

SIGHTINGS!

APRIL 2015: Issue 3

A Race Against Time

MareCet leading the charge to fight against local extinction

Did you know?

MareCet's ongoing campaign shares interesting facts about marine mammals. Samples inside!

Be Our Partner

Be involved in many of our activities and do your part for marine conservation

Going Global

Find out how MareCet is getting involved in the international conservation scene



Words from the helm...

Another year has passed and what a roller coaster 2014 turned out to be. We had many highs - so many that we may have even outdone ourselves! But, as with anything, life also threw us a few lemons.

Our greatest highlight in 2014 was the inception of our Dugong Research & Conservation Project, to which this issue is dedicated. Now we have a real opportunity to further our knowledge on this elusive gentle herbivore within Malaysian waters. MareCet is fortunate to have the collaboration of many top local and international marine scientists for this project, and the great support of our local governmental agencies. The ability to combine good multi-component science with positive local support paves the way for us to afford enhanced protection to dugongs and their seagrass habitats in the near future.

On the downside, our Dolphin Research Project in Matang took a hit last November when a rogue wave caused our research vessel to tip over and capsize. We were able to pick ourselves up almost immediately through the immense outpouring of support from the general public both within and outside of Malaysia. There aren't enough words to say thank you adequately for the generosity of donations.

MareCet has grown from strength to strength because of your continued support of our important work. And so we thank you deeply. We believe that MareCet will continue to do so if you continue to journey with us and our dreams for a better conserved marine environment in Malaysia.

Let's get this show on the road and join us in reliving MareCet's 2014 and get a taste for MareCet's 2015 plans. Enjoy!

In this issue

| | |
|---|----|
| In Memoriam..... | 2 |
| Ongoing Projects..... | 4 |
| Blast from the Past..... | 11 |
| 2015 Sneak Preview..... | 18 |
| Publications, presentations & media coverage..... | 19 |
| Acknowledgements..... | 20 |
| Volunteers Speak Out..... | 25 |
| Lil' MareCet Shop..... | 26 |



Louisa Ponnampalam, PhD
Chairperson



Fairul Izmal Jamal Hisne
Vice-Chairperson

In Memoriam... Dr. Kanjana Adulyanukosol

14.04.1952 – 10.01.2015

The year begins on a very somber note for us at MareCet, as we learned of the passing of one of marine mammal science and marine conservation's most marvelous champions, Dr Kanjana Adulyanukosol.



Since 1988, Dr Kanjana had been conducting groundbreaking research on dugongs in Thailand, particularly in the Andaman Sea area of Trang Province. She studied the dugong's ecology, behaviour, feeding habits, seagrass habitats and investigated the extent of the threats of human activities on the dugong populations in Trang. Over the decades, she championed marine conservation tirelessly, be it amongst the local communities with whom she worked, the general public or at the governmental level. She started doing so at a time when the concept of marine conservation was virtually unheard of in Southeast Asia, when the means to promote conservation was a lot less available than now. She built a good rapport with local fishermen in Trang, successfully educating them on the importance of conserving dugongs and seagrass habitats and turning the coastal communities there into local champions of dugong conservation.

More importantly to us though, what set her apart from others was her generosity, kindness and affirmative leadership. She was never one to refuse helping others, and was always more than happy to impart her knowledge with fellow colleagues. Dr Kanjana showed us by example that to be a good leader was to listen, to treat everyone equally and to always provide opportunities for learning and improvements to those under one's charge. She has inspired countless people, both from the scientific and non-scientific communities. The world of marine conservation is certainly going to be very different without her.

At MareCet we are grateful that we had the privilege of knowing her and to have been mentored by her. And the best way we can honour her amazing legacy now is to continue the good work that she developed all these years....

Rest in peace, Dr Kanjana, and thank you for the decades of work that you did to make this world a better place for all.

Well done!!

We are incredibly proud to announce that our Chairperson, Dr Louisa was awarded the prestigious Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation 2014. She is one of five recipients for 2014, and the first from Malaysia!

Dr Louisa will be using her Fellowship to investigate the ecology of the dugongs in the Mersing Archipelago off the Johor east coast, teaming up with an excellent group of local and international scientists. The

overarching goal of the project is to afford the important seagrass habitats of the dugongs in the area better protection. The project will be done in close consultation with the Department of Marine Parks Malaysia, Johor National Parks Corporation and all relevant stakeholders in the area. Further to her success, the Malaysian Ministry of Youth and Sports acknowledged Dr Louisa's achievements with the National Youth Premier Award 2014 (Special Category) during 2014's National Youth Day celebrations. Congratulations and well done, Dr P! We are so proud of you!



Photo: Bahariah Bahadom



In Malaysia, new Pew marine fellow and biologist **Louisa Ponnampalam** is on a mission to save this cousin of the manatee.



Protecting the Dugong



2014 PEW MARINE FELLOWS
pewmarinefellows.org

The Fellowship is administered by the Pew Charitable Trusts in the United States, and is thought to be one of the 'holy grails' for marine conservationists.

To read more on Dr Louisa's Pew award:

- [Pew Trusts website](#)
- [Commonwealth Scholarship website](#)
- [Scientific Malaysian article](#)
- [The Star online article](#)

Ongoing Projects



Langkawi Dolphin Research turns FIVE!

This year marks the 5th year we would be running our flagship project – the Langkawi Dolphin Research Project. Last year saw us being less active with our research work in Langkawi as we worked up four years' worth of ecological data (and still in the process of completion). However, we did conduct two rounds of fieldwork, in March and October 2014, focusing mainly on the photo-identification of Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, to keep our catalogue of dorsal fin photographs going. We also managed to get acoustic recordings from two groups of dolphins which are in the midst of being analyzed. We are preparing the results for publication in a scientific journal.



Photo: MareCet

Langkawi Floating Exhibition (FLEX)

Due to issues beyond our control, the 'Floating Exhibition (FLEX)' has had to undergo a revamp. FLEX is now pushed to Phase 2 targeted to be launched in 2017. However, the exhibition will still continue as planned and we have just received agreement that the exhibition will be housed at the Langkawi Craft Complex. As such, for now...the project has been re-named 'Marine Mammals Alive!'



Work is still progressing on FLEX. We conducted two educational workshops targeted at the youth community to raise awareness on:

- (1) Malaysia's diverse environments, rich biodiversity and the threats they face
- (2) The various marine mammal species found in Malaysia and relevant conservation issues
- (3) Tour guiding skills including communication, presentation, and guiding and social etiquette

Marine Mammals Alive! is currently scheduled for a 2015 launch and will be located in Langkawi Island, Malaysia. We need your help to keep FLEX up and running to spread the word on marine conservation.

Contact us at partner.marecet@gmail.com to help raise the funds needed (an estimated RM 500,000) to make FLEX a reality.



Photos: MareCet



Letters Home > Opinion > Letters

Published: Wednesday April 30, 2014 MYT 12:00:00 AM
Updated: Wednesday April 30, 2014 MYT 8:10:49 AM

Dolphinarium not good idea

WE refer to the report "Langkawi set to lure the rich and famous with mixed development of RM4bil" (*The Star*, March 31), which mentions plans for a dolphinarium.

As a marine conservation NGO that is focused on dolphin research and conservation and one that has been doing so in Langkawi since 2010, we are deeply concerned about this planned dolphinarium.

Our main concern is on the source of the dolphins that will be acquired for this facility, followed by the actual size of the facility and the level of skill that will be employed to care for the animals' wellbeing.

Dolphins are highly mobile organisms and require vast areas to roam and so confining them in a tank in an artificial setting can cause them to suffer major health problems, which are hazardous not only to them but also to their handlers.

We are not in favour of animals in captivity, and especially when such captive facilities are unnecessary and operated purely to exploit the animals for profit.

It is indicative that many issues surrounding dolphinariums have not been carefully considered in the development of this plan which does not only raise concerns over the eventual welfare of the animals, but also on the environmental and social impact of the project.

We feel that by going through with this plan it will attract a negative perception of Langkawi from the public, both nationally and internationally.

While we understand that there are some captive facilities in existence around the world which provide educational services to the public, we believe that Langkawi has more than enough to offer naturally without resorting to the establishment of such a facility.

Langkawi's natural beauty and high biodiversity is its biggest draw and Langkawi is also home to populations of wild dolphins and porpoises. These animals can be observed with care in their natural environment, therefore the plan for a dolphinarium is rather redundant and outright unnecessary.

Having such a facility on Langkawi even makes a mockery of Langkawi's Unesco World Geopark Status and the "Naturally Langkawi" brand.

We are strongly committed to protecting the best interests of dolphins and all other marine mammals in Langkawi and Malaysia.

It should be noted that a collective group of marine mammal researchers and conservationists from around the world had congregated in Langkawi in March, last year for the Third South-East Asian Marine Mammal Symposium (SEAMAM III), and one of the most heated discussions related to the issue of marine mammal captivity.

Additionally, the public perception of the marine mammal captive industry has also dwindled significantly since the release of the documentary "Blackfish" earlier this year.

We feel that should this dolphinarium proceed, it will only bring negative attention to Langkawi rather than enhance its reputation as a major nature-based tourism destination of the world.

We urge all stakeholders to re-consider their plans for a dolphinarium in Langkawi.

LOUISA PONNAMPALAM
Chairman
MareCet Research Organisation

Although we have not been rigorously active with our research in Langkawi throughout 2014, we were still actively advocating for improved management of Langkawi's natural heritage. In April 2014, we voiced our concerns with a new development being undertaken at Burau Bay at the northwestern tip of Langkawi. Our concerns were brought to the nation's attention through the publication of our letter to the authorities in *The Star* newspaper. The letter was delivered to all relevant agencies on the local, state and federal government levels.

However, we have yet to receive any response relating the concerns we raised to date.

The development is currently in full swing and is expected to be completed by 2017.



Photo: Jo-Arme McArthur/ We Animals

Matang Dolphin Research is officially underway!

