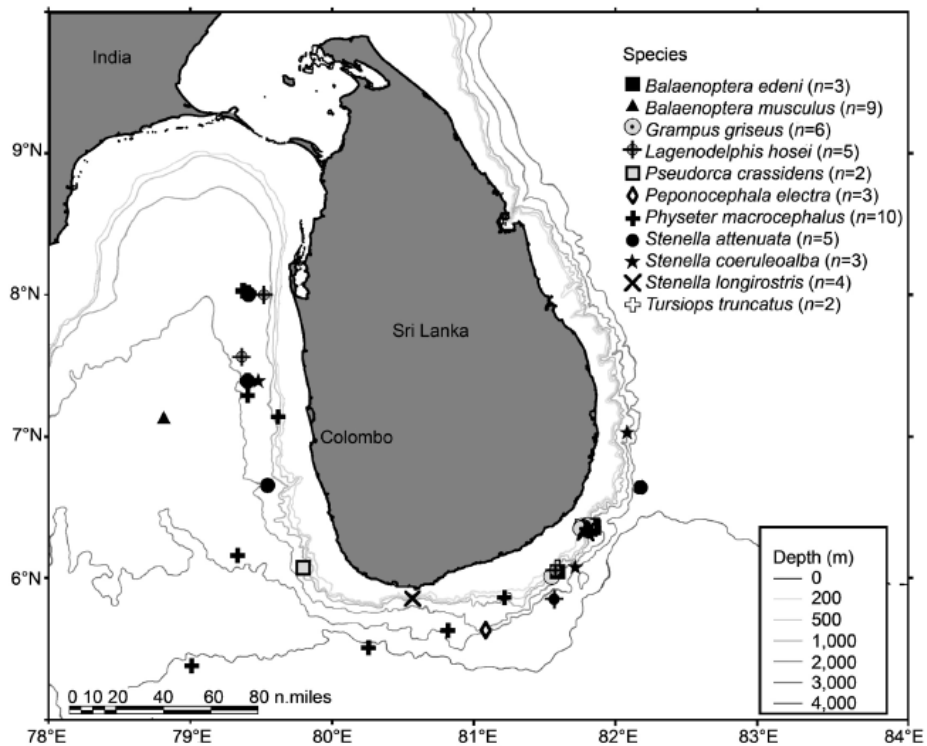


Fig. 2. Visual sightings recorded during the study period.

Figure 4. Distribution of cetaceans observations from Acoustic (top) and visual (bottom) surveys (De Vos *et al.*, 2012)

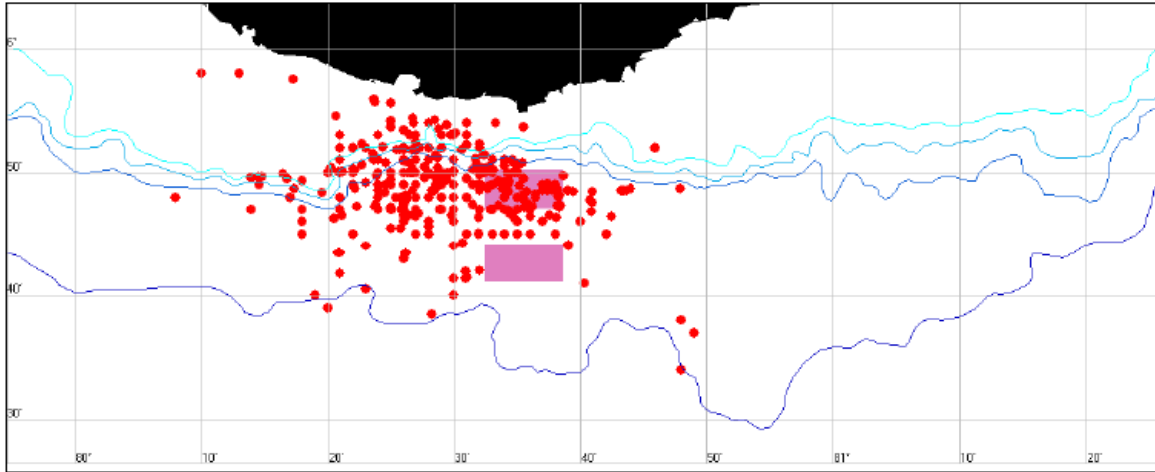


Figure 8. Sightings from whale watching operations during 2013 and 2014 (Raja and the Whales).

