

MARINE MAMMAL SCIENCE, 8(4):425–428 (October 1992)
© 1992 by the Society for Marine Mammalogy

FIRST RECORD OF A *TRUEI*-TYPE DALL'S PORPOISE FROM THE EASTERN NORTH PACIFIC

On 28 August 1989, we were informed by California State Park Ranger Robert Breen that a small porpoise had washed ashore at the James Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, San Mateo County, California (37°31'N, 122°31'W). Upon recovering the animal, we discovered that it was a 97-cm-long newborn (as evidenced by fetal folds on the flanks and flukes, and remnants of the umbilical cord) female Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*) of the *truei*-type color pattern (defined by Houck 1976). Animals of this color type have the light flank patch extending forward to the level of the flipper, rather than only to the level of the anterior insertion of the dorsal fin, as is the case in the normally occurring *dalli*-type (Houck 1976, Kasuya 1978).

Truei-type animals were originally described as a separate species (*Phocoenoides truei*) by Andrews (1911). However, it is now thought that Dall's porpoise is polymorphic, and *dalli* and *truei* forms merely represent color types of *P. dalli* (see Jefferson 1988 for discussion). The presence of a *truei*-type newborn among a *dalli*-type population supports the view of color types, rather than separate species or subspecies.

Although the *truei*-type is common off the Pacific coast of Japan, all other populations of Dall's porpoise normally have the *dalli*-type color pattern (Kasuya 1978, 1982). *Truei*-type individuals, possibly strays from the Japanese coastal population have been sighted and collected as far east as the western Aleutian Islands (to about 180°E) (Miyazaki *et al.* 1984, Jones *et al.* 1987), but this record appears to be the first for the eastern North Pacific (east of 180°).

Kasuya (1978, 1982) cautioned that *dalli*-type fetuses and neonates can be confused with *truei*-types because the anterior flank patch in young animals is normally an intermediate shade of gray. However, this does not appear to be the case with the present specimen. The entire flank patch was uniformly light gray from the level of the anus to the level of the flipper (Fig. 1).

Phocoenoides dalli has highly variable coloration, with at least three other uncommonly occurring types (Wilke *et al.* 1953, Morejohn *et al.* 1973, Joyce *et al.* 1982), and fetuses of one coloration type have been found in mothers of another (Wilke *et al.* 1953, Kuroda 1954, Newby 1982). Future research on this poorly understood species may show that much of what we know, or think we know, needs to be revised.



Thanks to R. Breen for reporting the stranding; N. Black (Moss Landing Marine Laboratories) and R. E. Jones (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley) for assistance in arranging for TAJ to view the specimen; and R. E. Jones and T. Kasuya (Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory) for reviewing the manuscript. The specimen is at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley (MVZ acc. 12860). External measurements are available from the authors. This represents Contribution No. 21 of the Marine Mammal Research Program, Texas A&M.

LITERATURE CITED

- ANDREWS, R. C. 1911. A new porpoise from Japan. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* 30:31-52.
- HOUCK, W. J. 1976. The taxonomic status of the species of the porpoise genus *Phocoenoides*. Report of the Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research 114: 1-13.
- JEFFERSON, T. A. 1988. *Phocoenoides dalli*. *Mammalian Species* 319:1-7.
- JONES, L. L., G. C. BOUCHET AND B. J. TURNOCK. 1987. Comprehensive report on the incidental take, biology and status of Dall's porpoise. International North Pacific Fisheries Commission Document No. 3156. 76 pp.
- JOYCE, G. C., J. V. ROSAPEPE AND J. OGASAWARA. 1982. White Dall's porpoise sighted in the North Pacific. *Fishery Bulletin* 80:401-402.
- KASUYA, T. 1978. The life history of Dall's porpoise with special reference to the stock off the Pacific coast of Japan. *Scientific Reports of the Whales Research Institute* 30:1-63.
- KASUYA, T. 1982. Preliminary report on the biology, catch and populations of *Phocoenoides* in the western North Pacific. Pages 3-19 in *Mammals of the seas*, Volume 4. FAO of the United Nations. Rome, Italy.
- KURODA, N. 1954. On the affinity of the Dall's and True's porpoises. *Bulletin of the Yamashina Ornithological Research Institute* 5:44-46.
- MIZYAKI, N., L. L. JONES AND R. BEACH. 1984. Some observations on the schools of *dalli*- and *truei*-type Dall's porpoises in the northwestern North Pacific. *Scientific Reports of the Whales Research Institute* 35:93-105.
- MOREJOHN, G. V., V. LOEB AND D. M. BALTZ. 1973. Coloration and sexual dimorphism in the Dall porpoise. *Journal of Mammalogy* 54:977-982.
- NEWBY, T. C. 1982. Life history of Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*, True 1885) incidentally taken by the Japanese high seas salmon fishery in the northwestern North Pacific and western Bering Sea, 1978 to 1980. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Washington, Seattle. 155 pp.
- WILKE, F., T. TANIWAKI AND N. KURODA. 1953. *Phocoenoides* and *Lagenorhynchus* in Japan, with notes on hunting. *Journal of Mammalogy* 34:488-497.
- ISIDORE D. SZCZEPANIAK, MARC A. WEBBER, Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California 94118-

←

Figure 1. Lateral views of (a) *truei*-type and (b) *dalli*-type Dall's porpoises. *Truei*-type is a 97 cm (MVZ acc. 12860) newborn collected from James Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, San Mateo County, California. *Dalli*-type is a 103 cm newborn (TAJ 179) collected from Moss Landing State Beach, Monterey County, California.

4599; and THOMAS A. JEFFERSON, Marine Mammal Research Program, c/o Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Room 210, Nagle Hall, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-2258. Received June 14, 1990. Accepted January 28, 1992.