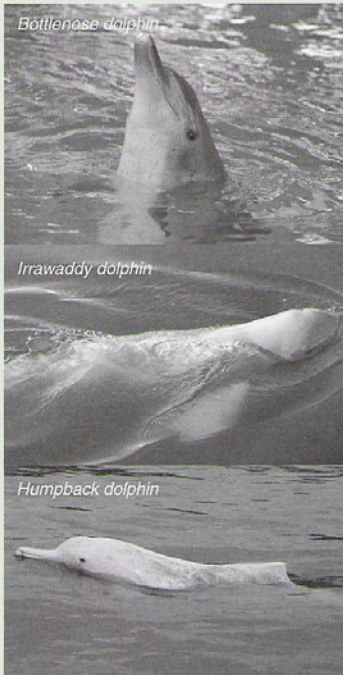


Dolphins Ahoy!

They are back in Singapore



Let's talk about dolphins for a while! Are they not one of your favourite encounters while diving underwater or sailing? Are you not delighted when you see them surfing the bow or following you in the blue darkness of the seas?

So, if you enjoy watching them, take 5 more minutes to fill up our sighting form and help us to increase our dolphin-sighting database....

Or better: please, give us real time reports: just pick up your phone and let me know the number of animals, the time and the very essential location of the sighting. You don't even need to identify the species: I can cope without. As soon as I get your reports, our team will go out at sea straight away and start looking for the animals.

The Singapore Wild Marine Mammal Survey (SWiMMS) was started in May 1996 with the aim to monitor the local

dolphin and dugong populations. For that purpose, reports from people oriented toward the marine environment are of great importance. They give us a better understanding of our dolphins' whereabouts.

Since October 1998, SWiMMS has started its second phase with a new sighting form that you can collect from the SAF Yacht Club reception lobby, from our website ([www:http://dsg.sbs.nus.edu.sg](http://dsg.sbs.nus.edu.sg)) or directly from me (see my address below).

It won't take too long to fill up one of these sighting forms: I only ask for a few details such as the date, the time, the location, basic behaviours of the animals...: it is fast and easy.

I guess the hardest part of the job is to know what species you are looking at... There are dozens of marine mammal species! Hopefully, in Singapore waters,

Dugong dolphin

Next time you observe a dolphin, please have a careful look at the colour, the snout and the dorsal fin. Then, just the right choice:

- Bottlenose dolphins are dark grey animals with a beak and a dorsal fin
- Humpback dolphins show white to pink individuals also with both a beak and a dorsal fin
- Irrawaddy dolphins are dark grey in colour, there is no beak but a small dorsal fin
- Finless porpoises are dark grey in colour without beak and without dorsal fin



you may encounter only 4 dolphin species plus the dugong (this is not the real truth, but the 2 or 3 other species are so occasional that I would bear you a grudge if you see some!).

So, it is not that complicated. If you enjoy seeing dolphins happily splashing the water, you will surely give me a hand with that sighting form. And keep in mind that you can at least write a brief description of the "strange monster" you observed instead of the species! I can cope with that.

Moreover, I will give you a few tricks, which will help to make your work much easier. The 4 dolphin species are the:

- Bottlenose dolphin
- Humpback dolphin
- Irrawaddy dolphin
- Finless porpoise

and our dugong. I do not intend to write that much concerning this animal, because a picture will be far more effective: let's say a slowly moving brownish creature with a bulbous face grazing at the sea grass meadows on the sea bottom in shallow waters... You got it!

Just a little harder: the main dolphin species. I could write pages and pages to detail what the features of each species are, but for our purpose 3 criteria should be enough. They are the colour, the snout and the dorsal fin.

Now that I got your interest with this easy way to identify our main dolphin species, let me add a few words: it could be a little more difficult in the wild, in the middle of a grey swelling sea, with those elusive animals. However, I still expect you, motivated dolphin watchers, to send me back hundreds of sighting forms!

And remember that a real time report is of the utmost importance to our study. Thus, if you have the possibility to give me a phone call within 1 to 3 hours after you observed marine mammals in Singapore waters, please, report your sightings to me at **9-817 6904** as soon as possible. If you can't go for that option, fill up our marine mammal sighting form and send it back to me. You can also email me with the number of animals, the species, the time and the location of the sighting.

**Catherine Brassaud
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Bilge Pump

by Capt Sahwan Bin Osman

All holders of the Powered Pleasure Craft Driving License are aware that one of the ten mandatory equipment to be carried onboard a pleasure craft is 'a suitable means of discharging water'. In basic terms, it is simply a piece of equipment that is able to bail or pump water out from the craft. We are all aware that rain water as well sea water gets collected in the boat bilge and if left to accumulate, under best case scenario will create additional load in the craft and thus affects its stability and in a worse case scenario, can even result in a sinking of the craft.

As smaller crafts are mostly stored on land, the owner may feel that there is no necessity to equip his craft with a bilge pump. In place of bilge pumps, these crafts just simply carry bailers with which the boaters use to scoop the water collected in the bilge. Whilst it is fine to have just a simple bailer, the real problem can arise when the boat is left unattended, afloat on the water for a long period of time. This is especially so during the raining season.

There has been 3 recent incidents of crafts sinking whilst berthed or moored overnight at the Club. Our findings showed that 2 of the crafts were not

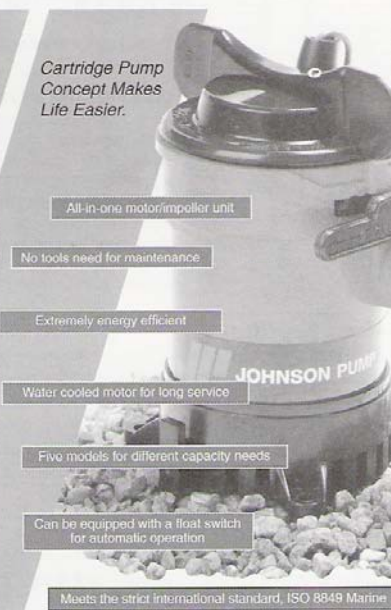
installed with a bilge pump. One of these sank immediately after a heavy downpour. The third boat although equipped with a pump, was suspected to have a faulty battery; without electrical supply the pump fail to function as required.

It is recommended that all crafts, especially open-decked ones be installed with bilge pumps. Over the years, the price of a bilge pump has become most affordable; price shouldn't be the reason for not installing one on your craft. There is the manual, semi-automatic and fully automatic type. Depending on the user boating needs, there is a wide of range of bilge pumps available in the market and they are quite easy to install.

It is a good practice to test the bilge pump regularly to ensure that it is always in a good working condition. For a bilge pump that has a float system, one way of testing is to gently lift the float to simulate a rise in water level. This will in turn activate the pump to operate. The float mechanism after a period of time will need a replacement so it is prudent to carry a spare float onboard at all times. The manual version can be tested by switching on the pump and listening to the sound of the pump operating.

However, a word of caution for crafts installed with semi-automatic or fully automatic bilge pumps. As these types of pumps would activate automatically whenever the level of the bilge is high, the skipper has to ensure that only bilge water and not oily water is pumped out from the craft, as the latter would cause pollution and is against the Singapore Port Regulations. When dirty oil is discovered in the bilge (this can happen onboard crafts with inboard engines), the bilge pump should immediately be switched off to prevent polluting the sea. The oil should be scooped into a container and appropriately disposed ashore.

The Club's Pro-shop has a wide range (in capacity and type) of bilge pumps available from as low as \$30.00. For more details, please contact Kris at 257 4970.



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