Figure 5. Blue whale sightings from Southern Sri Lanka 2013-2014 (Priyadashana *et al.*, 2014)

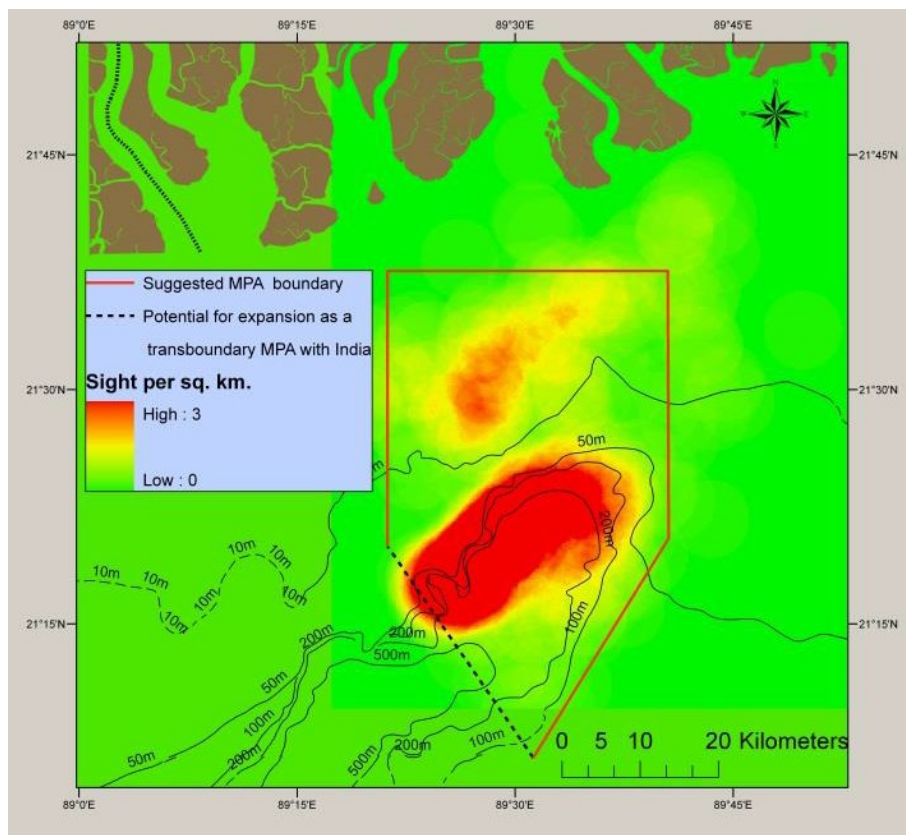


Figure 6. Point density map of all cetacean sightings combined overlaid with the boundaries of the proposed SoNG MPA Bangladesh (WCS, 2013)