Last year proved to be a year of highs and lows for our Matang Dolphin Research Project (MDR).

Excitingly, we recorded a total of 164 sightings of three cetacean species over 42 days of boat surveys in January, March, July, September and November. Interview surveys in Matang commenced in February 2014, and to date, 120 interviews have been conducted with local fishermen in Matang to gauge the fishers' perceptions about cetaceans and conservation, and to acquire information on bycatch and cetacean sightings.

We have seen some interesting observations, including a group of Irrawaddy dolphins engaging in herd mating behaviour, and on one occasion, the flash of a male individual's genitalia!



Photo: MareCet

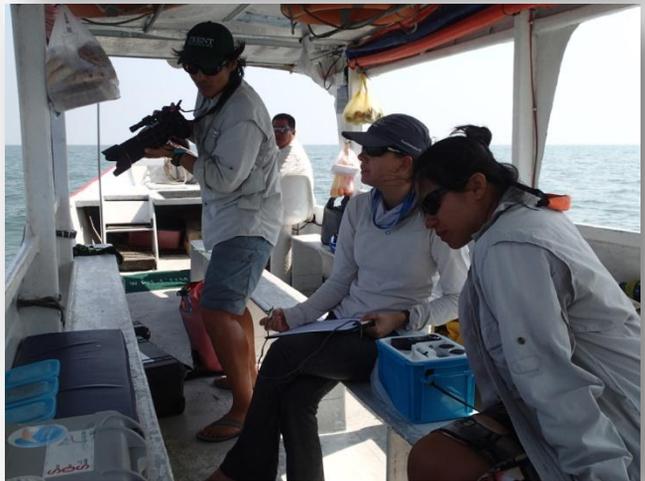


Photo: MareCet



Photo: MareCet

While we are almost always privileged to work with live animals, we also encounter dead animals from time to time. Two carcasses of Irrawaddy dolphins were encountered in March 2014 and July 2014 respectively during our boat surveys. A carcass of an Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin was encountered in September 2014 approximately 20 km offshore from Kuala Larut. With permission given by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, samples of the stomach contents were collected for dietary studies. The remains of prey items such as fish ear bones and squid beaks will be identified to determine the prey species of humpback dolphins in Matang.

We were privileged to have two visiting scientists, Dr. John Wang of Trent University in Canada and Ms. Claryana Araújo of the Federal University of Goiás in Brazil, visit our project field site during the March 2014 MDR survey. Dr. Wang and Ms. Araújo provided very valuable advice to improve on our survey methods and project outputs. With their assistance, we were able to record the whistles of Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins and Irrawaddy dolphins for the first time in Matang.

We had hosted two intern students from Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong's (OPCFHK) University Student Sponsorship Programme, Daniel Lee Ka Sing and Maggie Suen Man King. Both of them had joined our MDR survey for 10 days in July 2014. We were pleased to have had the opportunity to build capacity and awareness among enthusiastic youth such as themselves and hope that their participation in our project has been a valuable learning experience for them.

We would like to thank the OPCFHK for the project's financial support, and also financial support by two University of Malaya grants that made our surveys in Matang possible.

We are very grateful for the help of our volunteers to date: Lee Yih Nin, Cheong Chin Jou, Gerard Wong, Fadia Al Abbar, Joel Cheah, Quek Yew Aun, Chong Ie Yern, Florence Gusti, Daniel Lee, Maggie Suen, Jenny Cantlay, Anna Norliza, Heng Wei Khang, Ho Suet Mun and Abel Ho. Thank you to our skipper, Mr. Lim Eng Kee and local fishermen in Matang for their support towards our research. We look forward to resuming our MDR boat surveys in 2015 and hope to be able to continue our research on marine mammals in Matang safely and smoothly.



Photo: MareCet



MDR Project Leader, Vivian, leading a tour with Perak Forestry Department and other conference participants on dolphin biodiversity in Matang, Perak during the Matang Forestry Conference.

Photos: MareCet

Dugong Research and Conservation

The dugong is a large herbivorous marine mammal that thrives in and around seagrass meadows. In 2014, through the Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation granted to Dr Louisa, MareCet was able to commence a comprehensive ecological study of the dugongs and their seagrass habitats off the east coast islands of Johor, namely around Pulau Tinggi, Sibul, Besar and Tengah. This is the first dugong research project in Malaysia that combines various research disciplines and a diverse team of scientists and conservation officers from the local and international community as well as local authorities.

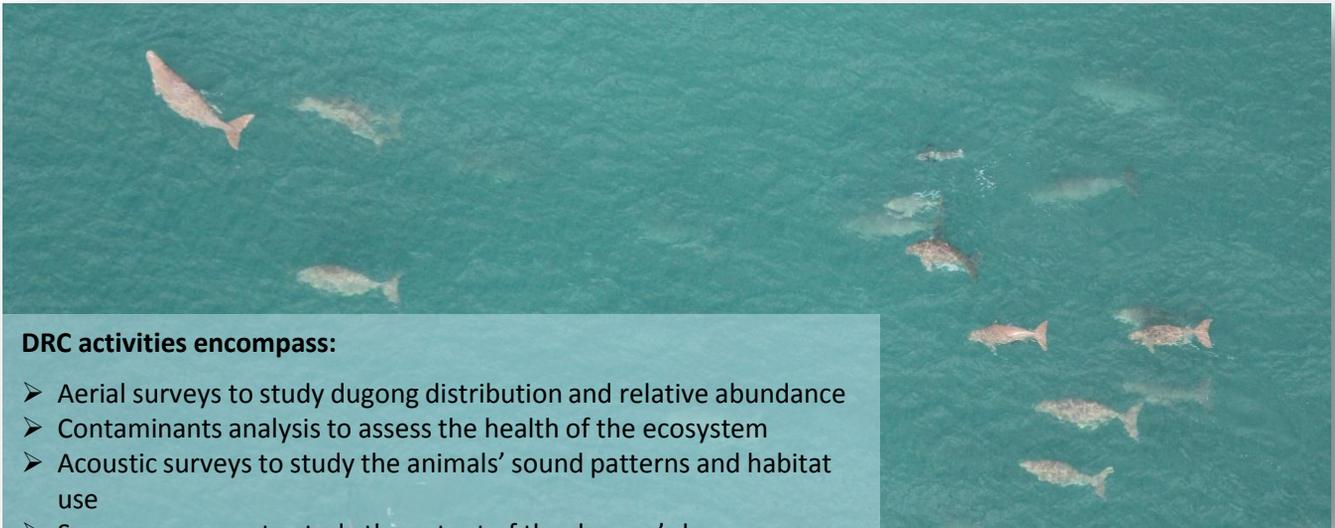
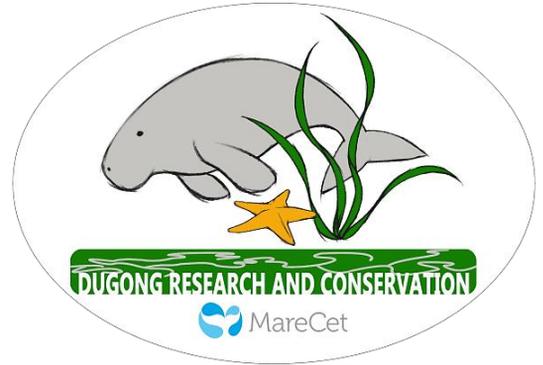
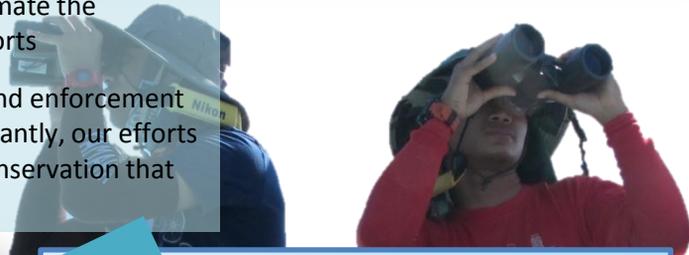


Photo: MareCet

DRC activities encompass:

- Aerial surveys to study dugong distribution and relative abundance
- Contaminants analysis to assess the health of the ecosystem
- Acoustic surveys to study the animals' sound patterns and habitat use
- Seagrass surveys to study the extent of the dugong's key seagrass meadows and also the species' feeding habits
- A total economic valuation of the study site to estimate the monetary value of the area to aid conservation efforts

The data gathered will be used for the development and enforcement of a dugong and seagrass protected area. Most importantly, our efforts on this project is going to give seagrasses a voice in conservation that these important marine flora never had!



