
Australian Marine Mammal Centre

Progress Report No. <no.>

Season 2007/08

- **Title** - Abundance estimates of the east Australian humpback whale population: 2014 survey
- **Chief Investigator** – Assoc. Prof. Michael Noad, Dr Rebecca Dunlop
- **Organisation** – The University of Queensland

Activity Period – 12/6/2014 to 30/4/2015

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1. Project progress and objectives achieved

A clear summary of the work undertaken in the period to which the Report relates including the objectives achieved and an analysis of the effectiveness of this work

This project consists of a survey of migrating humpback whales at Pt Lookout, Qld, and the analysis and publication of those data in the context of previous surveys to estimate the current rate of population increase. Originally, the survey was to take place in June/July 2014, however due to delays in funding being announced, there was insufficient lead-in time to organise the survey in 2014 and it was decided, in consultation with the Australian Marine Mammal Centre, that the survey should be delayed by 12 months and conducted in June/July 2015. (Note that as the whales are migratory, and to maintain continuity with previous surveys, it is not possible to conduct this work at another time of year.)

In view of this, the bulk of the work has not yet occurred. Preparations for the survey at Pt Lookout, however, are well underway including:

1. **Successful recruitment of personnel for the survey teams. We are fortunate that we have a pool of very experienced land-based survey observers from other projects that we have conducted in the last few years. This has resulted in the recruitment of a comparatively highly skilled and capable team compared with previous surveys. This will greatly reduce the amount of in-field training required.**
 - **Recruitment of Field Manager Louise Bennett**
 - **Recruitment of Team Leaders Amy James & Aoife Folley**

- **Recruitment of 17 volunteers**
- 2. **Booking of accommodation for the survey teams.**
- 3. **Successful on-going liaison with the Redland City Council (RCC) and Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC):**
 - **Approved access to QYAC/ RCC land for operation of the survey**
 - **Permission to erect scaffolding tower for whale survey & late draft design of tower in consultation with scaffolders and RCC OH&S and environment officers.**

2. Milestones and timeframes met

Identification of the Milestones and timeframes (and any performance indicators) met during the period to which the Report relates.

The only official milestones to this time were (i) the signing of the original agreement by the University and the Department, and (ii) the production of this report. Both of these have been met.

In terms of timeframes and organisational objectives, as per the previous section, all organisational objectives and milestones have been met and we are on track to start the survey June 6, 2015.

3. Delays affecting project

A statement as to whether the timeframes for the Activity are being met and an explanation of any delays that have occurred, including the reasons for those delays and the action the Organisation proposes to take to address the delay and the expected effects (if any) the delay will have on the Activity (including subsequent Milestones and the overall completion of the Activity).

As explained in section 1, the field survey was delayed by 12 months due to insufficient lead-in time between the announcement of funding and the scheduled field season. Other than that, there have been no further delays and we are on schedule to start the survey June 6.

4. Budget

A statement as to whether the Activity is proceeding within Budget, and if it is not, an explanation of why the Budget is not being met and the action the Organisation proposes to take to address this.

The activity is within budget and we do not foresee any major deviations from the budget. Salaries will be slightly higher than budgeted, but savings on the scaffolding will be such that the project remains within budget.

5. Current Balance of Account

A statement of the balance of the Organisation's account

\$54,576.18 is currently held in the account

6. Income and expenditure statement

An income and expenditure statement for the Funds to date (and as compared with the Budget)

This is attached as a separate document. Note that all remaining funds (as per above) are committed to enable the completion of the project on time and within budget.

\$65,971 was received in 2014.

\$11,394 (ex GST) has been spent on securing field accommodation.

A further \$18,606 is committed to final accommodation payments, maintenance of field personnel, and travel to and from the field site for personnel.

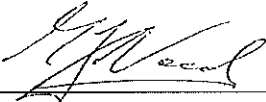

\$46,971 has been committed to salaries with contracts currently being finalised for field staff.

\$8,000 is required for theodolite maintenance and provision of the scaffolding tower.

\$1,000 is required for consumables (tape, cable ties, stationary, camping chairs, signage, sunscreen, etc.)

Comments

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Signature of Chief Investigator	
Name	Michael Noad
Date	29 Apr. 2015
Signature of Organisation Representative	
Name	Prof. Glen Coleman Head, School of Veterinary Science
Date	30/4/2015

Please forward 3 hard copies, and one electronic Word document of this report to:

Robyn Goyen
Coordinator
Australian Marine Mammal Centre
Australian Antarctic Division
203 Channel Highway
KINGSTON TAS 7050

Ammccordinator@aad.gov.au