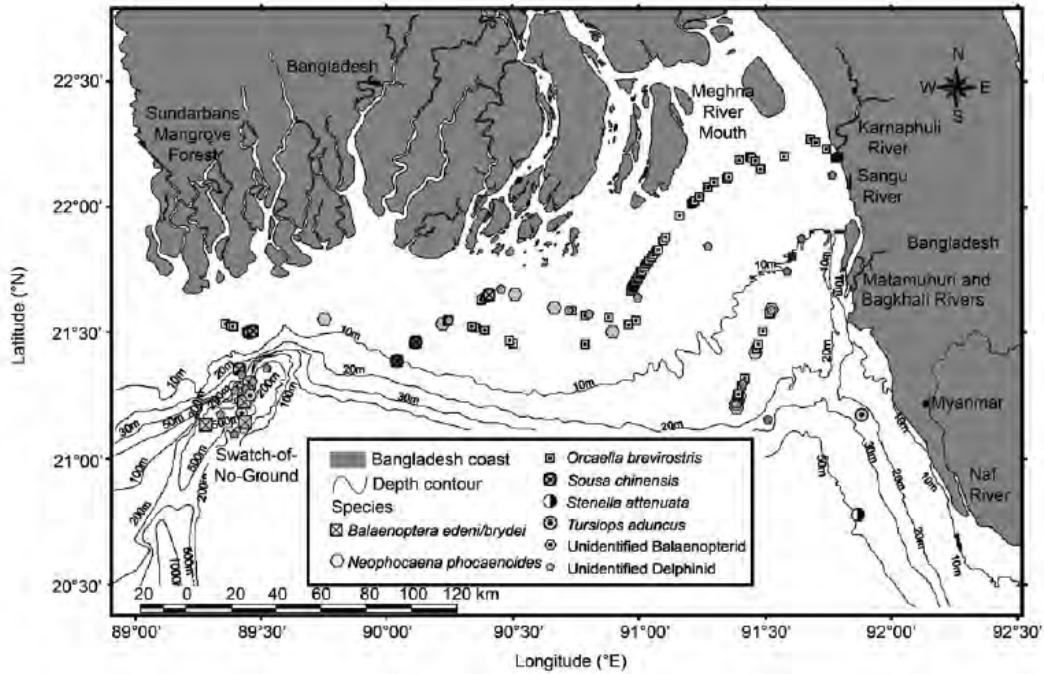


Fig. 7. Map of on- and off-effort cetacean sightings relative to depth contours in coastal waters and the Swatch-of-No-Ground of Bangladesh.

Figure 7. Cetaceans sightings, on and off effort, from surveys in the northern Bay of Bengal including coastal waters of Bangladesh and the Swatch-of-No-Ground (Smith *et al.*, 2008)

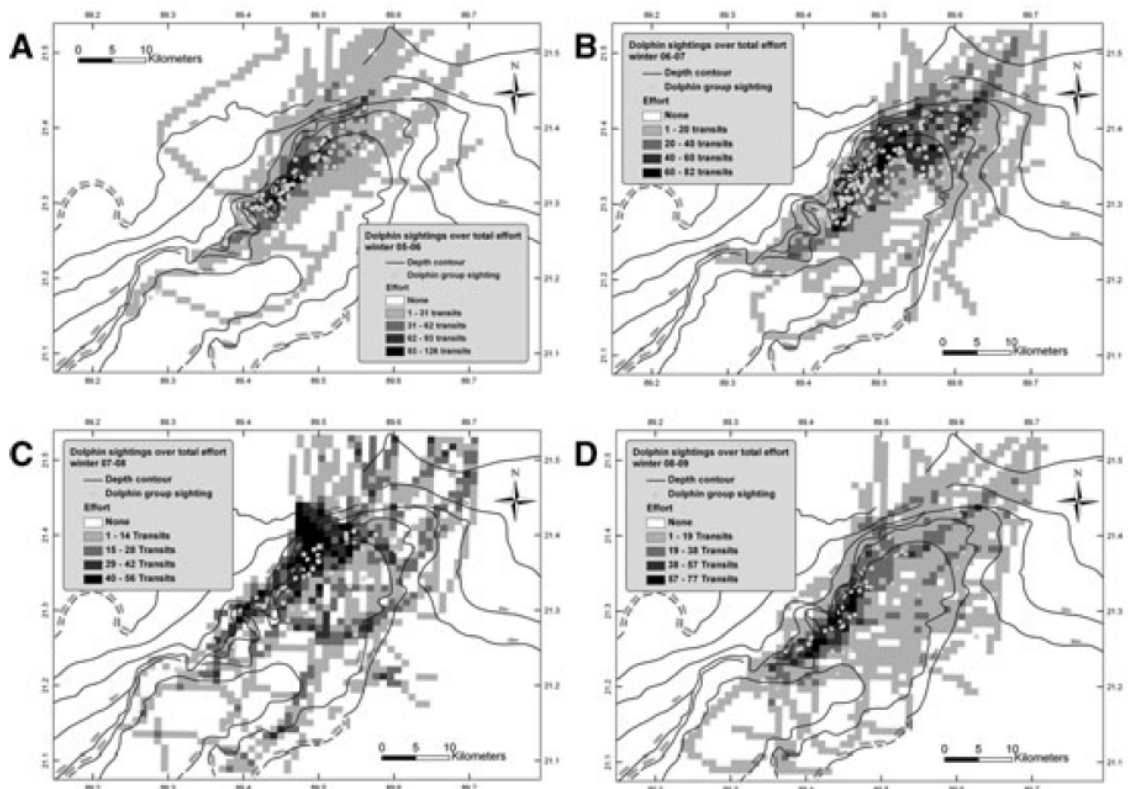


Figure 8. Map of cetacean distribution and abundance within the Swatch-of-No-Ground, Bangladesh (Mansur *et al.*, 2011)