Undertaking acoustic survey with Dr. Tom Akamatsu around Pulau Sibul, Johor

Photo: MareCet

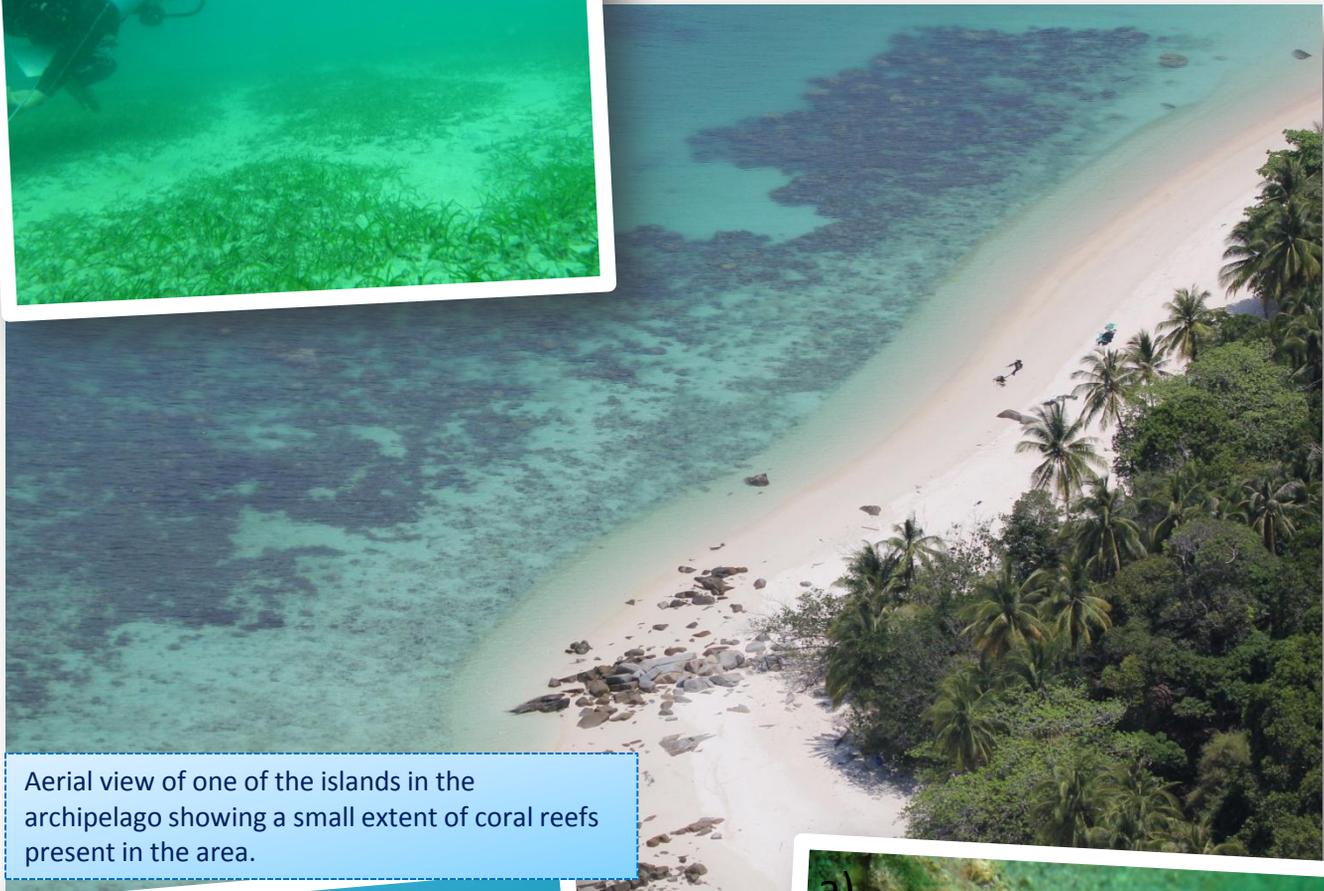
Discoveries

We've managed to capture the **FIRST** audio recordings of dugong sound in Malaysia! Did you know that despite its large size, dugongs produce very high-pitched sounds called 'chirps'?

- The dugongs appear to be mainly distributed in the same areas where they were found 4 years ago, reinforcing our convictions that the boundaries of existing marine parks in the area need revision and extension.



Surveying for dugong feeding trails around the project site.



Aerial view of one of the islands in the archipelago showing a small extent of coral reefs present in the area.

Photos: MareCet



d)

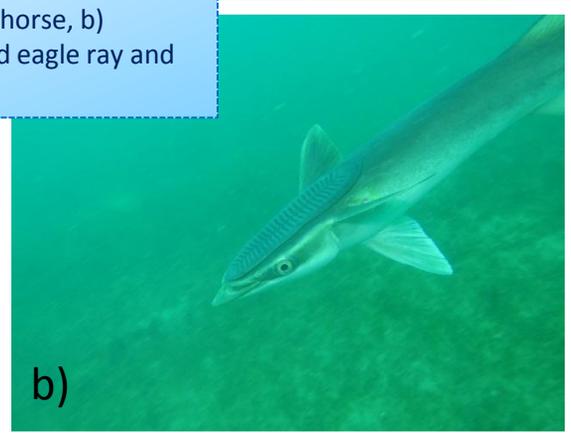


a)

Evidence of marine biodiversity in Johor Sibul-Tinggi area, clockwise from right: a) Hedgehog seahorse, b) Remora fish, c) Spotted eagle ray and d) Sea apple



c)



b)

Follow us on Facebook to know more
@langkawi dolphin research



There are at least **27** species of **MARINE MAMMALS** (whales, dolphins, porpoise, dugong) that can be found in Malaysian seas! Some more regularly than others.

DID YOU KNOW?



 @marecet

DID YOU KNOW?

A group of dolphins, porpoises or whales is known as a **POD**. A pod can range from as little as **three** animals to as large as **hundreds** or **thousands** of animals.



Blast from the Past - MareCet's 2014

MareCet Around the World!

MareCet marked the end of 2014 by calling our supporters to join the MareCet Around the World campaign to stand up and be seen. Since then we've seen our MareCet family proudly flying MareCet's colours in various parts of the world, taking pictures in front of famous landmarks in the countries that they visited. The campaign continues in 2015, with MareCet yet to be sighted in South America, Africa and Antarctica. Here's your chance to be the first to post a picture from those continents!



Knock-knock Fundraising Drive!



A garage sale in aid of MareCet was hosted by one of our Council Members, Daniel Liew on 2 March 2014 at Knock Knock Café situated within Pantai Panorama Condominium in Bangsar South. We thank everyone who dropped by to drink coffee and support us by purchasing the pre-owned books and dive gears. By the way, there are still STACKS of secondhand books available for sale at Knock Knock, and all proceeds will still go to....us! So, do drop by....the coffee there is.....quite delicious!

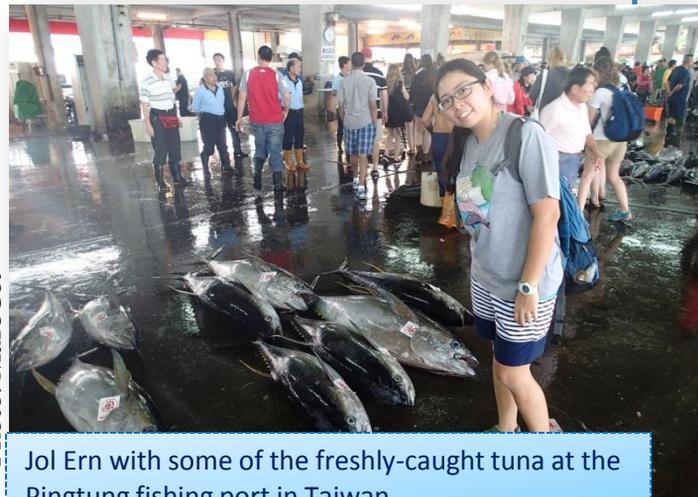
Hong Kong & Taiwan Study Visit

MareCet had the opportunity to send one of our Council members, Jol Ern, to participate in a two-week summer field course on 'Dolphin and Whale Biology and Conservation in Tropical Asia' in Taiwan and Hong Kong, from 2 to 15 May 2014. Organised by the Natural Resources DNA Profiling and Forensic Centre, Canada in partnership with FormosaCetus Research and Conservation Group and the Hong Kong Dolphin Conservation Society, the field course was to introduce participants to many of the marine conservation issues impacting cetaceans in the Asian region.

Throughout the course, participants were immersed in various activities such as lectures, group project and assignments, debates and discussion, and a documentary film screening, in order to learn and gain knowledge and skills on cetacean research, and to better understand the impacts of human activities on cetaceans.

Participants visited the coastal regions of the East Taiwan Strait and fishing ports in Pingtung and Yilan in east Taiwan and were treated to one of Hong Kong's iconic marine species, the Chinese white dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*). It was an amazing opportunity to learn from some of the top cetacean scientists and conservationists.

Photo: MareCet



Jol Ern with some of the freshly-caught tuna at the Pingtung fishing port in Taiwan



Photo: MareCet

Participants of the course on the survey vessel

Ocean Awareness Week (3 – 10 May)

MareCet participated in the 'Go Blue-Ocean Awareness Week 2014' (OAW) at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), organized by the Scuba Club of USM in Penang for the second year running.

The programme included a charity run themed 'Run For The Ocean' on May 4, where participants could choose to run in support of MareCet. Apart from participating in the OAW exhibition, our Council Member Vivian also delivered a talk titled "What's the Big Deal about Marine Mammals?", which highlighted the significance and importance of marine mammals to the health of the marine environment.



Photo: MareCet

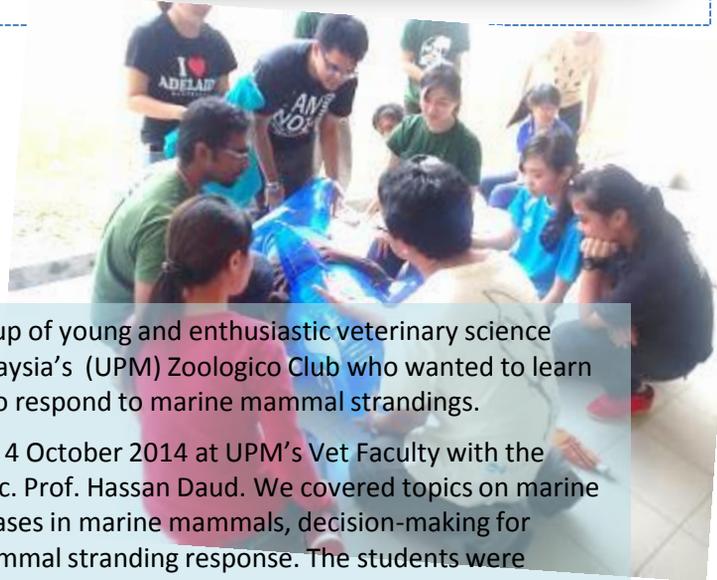
Discussing MMPAs: from Semenyih to Adelaide

On 18 – 19 August 2014, MareCet co-hosted a workshop entitled: 'Effective Marine Protected Areas for Marine Mammals in Asia' at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus which saw 20 participants from around Southeast Asia deliberate on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (MMPAs) and their effectiveness as a conservation tool in the region. The findings of this workshop were subsequently presented to a global audience at the Third International Conference on Marine Mammal MPA (ICMMPA) held in Adelaide, Australia, on 9 – 11 November 2014. The ICMMPA brought together leading minds in marine mammal sciences and environmental managers experienced in dealing with marine protected areas together to discuss current issues relating to marine mammal conservation and MPA management. Issues raised by the Southeast Asian delegates were brought to the fore at the

ICMMPA and was found to be similar in many aspects to issues faced in other regions. However, the ICMMPA did see some new concepts and ideas being put forth which may change the way we look at marine mammal conservation in the years ahead, some of which MareCet is also actively involved with to date.



