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News



Bid to save snubfin dolphin

May 5th, 2010

EXPERTS are working on a rescue plan to save the only dolphin unique to Australia.

The snubfin dolphin is in grave danger of extinction from fishing nets, boat strikes, increased shipping and large-scale coastal development.

Researchers are working to determine how many are left in Australia's tropical waters.

The World Wildlife Fund said yesterday the species was doomed without a detailed strategy to protect them and their habitat.

The Federal Environment Department met with marine mammal experts in Townsville yesterday to gain the latest information on the status of the species.

"These animals are right on the edge. The loss of just two or three dolphins off Townsville in one year, for example, could trigger the extinction of this local population," said Lydia Gibson, tropical marine species manager for WWF.

"It's no secret that coastal development along the Queensland coast and across tropical Australia is accelerating at a very rapid pace. Without designated sanctuaries and a strategic approach to development we stand a very real risk of losing these unique animals."

Large-scale LNG development plans for Gladstone, moves to expand Townsville's port, and oil and gas expansion in Australia's northwest and fishing are threatening snubfin habitat.

"The recent likely extinction of the Yangtze river dolphin is a stark reminder of the need to protect inshore dolphins," Ms Gibson said.

"It is vital we lead the way and take decisive action to ensure our only endemic dolphin does not suffer the same fate."

WWF wants dolphin sanctuaries to be set up, go-slow zones for recreational boaters and more money for indigenous sea rangers. The meeting continues today.



ENDANGERED ... the snubfin dolphin's future discussed in Townsville yesterday
Photo: GUIDO J PARRA

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It is 2010, if everything is going to kill out this dolphin they would be well and truly gone by now. With all the rules and regulations as well as closeures in place now lam sure that they are not going to become extinct , however should somebody not abide buy the rules and regulations we could have a problem, but nobody not even WWF can do anything about that.

*Posted by: **bill gilliland** 02:28pm Thursday 6th May*

Eco Terrorists Strike again, that's what the head line should read, with over 40 years as a rec and commercial fisherman I can sleep easy at night knowing that the dolphins are smarter than the tree huggers that dream up this B.S. As said in an earlier post this is just more anti fishing and anti Australian way of life propaganda. To WWF please use your resources and funding to help educate yourselves a bit more to the educated and people in the know you really are at the bottom of the barrel, playing on the current go green ideologies that are being forced down our throats

*Posted by: **More B.S** 08:02am Thursday 6th May*

Last time I checked, Australia's entire waters are declared dolphin 'sanctuaries', given all sea-borne mammals are a protected species (excluding traditional, aboriginal hunting rights in some cases, ie Dugong). This is just another way for the Eco-terrorist group WWF to further their anti-fishing objective.

*Posted by: **Scott Thompson** 10:03am Wednesday 5th May*

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