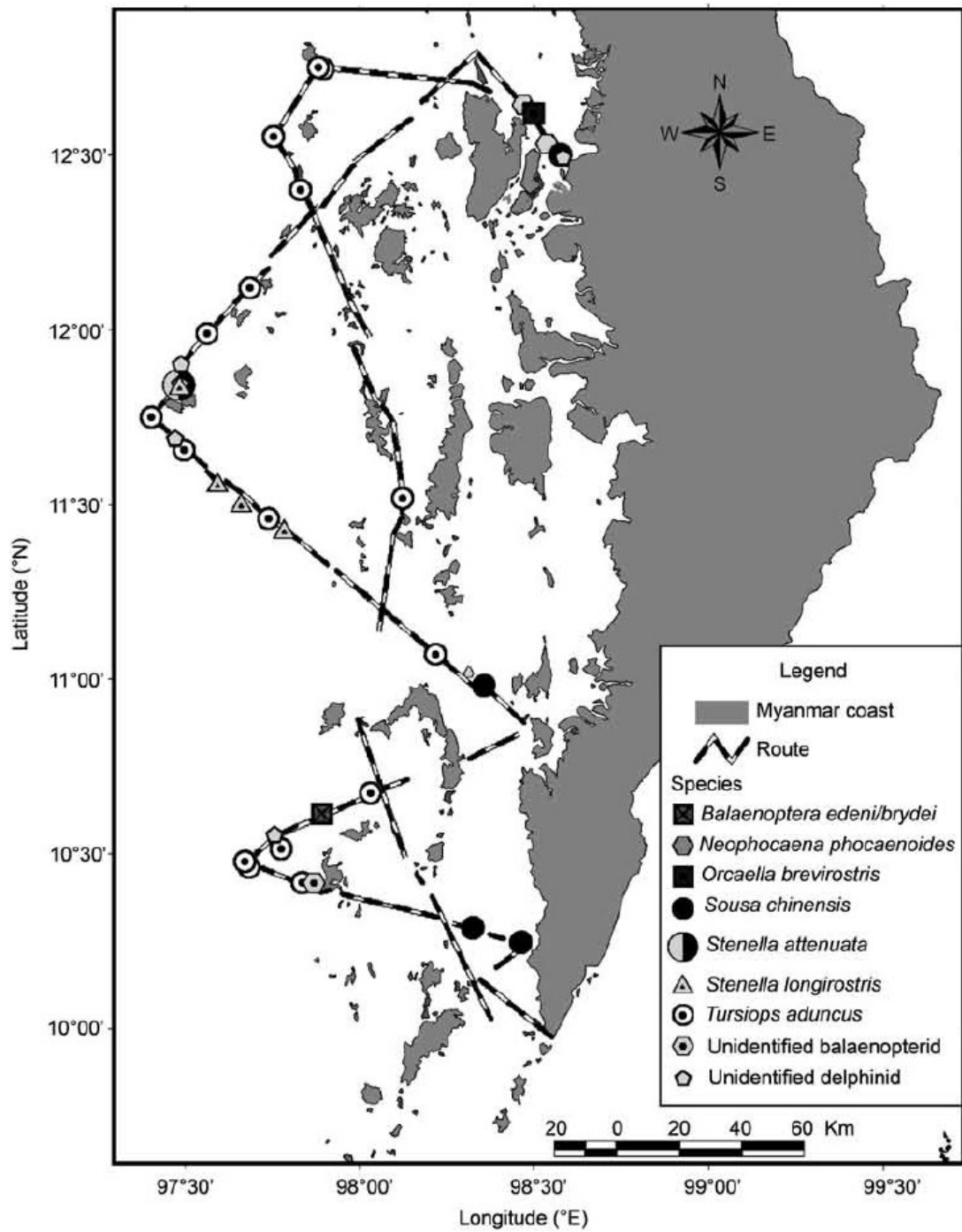


Fig. 2. Map of the tracklines followed and cetacean sightings made during a survey of the Mergui Archipelago, Myanmar, in February and March 2005.