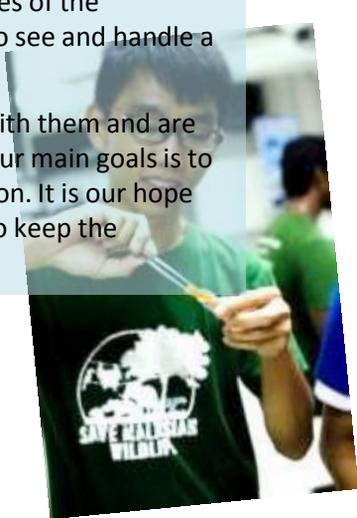
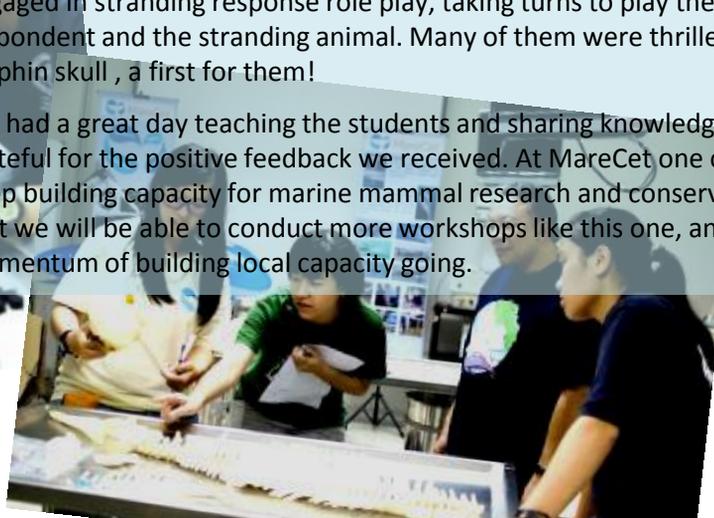
UPM Zoologico Week: Marine Mammal Stranding Workshop



MareCet was approached by a group of young and enthusiastic veterinary science students from Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) Zoologico Club who wanted to learn about marine mammals and how to respond to marine mammal strandings.

We devised a full day workshop on 4 October 2014 at UPM's Vet Faculty with the assistance of UPM's very own Assoc. Prof. Hassan Daud. We covered topics on marine mammal biology and ecology, diseases in marine mammals, decision-making for animal euthanasia, and marine mammal stranding response. The students were engaged in stranding response role play, taking turns to play the roles of the respondent and the stranding animal. Many of them were thrilled to see and handle a dolphin skull, a first for them!

We had a great day teaching the students and sharing knowledge with them and are grateful for the positive feedback we received. At MareCet one of our main goals is to keep building capacity for marine mammal research and conservation. It is our hope that we will be able to conduct more workshops like this one, and to keep the momentum of building local capacity going.

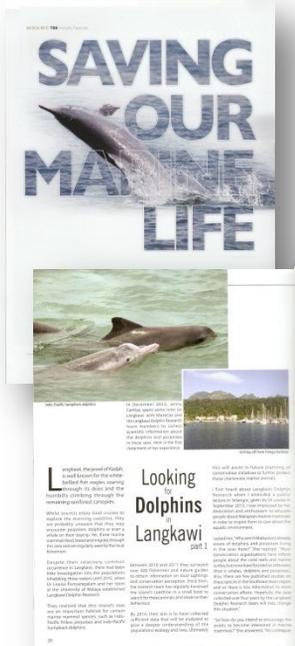


Last year, our organization, our efforts and our members were featured in various online and print media.

We remain so grateful for these opportunities to spread the word on marine mammals and marine conservation in Malaysia. Each respective article may be downloaded from our website at: <http://marecet.org/news-and-publications/marecet-in-the-media>

MareCet in the Media

- MareCet's Langkawi Dolphin Research Project was featured in the March 2014 issue of the Association of British Women in Malaysia (ABWM) magazine.
- MareCet was featured in the April 2014 issue of Resource Magazine, a magazine for the Malaysian Petroleum Club members, in a piece entitled, "Saving Our Marine Life".
- Our Chairperson, Dr Louisa, was on air at BFM 89.9's The Bigger Picture programme on 4 Apr 2014, talking to Meera Sivasothy about her journey in marine biology, her recent win of the prestigious Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation and MareCet's current efforts on studying the dugongs in Johor. To listen to the podcast of her interview, click [here](#).
- Dr Louisa was featured in the April 2014 issue of Faces Magazine, in a collated article about current local environmental issues.
- Dr Louisa was featured in the 'People' section of Issue 099 of Focus Malaysia newspaper. Read all about her outlook on marine conservation in Malaysia and how she has journeyed through the different phases of her ever-developing career.



World Oceans Day (8 June)

MareCet, in partnership with Fishermen Integrated, published an online video entitled 'A Permanent Reminder' visualizing how human activities are causing damages to the marine environment, some of which are irreparable. The video is meant to serve as a reminder of the fragility of our natural world and how we must play a part in its conservation. The video is accessible on YouTube through this [link](#).

Langkawi Environmental Dialogue (12 October)

We attended a dialogue with the Environmental Exco Member of the Kedah State Government, YB Datuk Dr Leong Yong Kong, held at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Langkawi. This dialogue was held with the intention of understanding the environmental issues facing Langkawi island and to identify critical areas for intervention. The dialogue was attended by representatives of local businesses, NGOs and local tour operators. We are currently waiting for further information on the way forward based on the outcomes of the dialogue.

Marine mammal stranding response training at the Phuket Marine Biological Centre, Thailand

Photo: MareCet



Watching a necropsy demonstration by Dr. Eric Lombardini

In October 2013, there was the ASEAN Rescue Training for Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Workshop, organized by the Thai Department of Marine and Coastal Resources and Veterinary Medical Aquatic Animal Research Center of Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. Our Council members, Vivian and Jol Ern were given the opportunity to participate in the training along with others from Malaysia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. They gained valuable learning experiences to be applied to our work here in Malaysia. The discussion on an ASEAN Network yielded ideas and plans to improve the network in the region and better prepare ourselves for future stranding incidents in Malaysia.

Highlights

- Necropsy of an Indo-Pacific finless porpoise and a green sea turtle by veterinarian scientist Dr. Eric Lombardini from Chulalongkorn University
- Training on emergency first response, handling and transport for stranding by Ms. Bianca Espinos and Dr. Nantarika Chansue, from Chulalongkorn University



Undergoing a mock stranding incident with a mock 'dolphin'

Photo: MareCet

I
N
B
R
I
E
F

Photo: MareCet



KL Eco Film Fest (18 - 19 October)

MareCet participated in the KL Eco Film Fest (KLEFF) held in Publika, KL, where we had set up a booth and raised awareness on issues relating to marine mammals and their habitats. The event was open to the public with participation by NGOs and businesses promoting environmentally-friendly practices.

MareCet @ the Matang Forestry Conference

In celebration of 100 years of the successful implementation of systematic forest management practices in Matang, the Perak State Forestry Department organized a conference entitled "The Perak Conference on a Century of Matang Mangrove Forest Management: Harnessing Transformation Ideas". The conference was aimed at bringing together national, regional and international researchers, forest managers, NGOs and the local community for the development of new ideas for the management of the Matang Mangroves for another century.

MareCet was represented by Council Members, Vivian and Jol Ern. Vivian also presented a paper entitled "Cetacean Research and a Precautionary Approach in Developing Dolphin-Watching Tourism in the Coastal Waters of the Matang Mangroves", in which she shared preliminary results on dolphin distribution and a recommended set of dolphin – watching guidelines in Matang. MareCet would like to thank the Perak State Forestry Department for the invitation to share our work with all who were present.



Photo: MareCet

DRC goes international!

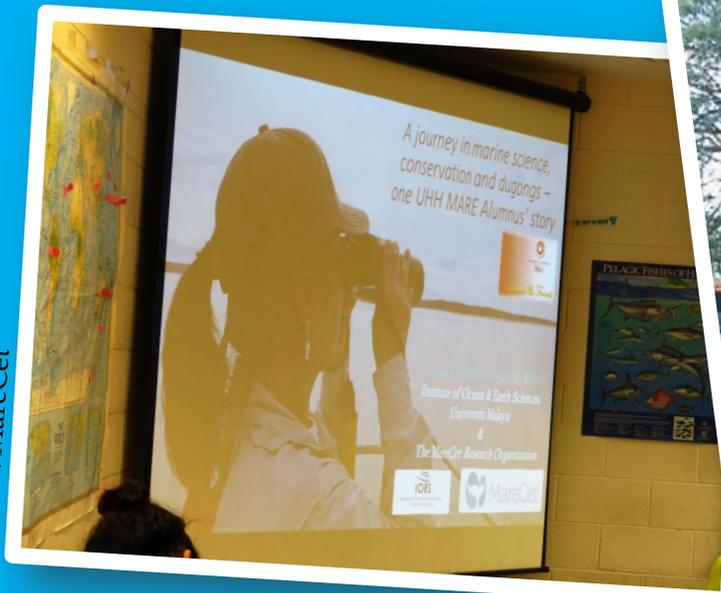


Photo: MareCet

Last November, Dr Louisa was invited to talk about our dugong research and conservation project at two American universities. The first was at the Rosenberg Seminar Series, at the Romberg Tiburon Center under San Francisco State University in California. The other was at the Marine Science Department of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, on the Big Island of Hawai'i, where Dr Louisa is an alumnus (Class of 2003).



