

News

Subscribers might be unaware of the publication in 1980 of Professor Pilleri's book entitled 'Research Expedition to China to Study the Dolphins of the Chang Jiang (Yang Tze Kiang)' published by the Brain Anatomy Institute, Waldau-Bern, Switzerland. This volume goes very carefully into the situation regarding *Lipotes vexillifer* in the river, and shortly comments on the future of this species and of *Neophocaena asiaorientalis*. It briefly mentions *Sousa chinensis* and marine dolphins and whales, but further details may be obtained direct from the publishers.

Also published more recently is a volume in the comparative cognition and neuro-science series entitled 'Dolphin Cognition and Behaviour: A Comparative Approach' edited by Ronald J. Schusterman, Jeanette Thomas and Forrest Wood. I think these authors are well known to all of us, and this is a 472 page document with chapters by Sam Ridgeway, J. F. Eisenberg, K. S. Norris and many others. Included is a chapter written by Paul E. Nachtigall of the Naval Ocean Systems Center, Kailua, Hawaii, entitled 'Vision, Audition and Chemoreception in Dolphins and Other Marine Mammals'. This is a very detailed chapter taking earlier work much further, and for those interested has a very useful and fairly lengthy bibliography. Subscribers interested may like to note that there is a 15% discount on pre-paid orders, which may be obtained by contacting the publishers—Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Inc., 365 Broadway, Hillsdale, New Jersey 07642, USA. This and many other titles may also be obtained from Cheron Publications Limited, P.O. Box 25, Keighley, West Yorkshire, UK. Interested subscribers may obtain a list of publications supplied by writing to the above address.

Also to hand, are reports from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission based on data obtained during a cruise in October/November 1979, and reporting on the possibility of estimating the size of dolphin schools. This is published at La Jolla, California, and is written by R. L. Allen, D. A. Bratten, J. L. Laake, J. F. Lambert, W. L. Perryman and M. D. Scott.

The objective of the work was to compare estimates made by observers on board a boat with those in a helicopter, and from aerial photographs. At the end of the volume, there are details of 194 sightings, both by species, variability and length of observations.

Also published, but more recently, from La Jolla, California in Bulletin, Volume 18, No. 5 of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission is an interesting report by Michael Scott, Wayne Perryman and William Clark of the use of aerial photographs for estimating school sizes of cetacea. Amongst the conclusions was a statement that the variability among observers was high indicating that observers should be individually calibrated. The document is well tabulated with a lot of information and is written in both English and Spanish.

The latest issue of our sister publication in America 'Marine Mammal Science', Volume 2, No. 3 contains articles on the weight and anatomical measurements of North-eastern Atlantic Fin and Sei Whale, Geographic Patterns of Variation in Offshore Spotted Dolphins of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean, and the Distribution of Bow-head Whales. It also contains notes on estimating feeding rates of marine mammals from heart mass to body mass ratios, and two interesting letters from Frank Awbrey and Kenneth Norris on communication and sound production in dolphins. The Editor has a set of these journals which can be obtained by subscribers from the Society of Marine Mammology, c/o Alan Press Inc., Lawrence, Kansas 66044, USA. For those not familiar with this Journal, each issue does cover a book review, which I am sure co-workers will find interesting.

'Ambio'—A Journal of the Human Environment, Volume 15, No. 3 published by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and the Pergamon Press of Oxford, in co-operation with the World Resources Institute has as its main theme, Marine Mammals. Articles in this cover the global view of conservation, management and utilization, interference of marine mammals with fisheries, and perhaps of special interest to readers, the non-consumptive utilization of whales and educational programmes for marine mammals. The journal is edited by Arne Schiøtz, the Director of the Denmark Aquarium outside Copenhagen, which I am sure is well-known to many readers.

It is interesting that in the article on 'Non-consumptive Utilisation of Whales' by R. Barstow a photograph is published of tourists watching the breaching of a hump-back in the North Atlantic. Only 22 people are visible watching this occurrence, whereas on the following page, a picture showing part of the audience at Seaworld, San Diego watching three killer whales, numbers vastly in excess of

this amount. Individual subscribers may obtain this Journal from Pergamon Journals Limited, Headington Hill Hall, Oxford, OX3 0BW, Great Britain, or Pergamon Journals Limited, Fairview Park, Elmsford, New York 10523, USA, or Pergamon Canada Limited, Suite 104, 140 Consumers Road, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2J 1P9, or Pergamon Press GmbH, Hammerweg 6, D-6243, German Federal Republic, or Pergamon Press Australia Pty Limited, P.O. Box 544, Potts Point, NSW 2011, Australia. The subscription for individuals is \$32.00 including airmail postage, but single copies may be obtained from AMBIO, KVA, Box 50005, 104 05, Stockholm, Sweden.

Sidney Holt's article on Mammals in the Sea is an overview one, and examines the role of scientists and decision makers in the management of marine mammals. He comments that attempts to fix sustainable yields so that man may continue to exploit marine mammals while ensuring their continued existence may be completely unrealistic.

J. A. Gulland talking about marine mammal—fisheries interaction warns that the extent of interactions are increasing with the development of new fisheries, and the recovery of some stocks, especially

of seals, from the effects of earlier over-exploitation.

R. Barstow mentions the ending, at least, temporarily, of commercial whaling and highlights the attitude of the International Whaling Commission in overseeing proper conservation of whale stocks, providing for their optimum utilization in non-consumptive ways. It is encouraging to read Nigel Bonner's article that as far as seals in the human environment are concerned, the general prospect for seals are good. It is a little worrying, however, to read that Marsh, O'Shea and Best feel that more work on *Sirenia* needs to be carried out throughout their ranges in order to identify viable populations for which management plans can be developed.

They pointed out that these are long-lived mammals with a very low reproductive rate, and being extremely vulnerable to over-exploitation and habitat destruction, as well as being susceptible to damage by normal use of rivers by boats with propellers, any further work may cause destruction of habitat, and disturbance and these animals.

It is to be hoped that a report in September 1986 of 'at least' 200 dead dolphins being discovered in the Arabian Gulf is not proven, and that in any case oil spillage resulting from the Gulf war is not involved.