Figure 9. Cetacean sightings and search effort along the Mergui Archipelago Myanmar (Smith and Tun, 2008)

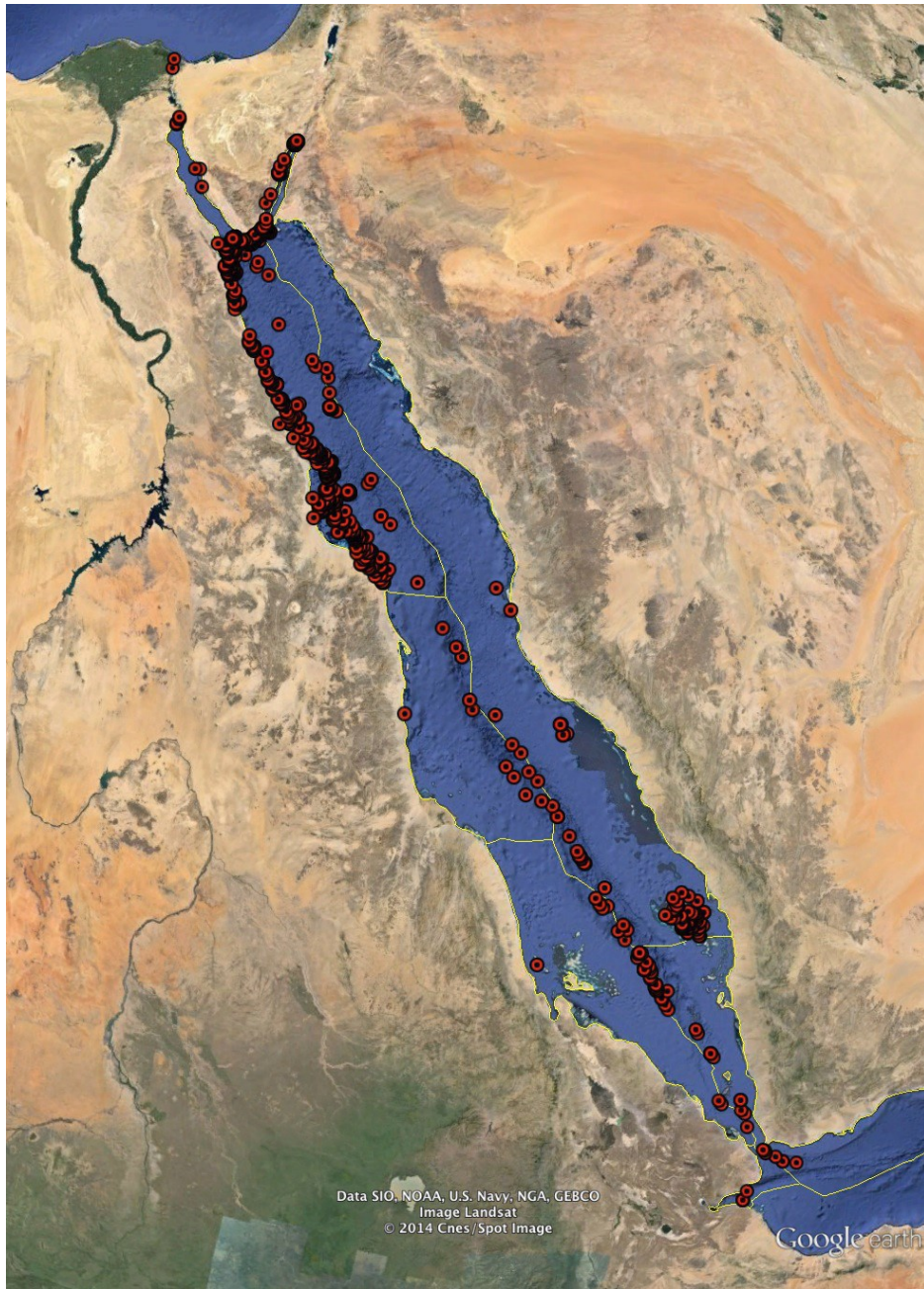


Figure 10. All cetacean sightings records collated for Red Sea (Notarbartolo di Sciara *et al.*, 2014)