Photo: MareCet

MareCet Co-Founder, Fairul presented at the World Congress on Protected Areas 2014 (WCPA 2014) in Sydney, Australia. His presentation at this once-a-decade event showcased our Dugong Research & Conservation project. His presentation can be accessed on YouTube at this [link](#).



Revision of National Policy on Biodiversity

MareCet was involved in various dialogues for the revision of the National Policy on Biodiversity throughout 2014. This revision is an effort by the Biodiversity and Forest Management Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) to update the current policy, which was drafted in 1998. This long-awaited revision is welcomed as for the first time issues relating to marine biodiversity management is highlighted within the country's foremost policy on biodiversity. This policy is the key document providing guidance for Malaysia's fulfillment to her obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a multi-national agreement on conservation of biodiversity resources worldwide. Malaysia has ratified the CBD since 1994. MareCet's involvement is to raise awareness and focus on marine conservation issues, especially pertaining to marine mammals and their habitats, and will continue to do so in platforms such as this in the foreseeable future.

MareCet presents... "Friends of MareCet Lecture Series"

Continuing from 2013's MareCet's Lecture Series, 2014 saw us hosting a "Friends of MareCet" Lecture Series highlighting the great and commendable work our colleagues are currently working on throughout Malaysia. Guests were treated to a casual fact-filled morning in a cosy surrounding with delicious coffee and cakes at CAFFEine café. Less a lecture and more a meeting of like-minded people, talks were typically followed with some very lively discussions on current issues relating to the environment.

Kicking off the series was a presentation by Adam Lim, chairperson of the NGO Save Our Seahorses (SOS) Malaysia, followed by Kee Alfian of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia on coral reefs of Malaysia, and finally by Wong Si Peng of SiputScuba relating to shark conservation and the issue of marine debris.

FRIENDS OF MareCet LECTURE SERIES: LECTURE 1
Pregnant Fathers and Uncaring Mothers - SEAHORSES: The Malaysian Story

Date : 22 Feb 2014
 Time : 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Venue : CAFFEine
 (G-9), Level 1, Block C, SetiaWalk, Persiaran Wawasan
 Pusat Bandar Puchong, 47100 Puchong.
 Cost : RM 65 (Adults); RM 35 (Kids 12-17 years old)
 Inclusive of coffee/fruit smoothie and a slice of cake

Speaker: Adam Lim
 Adam Lim is the general manager of Save Our Seahorses Malaysia (SOS) Malaysia and is also a member of the National Biodiversity Commission (NBC) for Seahorses, Reptiles and Amphibians. He is also a member of the National Biodiversity Commission (NBC) for Seahorses, Reptiles and Amphibians. He is also a member of the National Biodiversity Commission (NBC) for Seahorses, Reptiles and Amphibians. He is also a member of the National Biodiversity Commission (NBC) for Seahorses, Reptiles and Amphibians.

Check out www.marecet.org/ Follow Lailahani Daphni Research on Facebook
 To register, email to ask.marecet@gmail.com or call 011-5577802
 Proceeds go towards supporting MareCet's efforts in marine mammals research & conservation

FRIENDS OF MareCet LECTURE SERIES: LECTURE 2
CORAL REEFS AND US: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

Date : 16 April 2014
 Time : 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Venue : CAFFEine
 (G-9), Level 1, Block C, SetiaWalk, Persiaran Wawasan
 Pusat Bandar Puchong, 47100 Puchong.
 Cost : RM 65 (Adults); RM 35 (College & uni students);
 RM 35 (Kids 12-17 years old)
 Inclusive of coffee/fruit smoothie and a slice of cake

Speaker: Kee Alfian
 Kee Alfian is a marine biologist and senior lecturer at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). During the past few years he has been involved in various marine conservation projects. He has been working closely with WWF-Malaysia, the Malaysian Nature Society and Reef Check Malaysia on coral reef monitoring and conservation in Malaysia. He has also been involved in various marine conservation projects in Malaysia. He has been working closely with WWF-Malaysia, the Malaysian Nature Society and Reef Check Malaysia on coral reef monitoring and conservation in Malaysia. He has also been involved in various marine conservation projects in Malaysia.

Check out www.marecet.org/ Follow Lailahani Daphni Research on Facebook
 To register, email to ask.marecet@gmail.com or call 011-5577802
 Proceeds go towards supporting MareCet's efforts in marine mammals research & conservation

FRIENDS OF MareCet LECTURE SERIES: LECTURE 3
A LOVE AFFAIR WITH SHARKS & INTOLERANCE FOR MARINE TRASH

Date : 14 June 2014
 Time : 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Venue : CAFFEine
 (G-9), Level 1, Block C, SetiaWalk, Persiaran
 Wawasan Pusat Bandar Puchong, 47100 Puchong.
 Cost : RM 65 (Adults);
 RM 45 (College & uni students);
 RM 35 (Kids 12-17 years old)
 Inclusive of coffee/fruit smoothie and a slice of cake

Speaker: Wong Si Peng
 Si Peng is a member of the marine conservation community in Malaysia. He has been working closely with WWF-Malaysia, the Malaysian Nature Society and Reef Check Malaysia on shark conservation and marine debris monitoring in Malaysia. He has been working closely with WWF-Malaysia, the Malaysian Nature Society and Reef Check Malaysia on shark conservation and marine debris monitoring in Malaysia.

Check out www.marecet.org/ Follow Lailahani Daphni Research on Facebook
 To register, email to ask.marecet@gmail.com or call 011-5577802
 Proceeds go towards supporting MareCet's efforts in marine mammals research & conservation



Photo: MareCet



For a great cuppa head over to CAFFEine at SetiaWalk, Persiaran Wawasan, Pusat Bandar Puchong!

CAFFEine is open from 12 - 11pm (Wed - Mon) and 4 - 11pm (Tue). Find out more at www.caffeine.my or follow their coffee trail on Facebook.

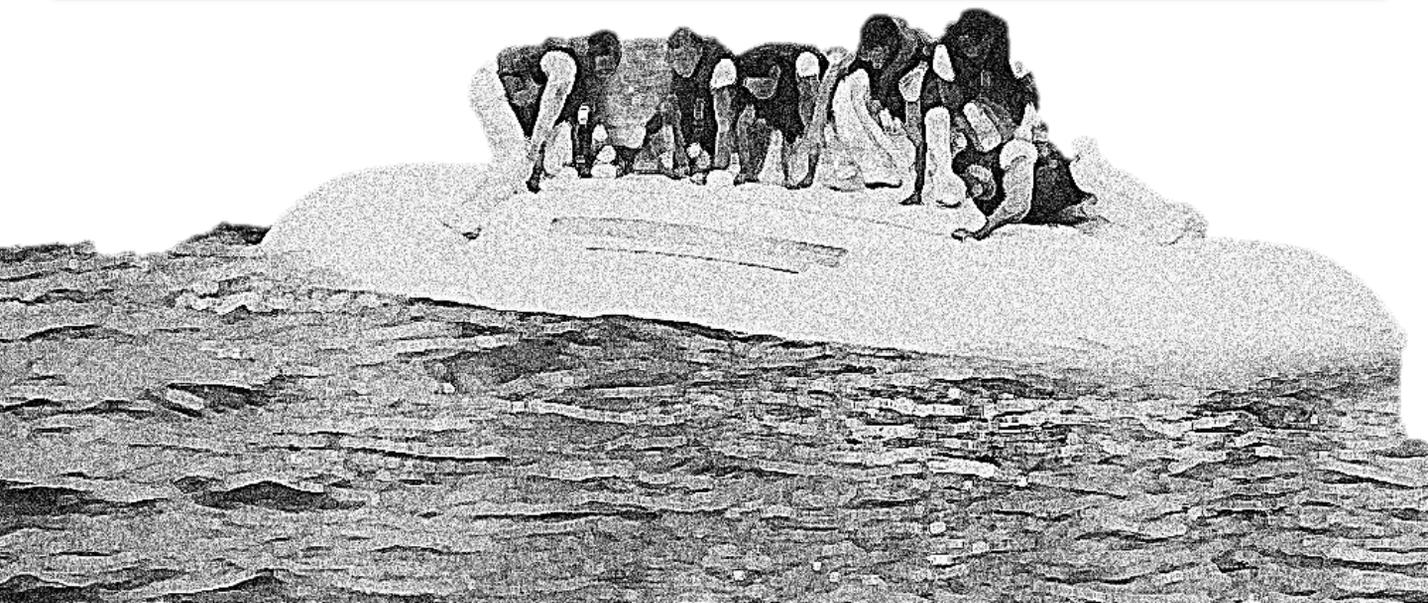
Rogue wave capsizes MareCet's research vessel!

On 8 November 2014, the Matang research team suffered a boat capsizing incident near Kuala Trong at approximately 1 pm while stopped for refueling in shallow water close to the coast. It was the third day of our November MDR survey. A large swell hit our research vessel and the boat tilted to the starboard side. Another large swell hit the boat again before it could recover from the first swell that hit, causing the vessel to topple over. All five onboard, including our skipper, fell into the water along with all our research equipment and personal belongings.

