

What are the people doing on the top of the water tower!??

PhD study.

Whale research project



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Thanks you to: Overstrand Municipality, PADI foundation, Wilderness Wildlife Trust, Leica Denmark, Hamilton Russell Wines.



During good weather days you might see a few researchers standing on the top of the water tower here at Pearly Beach. They are monitoring the distribution and behaviour of the whales and dolphins in the bay.

The aim of the study is to “To conduct a baseline study of the distribution, habitat use and behaviour of whales and dolphins in the Greater Dyer Island area.”

The Greater Dyer Island area is facing potential human development and there is an urgent need to monitor and protect the whale and dolphin species. The knowledge provided by this study will be utilized in future decisions concerning the protection of the marine environment and will contribute directly to the protection of the cetaceans.

The project implements the combined methods of Passive Acoustic Monitoring (sound recordings), theodolite tracking and the establishment of an archived long term (11yr) database of opportunistic observation data from the Dyer Island Cruises’ whale watching vessel “The Whale Whisperer”.



The whales and dolphins are being tracked using a landsurveyors theodolite and from the data the researchers are able to:

- Measure vertical and horizontal angles and convert it into GPS position of the animals.
- Calculate swimming speed and direction
- Gain knowledge about the behaviours of the animals

Every hour the team do a weather report and a “scan” of the area. During a scan the researchers use binoculars to count the amount of animals in the area.

This project will be carried out from September 2011 until December 2015.

For further information about the project or if you want to help out please contact:

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