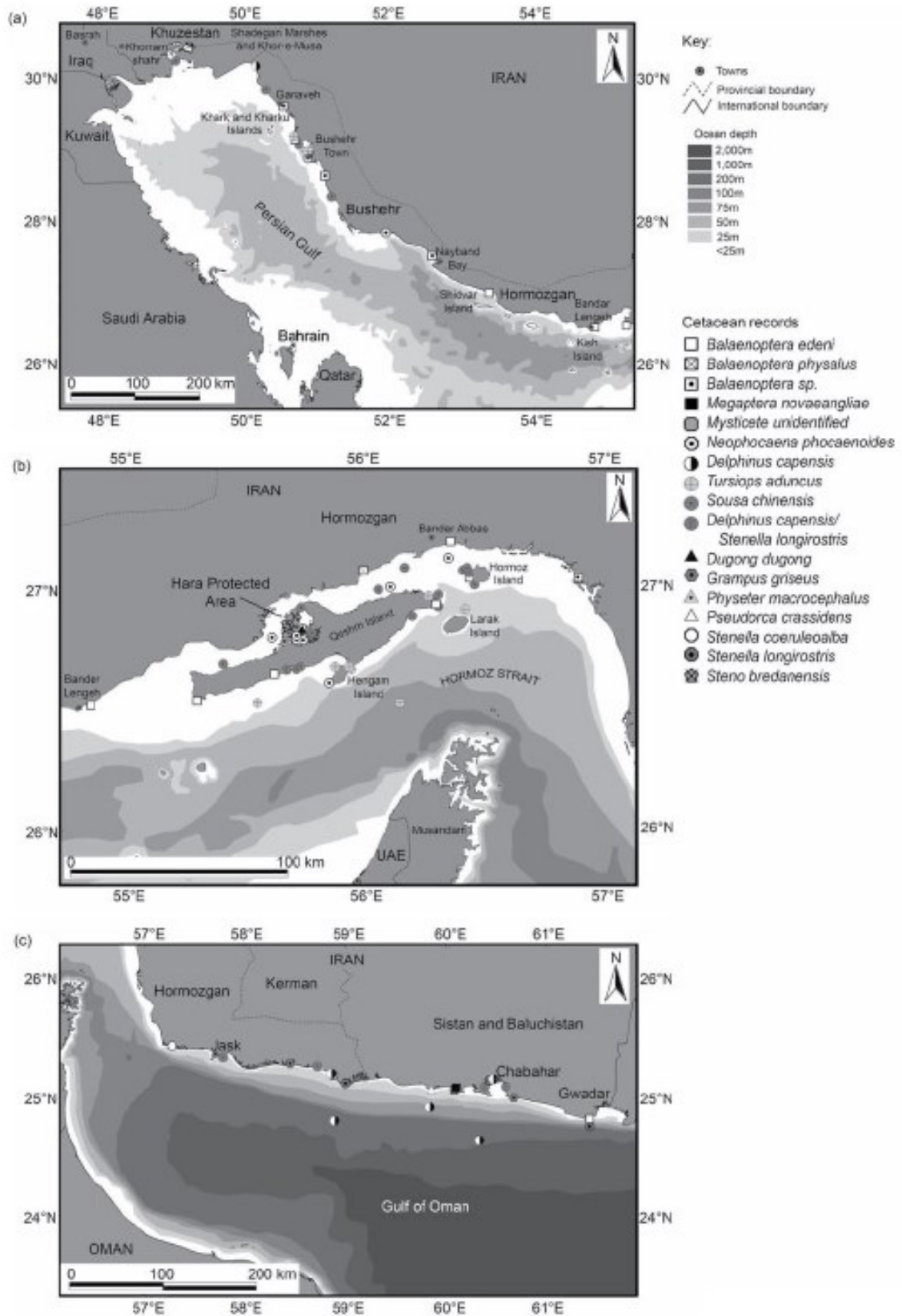


Fig. 2. Location of marine mammal records along: (a) the southwest coast of Iran; (b) in the vicinity of Hormozgan and Qeshm Island; and (c) in the Gulf of Oman, Iran.