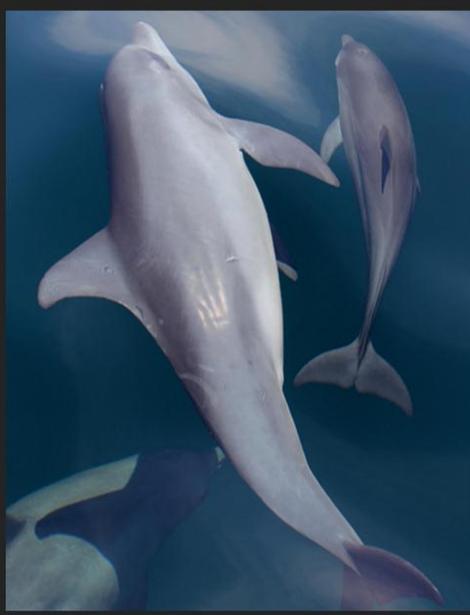
Our team was approximately 2 km from the shoreline. Our Council member Vivian, who was leading the survey, and the skipper left the vessel first to look for help. They had to swim to shore and across rivers and trek through the thick and tangled mangrove forests to get to the nearest local settlement. They eventually arrived in Kuala Trong and were rescued by a local fisherman at 9pm. The other three team members waited on top of the overturned boat (which was actually the underside of the boat), which eventually drifted to shore after several hours of going with the tides and currents. They too then trekked through the mangrove forest until it was too dark to trek anymore after sunset, stopped and waited for help. A few fishermen from Kuala Jarum Mas were asked to help look for the remaining three and those fishermen set out on their trawlers. It was not until midnight that the three were found and brought to safety on land. Most fortunately, the entire research team made it to safety and suffered only minor cuts and injuries. A police report was lodged the following day at the Taiping Police Station.

We lost most of our main research equipment in this mishap, which included two DSLR cameras and zoom lens, binoculars, GPS and a multiparameter water sampler. The total cost to replace the equipment lost amounted to approximately RM35,000. Without immediate available funds to recover those losses, we made an emergency appeal for public donations to raise funds so that we could have continuity in our research work.

Donations were made through the donation site, <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/dolphin-research-emergency-funding-for-continuity> and via direct deposit to our MareCet bank account. As of December 2014, the total amount of donations received was **RM33,296.55**. MareCet would like to sincerely thank all who have shown great support in our appeal for donations for this unfortunate incident, and a big THANK YOU to all who have donated to assist us in replacing these equipment losses in order for us to continue our work in the near future. We are also incredibly indebted to the fishermen who helped rescue the research team. The equipment has now been repurchased and our dolphin research activities resumed in Matang in March 2015.



Follow us on Facebook to know more
@langkawi dolphin research



DID YOU KNOW?

Whales, dolphins & porpoises are collectively known as **CETACEANS** {se-tay-shens}.

A cetacean has streamlined body, paddle-shaped front flippers, one or two blowholes on top of the head, and a horizontally flattened tail fluke.



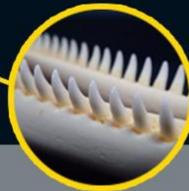
 @marecet



 @marecet

DID YOU KNOW?

There are two main categories of whales, **TOOTHED WHALES** and **BALEEN WHALES**.



TOOTHED WHALES (Odontoceti)

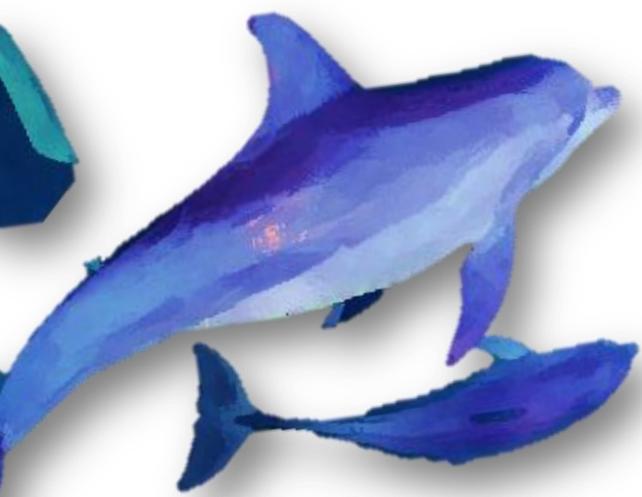
Toothed whales, as their name suggest, have **teeth**. Their teeth are used only to **grab prey**. Toothed whales do not chew using their teeth but swallow the prey whole. All dolphins and porpoises belong in this category.



BALEEN WHALES (Mysticeti)

Baleen whales do not have teeth but **baleen plates** inside their mouth. Baleen plates facilitate the whales' **filter-feeding** habit by straining the water that was gulped, leaving behind only the prey items in their mouths. Baleen is made of keratin, just like our hair and nails!

2015 Sneak Preview



Events, Books and the Internet

Watch out for new exciting projects and campaigns in 2015! MareCet is currently in the midst of preparing a variety of events, publications and materials in both real and virtual worlds. Totally classified right now, but continue to watch, follow and stalk us on our website, Facebook and Instagram pages for updates throughout the year!



Humpback dolphin genetics project

This year, we embark on a new project, never been done before in Malaysia, and that is the detailed study of dolphin genetics! In mid-2014, we were invited by Dr Howard Rosenbaum, Director of the Ocean Giants Programme at the Wildlife Conservation Society New York, to partake in a new global taxonomic study of humpback dolphins (*Sousa* spp.). Needless to say, we leapt at the amazing opportunity to be a part of this exciting and important study, which could have conservation implications for the humpback dolphins here in Malaysia. After much discussion with the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, we were finally granted the permit to obtain tissue samples from these animals, by way of biopsy sampling and also collection from dead stranded animals.

We will commence our sampling of these animals in the second quarter of 2015, and plan to sample humpback dolphins from around Langkawi, Matang and also the Klang Islands. Who knows, this study might just reveal a new species of humpback dolphin for this region, and, maybe even Malaysia!

In early 2014, Dr Rosenbaum and his team published a scientific article detailing the identification of a new species of dolphin now officially named the Australian humpback dolphin (*Sousa sahalensis*). This new species was previously lumped together with the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (*S. chinensis*), the species of humpback dolphin currently recognized as present in Malaysian waters. But, could this new genetics study show otherwise? We shall find out in due time! If you're interested to read more about the discovery of the Australian humpback dolphin, you may go to the following URL:

<http://www.wcs.org/press/press-releases/new-dolphin-species-named.aspx>



Publications, presentations and media coverage

As a research and conservation entity, it is important that our work is shared with the scientific community, governmental agencies, local communities where we work and the public at large. The following is a list of our publications (including contributed articles), presentations and media coverage to date. Some of these are available as electronic PDF files upon request to ask.marecet@gmail.com.

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles, Book Chapter and Conference Proceedings

Kuit, S. H., Ponnampalam, L. S., Fairul Izmal, J. H. and Chong, V. C. 2014. Cetacean research and a precautionary approach in developing dolphin-watching tourism in the coastal waters of the Matang mangroves. Proceedings of the Matang Mangrove Forest Management Conference 2014, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia. pp. 27 – 39.

Pomilla, C., Amaral, A. R., Collins, T., Minton, G., Findlay, K., Leslie, M. S., Ponnampalam, L., Baldwin, R. and Rosenbaum, H. 2014. The world's most isolated and distinct whale population? Humpback whales of the Arabian Sea. PLoS ONE 9(12): e114162. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0114162

Ponnampalam, L.S., Fairul Izmal, J.H., Adulyanukosol, K., Ooi, J.L.S. and Reynolds III, J.E. 2014. Aligning conservation and research priorities for proactive species and habitat management: the case of dugongs Dugong dugon in Johor, Malaysia. *Oryx FirstView*: 1-7. doi:10.1017/S0030605313001580

Ponnampalam, L. S. 2014. Medics and marine mammals – An unlikely but important connection for humanity's survival. *Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences* 21(2): 1- 3.

Presentations at professional meetings and public events

Fairul Izmal J.H. 2014. Marine mammals in Malaysia: What's out there and implications to the Oil & Gas industry. Petrofac Malaysia Environmental Month. Petronas Tower 3, 27 November 2014 and Kemaman Supply Base, 30 November 2014.

Fairul Izmal J.H. and Ponnampalam, L. 2014. Aligning research needs and conservation goals: Perspectives from Malaysia. IUCN World Congress on Protected Areas 2014, Sydney, Australia, 17 November 2014.

Fairul Izmal, J. H. and Ponnampalam, L. S. 2014. Marine protected areas in Peninsular Malaysia. Society for Conservation Biology Asia Chapter Workshop on Marine Protected Areas, University of Nottingham Malaysia, Semenyih, Malaysia, 17 August 2014.

Kuit, S. H. 2014. What's the Big Deal about Marine Mammals? Ocean Awareness Week. Universiti Sains Malaysia. 5 May 2014.

Kuit, S. H., Ponnampalam, L. S., Fairul Izmal, J. H. and Chong, V. C. 2014. Cetacean research and a precautionary approach in developing dolphin-watching tourism in the coastal waters of the Matang mangroves. Matang Mangrove Forest Management Conference 2014, Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia, 26 November 2014.

Mustika, P.L, Fairul Izmal J.H., Ham, G.S., Acebes, J.M., Hines, E., Illangakoon, A., Junchoopoo, C., Kreb, D., Zulkifli Poh, A.N., Peter, C., Ponnampalam, L., Porter, L., and Setiawan, A. 2014. Small MMPAs in South and Southeast Asia: Status update, threats and suggestions for management. Third International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (ICMMPA), Adelaide, Australia, 9 November 2014.

Ponnampalam, L. S., Fairul Izmal, J. H., Ichikawa, K., Akamatsu, T., Reynolds III, J.E., and Wetzel, D. 2014. A multi-pronged approach in overcoming knowledge barriers on dugong ecology and conservation status in Johor, Malaysia – Towards critical habitat protection. Seminar Saintifik Taman Negara Johor, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, 14 August 2014.

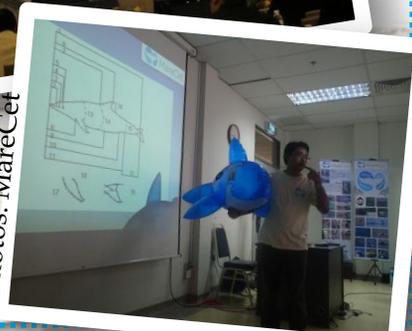
Ponnampalam, L. S. 2014. Marine conservation – What's in it for us? AIESEC Miracle Youth Conference 2014, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Malaysia, 1 August 2014.

