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Md. Muzammel Hossain
Department of Zoology,
Jangannath University,
Dhaka-1100, Bangladesh.

Mohammad Abdul Baki
Department of Zoology,
Jangannath University,
Dhaka-1100, Bangladesh.

Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) is death on Sonadia Island, Cox's bazar, Bangladesh

Authors: Md. Muzammel Hossain and Mohammad Abdul Baki

Abstract

Sonadia, about with an area of 9 square km and it's the north-west of Cox's Bazar. Survey was conducted from 7 am to 5 pm on March 20, 2014. Sonadia Island located between 21°28'26.92"N, 91°55'53.74"E and 21°32'49.47"N, 91°50'38.45"E. One dead Irrawaddy dolphin was found on Sonadia Island, Cox's bazar which near Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh during faunal survey.

Keywords: Irrawaddy dolphin, death, Sonadia Island, Bangladesh

1. Introduction

The Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) is a euryhaline species of oceanic dolphin found in near sea coasts and in estuaries and rivers in parts of the Bay of Bengal and Southeast Asia. This Irrawaddy dolphin population is small, declining, and facing numerous threats to its survival. The subpopulation inhabiting the Mekong River was classified as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in 2004 ^[9]. In addition, its inshore waters are feeding grounds for a number of globally threatened marine mammal Irrawaddy dolphins.



Fig 1: Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) on Sonadia Island, Cox's Bazar

Correspondence:

Md. Muzammel Hossain
Department of Zoology,
Jangannath University,
Dhaka-1100, Bangladesh.

The Irrawaddy dolphin is a facultative freshwater cetacean (i.e., it inhabits both fresh and marine waters) and is subject to increasing human-induced threats as a result of its reliance on riverine and coastal habitats^{17, 101}. Day by day increase of dolphin mortality in Bangladesh for habitat degradation and human activities. Freshwater habitats are subjected to significant human disturbance^{11, 2, 3, 4, 51}. Irrawaddy dolphins are highly susceptible to anthropogenic impacts as a result of their occurrence in small, isolated populations, strict habitat preferences, apparent high site fidelity, slow maturation rate (7-9 years), long calving interval (2-3 years), and most importantly, their close proximity to human activities in freshwater ecosystems¹⁸¹.

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