Figure 11. Marine mammal records in Iran (Braulik *et al.*, 2010)

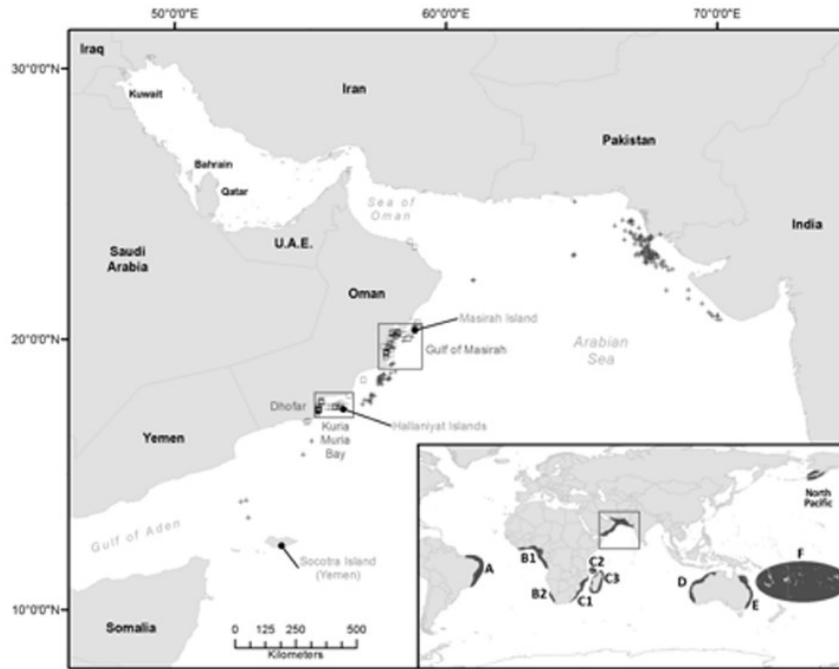


Figure 1. Main panel: the Arabian Sea region showing sampling locations in Oman (boxed regions) as well as locations of Soviet catches from the 1960's (crosses) and modern sightings from Oman (squares). Inset: sampling locations used in this study, including six Southern Hemisphere breeding Stocks (A-F), the North Pacific and the Arabian Sea (boxed region).

Figure 12. Humpback whale distribution in North-west Indian Ocean (Pomilla *et al.*, 2014)

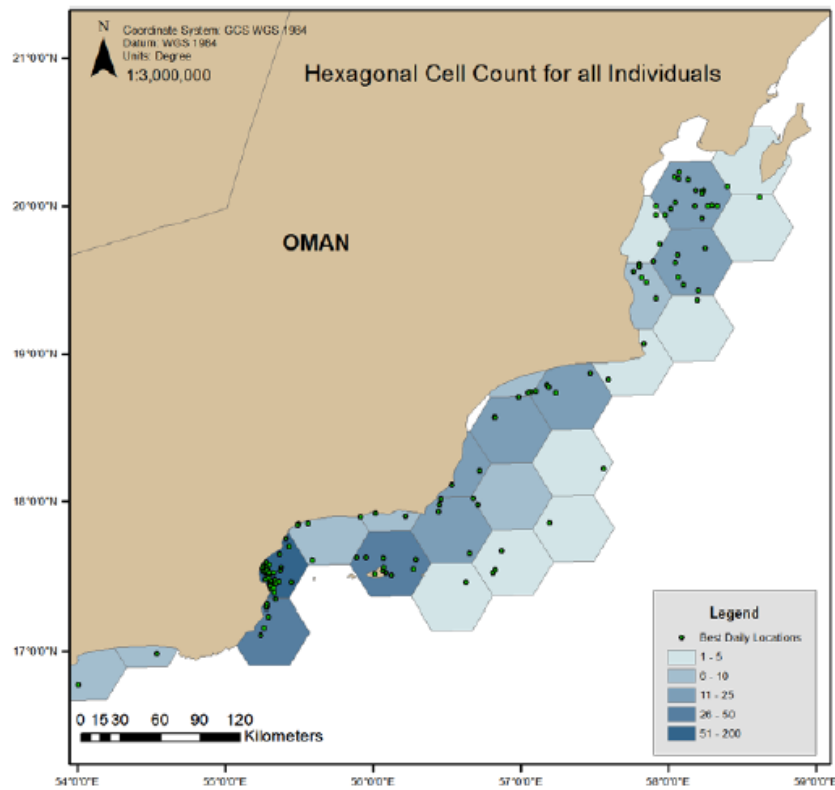


Figure 5. Chart showing relative habitat utilization through hexagonal point count made on best daily locations from all individuals, (cell size = 50km).