Ponnampalam, L. S. 2014. A multi-pronged approach in overcoming knowledge barriers on dugong ecology and conservation status in Johor, Malaysia – Towards critical habitat protection. Rosenberg Lecture Series, Romberg Tiburon Center, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California, 5 November 2014.

Ponnampalam, L. S. 2014. A multi-pronged approach in overcoming knowledge barriers on dugong ecology and conservation status in Johor, Malaysia – Towards critical habitat protection. Pew Marine Fellows Annual Meeting, Cavallo Lodge, San Francisco, California, 7 November 2014.

Ponnampalam, L. S. 2014. A journey in marine science, conservation and dugongs – One UHH MARE alumnus' story. UHH MOP lecture, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Hilo, Hawai'i, 15 November 2014.

Ponnampalam, L. S. 2014. A multi-pronged approach in overcoming knowledge barriers on dugong ecology and conservation status in Johor, Malaysia – Towards critical habitat protection. 2nd China-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation Meeting, Cape Panwa Resort, Phuket, Thailand, 16 December 2014.



Photos: MareCet

Thank you for all the support!

We continue to be overwhelmed by all the support we received throughout the year be it in terms of financial, equipment, manpower, or moral support and we'd like to take this opportunity to record our heartfelt appreciation to those who have helped us in our efforts thus far. We would like to thank the Australian Department of the Environment who through the Indo-Pacific Cetacean Fund has provided the much-needed funds to continue our Langkawi Dolphin Research program. Our heartfelt thanks also to the Ocean Park Conservation Fund Hong Kong and University of Malaya who provided the necessary funds for our Matang Dolphin Research program. Not least the Pew Charitable Trusts for making the Dugong Research and Conservation program a reality and Capt Ted Cheng, Capt. Rave and Capt. Afham at the Royal Selangor Flying Club, Pulau Tinggi homestay family, Department of Marine Parks Malaysia, Johor National Parks Corporation and Pulau Sibul Resort for helping make it happen each step of the way. To USM Scuba Club with your great fundraiser marathon, thank you!

Our deepest gratitude goes to Dr. Jay Sweeney, Dr. Rae Stone and Dolphin Quest Incorporated, CAFFEine and Knock-knock cafés for their continual support of our work and for sharing our conservation vision. Our thank you also to Dr. John Reynolds III, Anouk Ilangakoon, Prof. Ellen Hines, Dr. Donna Kwan, Dr. Dana Wetzel, Dr. Tom Akamatsu, Dr. Kotaro Ichikawa, Dr. John Wang, Claryana Araújo, Kayleigh Hughes, Jordan Hoffman, Tan Yee Keat, Dr. Nicolas Pilcher, Dr. Satoko Kimura, Adam Miranda, Kee Alfian, Faztina Fazaldin and the late Dr. Kanjana Adulyanukosol for their support, encouragement and belief in our mission.

And last but not least, to all the individuals who have supported and believed in us, including those who participated in the #marecetaroundtheworld campaign, we sincerely thank you. You are and will always be part of the MareCet family.

We look forward to working together with all of you again in 2015!



Partnering Opportunities

Our work will not be possible without the many contributions from our partners and supporters. We estimate we would need RM 300,000 annually to cover our operations, not inclusive of our project-related expenses. As such, we welcome all manner of support to build on the funds received from competitive grants to continue our work.

- 1 year boat-based field survey = RM 100,000
- 1 year policy advocacy = RM 15,000
- 1 year operating cost for Marine Mammals Alive! Exhibition = RM 100,000
- Stranding response and rescue = RM 5,000
- Support to present at international conferences in 2015 = RM 50, 000

Additionally, we are also currently in need of in-kind contributions including:

- Volunteer artists, marketing specialists, and audio visual specialists for FLEX
- Office space for MareCet's team to call our own
- Designing and production of merchandise

If you would like to make a donation and/ or contribute in-kind, or to make general partnering inquiries please contact Dr. Louisa Ponnampalam or Fairul Izmal Jamal Hisne at partner.marecet@gmail.com.

The year 2014 also saw MareCet being a member of Simplygiving.com, a fundraising portal for non-profits. Do visit our page at simplygiving.com/nonprofit/marecet and be a MareCet fundraising champion!



Lobtailing Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin seen in Langkawi, Kedah

Photo: MareCet

MareCet would like to thank the following donors for their 2014 donations:

Fraser & Neave Holdings Bhd

Dana Belia Malaysia

PEW Charitable Trust

Ocean Park Conservation Foundation,
Hong Kong

Indo-Pacific Cetacean Fund, Department
of The Environment, Australia

Association of British Women in Malaysia

USM Scuba Club

Fiona Kwok (Nudi.B! Handcrafted Soap)

Yong Yu Lin

Liew Kum Weng

Lim Kean Chong

Toh Yit Ming

Kumareson Paranthaman

Annuja Nair Gangadaran

Yau Foong Hun

Asok Raghavan

Kanjna Paranthaman

Lim Hwei Chin

Vicki Chew Yii Ching

Gerard Wong Keong Pang

Heng Wei Khang

Gan Boon Keong

Ng Hui Ming

Shani Ling

Chen Pelf Nyok

Tan Yee Keat

Cheah Hoay

Chan Hanjo

Kek Yik Mein

CS Tan

Iris Baula

Katrina Ponnampalam

Fadia Al Abbar

Shu Ling & Family

Gan Bin Qi

Zhen Yick

Hin & Phing

Benny Eng

Swee Cheng

Toh KB

David Porter

Fia Linden

Pooi Mun

Tim Collins

Ruth Robison

Yu Yok Pearring

Tara Whitty

Lim I-Chen

Alex & Jenny Cantlay

Daniel Liew

Ooi Teik Chean

Tom Akamatsu

Michelle Leo

Choo Chee Kuang

Brenda Rone

Ng Shiow Fern

Jocelyn Goon

Joanne Ho-Lee

KL Lim

Gianna Minton

Alex Tan Eu Leong

Marini Ramlan

Lu Feng

Mindy Peterson

Joanne Willers

Si Siew Lim

Su-Ann Wong

Shao-Lyn Low

Kayleigh Hughes

Lim Chin Zhen

Gan Jun Qi

Lim Zhi Sheng

G.P. Cox

Shaline Gnanalingam

Holly Barclay

Lim Kheng Loy

Heidrun Frisch

Lucy Keith Diagne

Choo Chi Yen

Teo Yan Heong

Yung Lim

Danny K Y Ng

Liew San Boon

Fong Siew Keng

Wong Mei Phong

Lim Yong Kian

Chin Yun Loon

Jane ZE Lau

All other anonymous donors who contributed to our donation boxes, SimplyGiving and Indiegogo pages.



**THANK
YOU**

Follow us on Facebook to know more
@langkawi dolphin research

DID YOU KNOW?



DUGONGS are more closely related to *ELEPHANTS* than to whales and dolphins. Both dugongs & elephants share many similarities in the characteristics of their internal and external morphology.



MareCet



@marecet

DID YOU KNOW?

Dugongs feed on SEAGRASS, hence they are often known as the "sea cow".

Dugongs leave behind feeding trails as they graze along the seagrass bed.



MareCet



@marecet

Volunteers speak out!

All our achievements to date has been a testament to those who have dedicated their time and energy to help us in our work – our project volunteers! Many of them have returned time and again to offer their help. We'd like to say thank you and send our heartfelt appreciation to each and everyone of them for their hardwork, dedication, and passion to the cause!

2014 Volunteers

Quek Yew Aun

Joel Cheah

Chong Le Yern

Florence Gusti

Jenny Cantlay

Daniel Lee Ka Sing

Maggie Suen Man King

Heng Wei Khang

Anna Norliza

Ho Suet Mun

Abel Ho

Chin Wei Ting

Najwa Anati Nazlan

Tan Shun Sheng

Teh Wei Ting

Izzat Qushairi Rushdan

Juliana Law

Sharmillah a/p Sivapalan

Lim Yi Jia

Nurul Fatini bt Mokhtar

Khairul Azlan

Muhd Fithrie

Nicole Lim Wei Chen

Qistina Azman

Rasyid Kasman

Shani Ling San San

Shareenazlia

Siva Prakash

Kayleigh Hughes

Ram

Kee Alfian

Faztina Fazaldin



"I graduated with a Masters in Marine Environmental Protection, since then I have been working as a marine environmental consultant for the oil and gas industry. Since moving to Malaysia I became involved with MareCet. MareCet has provided me with the opportunity to get back to my roots and reignite my passion for the marine environment."



Photos: MareCet

Joining them on survey in Pulau Tinggi to conduct the Dugong population assessment was an incredibly inspiring experience and reminded me that this is exactly what I want to do with my life! Louisa and Fairul are great people to work with and very encouraging, they are also extremely grateful for any help and support they receive and make you feel like a valued individual. It is great to know that the assistance I give to MareCet through data analysis and survey work is going towards such a well deserved cause. Thank you MareCet, I look forward to the next year of working with you. Keep up the good work!" ~Kayleigh Hughes, 2015~

Volunteers speak out!

It was an AMAZING opportunity to work with experienced researchers in the field of cetacean studies. Matang Dolphin Research provided me with ample understanding and exposure to the world of cetacean research.

— **Joel Cheah**

I am very thankful to the MareCet team for this WONDERFUL volunteering opportunity. I've gained precious knowledge and made wonderful friends throughout the days in Matang.

— **Quek Yew Aun**



I must take my HAT OFF to the researchers for their dedication to study and learn about these mysterious mammals in our waters. Thank you for the valuable lesson and first hand experience.

