

Book Reviews

BIOLOGY OF THE GENUS *CEPHALORYNCHUS*. Published by the International Whaling Commission, ISBN No. 0 906975 17 4. Price: UK £24.00, USA \$35.00 + \$8.00 p.&p., elsewhere £25.00.

This book, edited by R. L. Brownell, of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Gregory P. Donovan of the International Whaling Commission, is a volume that has been well worth waiting for. Most of the papers are expanded and reviewed versions of those originally submitted in 1984. The volume is the ninth special issue of the reports of the IWC. It contains seventeen chapters, twelve about Commerson's dolphins and six of these were written, at least in part, by R. N. P. Goodall. It can accurately be said that very little was known about *Cephalorynchus commersoni* until Goodall started building a research team, and the results of that team's work are fascinatingly presented in this edition.

It is rare that I sit down and read an edited volume cover to cover but I did that with this one, and thoroughly enjoyed myself doing it. I learned that all four of the small energetic *Cephalorynchus* species are coastal dwellers living in fast moving, relatively shallow waters. Most apparently play on both wind and boat generated waves, and all species are found in the southern part of the southern hemisphere. They are feeders of opportunity, including bottom dwelling organisms, fish, shrimp and squid, and may have developed a high frequency echolocation system to easily distinguish prey from clutter on the bottom. The females are statically larger than the males, and the majority of adult animals have an interesting serrated edge, on either the left, or both, flippers. The function of the serrations is unknown. They are found in waters as cold as 6°C but may do well in waters as warm as 24°C. There are four distinct species occupying areas in Argentina and the Falkland Islands, Chile, the Kerguelen Islands, South Africa and New Zealand.

As much as I enjoyed my reading, I took the task of reviewer seriously. One of the strengths of the volume is that it touches on every piece of information obtainable. One anonymous newspaper photograph is cited at least three times. I believe that no reference was missed. Thoroughness can, at times, breed redundancy and Harmer (1922) was cited three times in the first ten pages as the most widely accepted reference for the agreed name of Commerson's dolphin. The statement that Hector's dolphin, *Cephaloryn-*

chus hectori, occurs only in New Zealand's coastal waters was repeated in each of the short introductions of the three papers co-authored by Dawson.

Overall the editing is professionally done, but one editorial choice bothered me. That bother was caused by the use of the term 'captured' for animals taken by killing. Given that captive animals taken from the wild, but maintained in laboratories, zoos or dolphinariums, are usually referred to as 'captive', and killed animals are frequently termed 'collected', I would have preferred those terms to have been used here.

My overall opinion of the book is that it represents a major contribution to the study of aquatic mammals. It is interesting, it's enjoyable, and it is a classic volume that should be included in every library used by serious scholars of aquatic mammals.

Paul E. Nachtigall,
Naval Ocean Systems Centre,
PO Box 997,
Kailua,
Hawaii 96734-0997,
USA.

MARINE MAMMAL RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION IN SRI LANKA, 1985-1986. Stephen Leatherwood and Randall R. Reeves (Eds) 1989. United Nations Environment Programme. Marine Mammal Technical Report Number 1, vii + 138 pp.

Between 1978 and 1983, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) developed the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals. This plan was supported by the UNEP, FAO, IUCN and the IWC. In 1979, the IWC declared that the Indian Ocean, north of 55°S, would be a marine mammal sanctuary for 10 years.

In 1983, the Sri Lankan National Aquatic Resources Agency (NARA) asked the UNEP for support for its research on marine mammals in Sri Lankan waters. This report was compiled from the papers submitted to the UNEP by NARA.

The first part of the report gives an overview of the development of Sri Lankan fisheries. In a rather compact paper the growth and ongoing mechanization of