Figure 13. Habitat use of humpback whales in Oman (Wilson *et al.*, 2014)

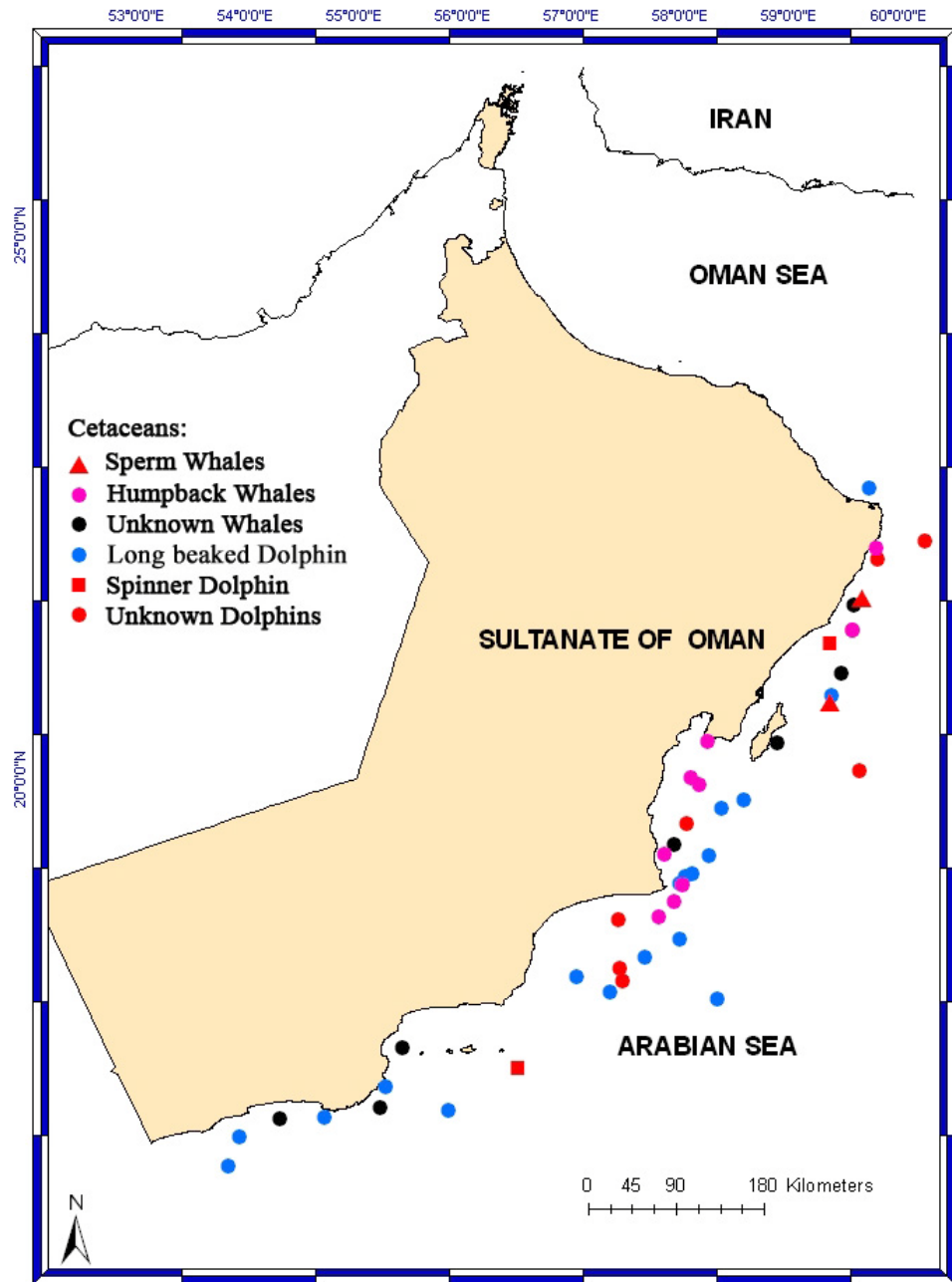


Figure 14. All whales and dolphins observed in Oman from Arabian Sea surveys 2007-2008 (Gheilani et al., 2011)