

Report on the Environmental Issues Threatening the Chinese White Dolphins

Tjoeng Michelle

2D (7)

This report is about environmental threats to Chinese white dolphins. The Chinese white dolphin is referred to as Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin.

The estimated number of Chinese white dolphins seen around Lantau Island by the Airport Authority has dropped since 2017. In 2017, the number of Chinese white dolphins seen by the Airport Authority was around 71. In 2018, it increased a little to around 78. A year later, in 2019, it dropped sharply to 40. As for the Chinese white dolphins seen by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, in 2017, the number was around 49. In 2018, it dropped to 32 and in 2019, it increased again to around 51.

These sea animals usually live close to the shore to hunt for their food, which is fish or shellfish. Like any other dolphins, Chinese white dolphins rely on echolocation for travelling, hunting and communicating with each other. Many of these dolphins live near coastal cities, which carry out reclamation projects in the water nearby. The projects create a lot of noise and the noise can have a harmful effect on their echolocation abilities, according to a scientific research group. The reclamation for construction projects, such as the Hong Kong International Airport and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Marco Bridge cause water pollution that reduces the size of the dolphins' habitat.

In conclusion, water pollution, noise pollution and the habitat destruction have completely threatened the Chinese white dolphins as the projects being carried out are harming the dolphins' echolocation abilities. Reclamation and construction projects are causing water pollution which reduces the size of the dolphins' habitat.

If I were the government, I would stop the new reclamation in the harbour and leave the dolphins alone. Conducting a study on the Chinese white dolphins would be better since we could find out more about their weaknesses and avoid triggering them.