



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Public Thanked For Reporting Dolphin Deaths

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service has thanked the public for notifying it of recent dolphin deaths.

Senior Wildlife Officer Ray Chatto said three dead dolphins had been washed ashore along a five kilometre section of coastline between suburban Casuarina and Nightcliff beaches during the past two months.

Mr Chatto said calls from the public to the 8999 4536 wildlife rescue number had notified Parks and Wildlife Service of the deaths.

“While we normally average one or two stranded, dead dolphins a year, there is nothing to suggest a common factor with each of these three dead animals,” Mr Chatto said.

“Each of the washed up dolphins have been adults with two of them being Indo-Pacific Humpbacks and the other an Irrawaddy dolphin.

“These two species, along with the Bottlenose dolphin, are not rare and make up the majority of dolphins seen around Darwin.”

Mr Chatto said the most recent dead dolphin to be found washed ashore was a 2.5m female Indo-Pacific Humpback on March 10.

He said the dolphin had been dead for a day or so and factors such as worn and missing teeth, and tattered fins indicated the animal was quite old.

Mr Chatto said none of the dolphins had signs of net marks and there was no other evidence suggesting the animals died of suspicious circumstances.

“While it was too late to save these dolphins I would still encourage the public to contact us in future if they see a stranded dolphin,” Mr Chatto said.

“Last year we were able to rescue a stranded dolphin at Casuarina Beach and the outcome might not have been so fortunate had we not been contacted promptly.”

Ends

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