— **Florence Gusti**



A MEMORABLE and INSPIRING experience of a lifetime! It has been my pleasure to learn and work with the research team.

— **Maggie Suen Man King**
(OPCFHK interns)

This trip is AMAZING! A valuable experience on dolphin survey and local culture of Malaysia!

— **Daniel Lee Ka Sing** (OPCFHK interns)



Thanks to MareCet for the memorable experience on dolphin survey in Matang! I have achieved one of my goals of life which is to witness DOLPHINS IN THE WILD and contribute myself in conservation.

— **Heng Wei Khang**

From Irrawaddy dolphins herding, humpback dolphins extremely close to the boat; to handling carcass, surviving bad weather and hot sun - the experience was PRICELESS!

I have definitely learned a few things to take back with me and share with the Sarawak Dolphin Project team.

— **Anna Norliza Zulkifli Poh**



Welcome to the lil' MareCet shop!

Lil' MareCet shop is running strong! Order your original one-of-a-kind MareCet merchandise and help us continue our work today! Check out our website at www.marecet.org for updates on new merchandise!

T-Shirt - Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins in mangrove

(Design inspired by Langkawi's Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins)

Price: RM35 each

Colour: Navy blue & Washed-out grey

Sizes available: Regular fit (XS - XL)

Material: 100% cotton



T-Shirt - Dolphin mother-calf pair sketch

(Design inspired by Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins sighted in Langkawi)

Price: RM40 each

Colour: Light yellow

Sizes available: Ladies fit (S - XL); Regular fit (S - XL)

Material: 100% cotton



T-Shirt - Meal time

(Humpback dolphins chasing fish)

Price: RM40 each

Colour: Soft orange

Sizes available:

Kids fit (S - L); Ladies fit (S - XL); Regular fit (S - XL)

Material: 100% cotton

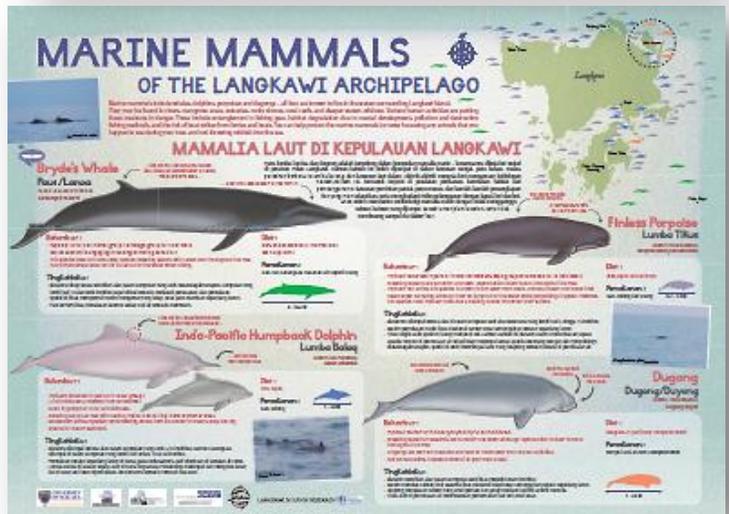
Handmade "Diving for dolphins" dive flag
 Large, with suction hook [removable]
 Price: RM10 each
 Material: Felt

Handmade "Diving for dolphins" dive flag
 Small, Leaping dolphin / Whale tail design
 Price: RM7 each
 Material: Felt



Designs by Vivian Kuit

Marine Mammals of the Langkawi Archipelago poster
 Price: RM10 each



Langkawi Dolphin Research sling bag
 Price: RM15 each
 Size: 35cm x 26cm x 6.5cm

"I pic MareCet" embroidered sew-on/iron-on patch
 (Ideal as an add on to your backpack, diving BCD, or whatever you like!)
 Price: RM10 each



You may make your orders via ask.marecet@gmail.com. Items may be posted to you, or if you are in the Klang Valley region, we would be happy to meet up with you to hand-deliver the items. Payment can be made via bank deposit or in C.O.D. (cash on delivery). All funds raised from merchandise sales will contribute towards MareCet's research and conservation activities.

Report a Stranding!

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU CHANCE UPON A DEAD DOLPHIN

Indo-Pacific finless porpoise (*Neophocaena phocaenoides*)
Colour: Dark grey to black



Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*), Male
Colour: Pale grey / Pale grey with pink mottling



Sometimes, you may only find / encounter a very decomposed dolphin / porpoise and its skull. It may look like this:



CALL THE  MareCet RESEARCH TEAM
PHONE NUMBER: 0111 – 577 6802

A dead / stranded dolphin is very valuable to science. By informing us of a dead or stranded animal, we are able to guide you through the response process, to enable the proper preservation of the specimen for science and conservation.

Report a Sighting!

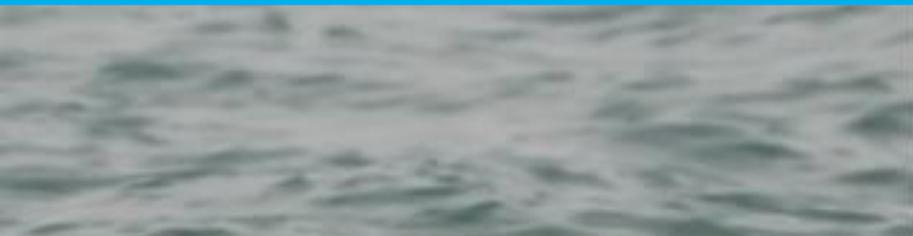
Help us collect information on marine mammals through our online sightings form. Whenever you come across a marine mammal be it whale, dolphin, porpoise or dugong, you can help advance our knowledge on these animals by sharing your experience through filling in the information listed in the form. The information provided will assist us to understand how these animals utilize our waters and go a long way in the development of meaningful management and conservation actions.

The sightings form can be accessed on our website at www.marecet.org. Additionally, follow us on our facebook page 'Langkawi Dolphin Research' to report a sighting or to find out more about our programmes.



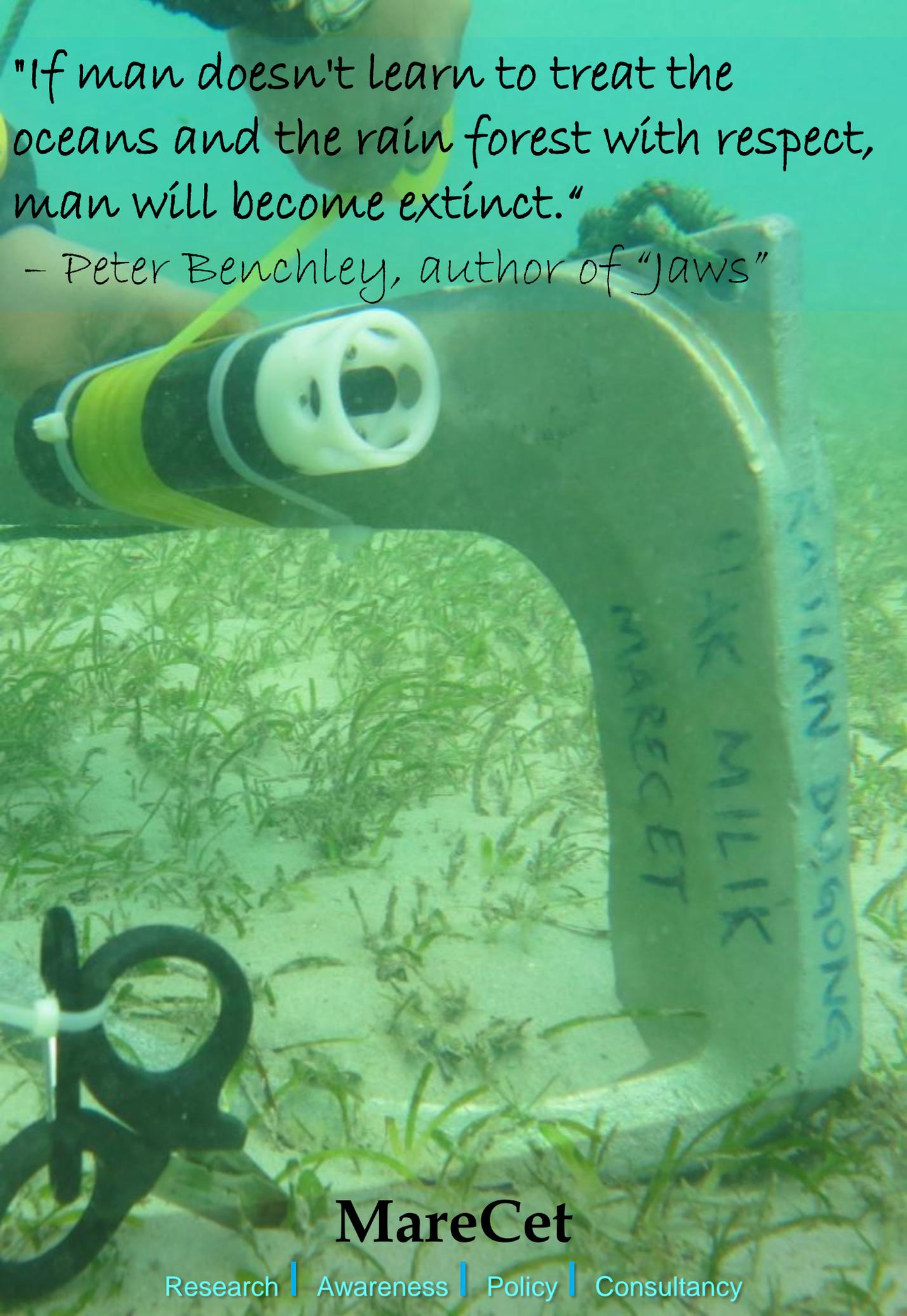
 MareCet

www.marecet.org



"If man doesn't learn to treat the oceans and the rain forest with respect, man will become extinct."

- Peter Benchley, author of "Jaws"



MareCet

Research | Awareness | Policy | Consultancy