

Taiwan Field Course - Species Account Assignment (10 min PowerPoint)

Species identification is crucial. Most people have never seen or even heard of some/most of the cetacean species that occurs in Asian waters. The aim of this exercise is for each student to review a species/species pair/species group found in Asian waters and to impart the knowledge he/she gained from such literature research to other students of the course. The purpose of this exercise is not to do a comprehensive literature search and to present every detail of every study that has been conducted the assigned species. Rather, each student should put together a concise synthesis of the literature and give a short (**10 minute**) presentation that will provide others a ‘feel’ for the species. It’s your job to “sell” your species. What is it/are they? What is interesting and unique about your species? What does your species look like and how is it/are they different from other similar species? Species were assigned randomly (look for the species assigned to you in the list below) and some students were assigned species pairs/groups (this does not affect the difficulty of the assignment but often increases the understanding of the species).

The amount of information available for different species is highly variable depending on the kinds of research that has been conducted. **Caution:** although one of the first things that most students will do is search the internet, it is not recommended that you base your review on information available from such sources unless the information is based on **primary** literature (i.e., published scientific papers), which should be the source you seek. Wikipedia is not a primary source of information and has many errors.

You need to do your research before you depart for the course and then be ready to give the presentation at anytime within the first few days after arriving in Asia – the order of the presentations will be announced when the course begins. Please prepare your presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint (**please do not save as a pptx file as we may not be able to open this new file format; save as either a ppt or as a pdf**) and bring your presentation file to Taiwan on a CD-Rom or USB pen drive so that they can be uploaded. Try to include a fair number of images of your species showing defining characteristics since most will not be familiar with your cetaceans and you might be seeing them later on the water! Remember to give credits for the images that you use (e.g., “photo by....”).

A general outline of things that can be included is shown below.

I. Taxonomy & Nomenclature

- taxonomic controversies
- subspecies
- populations

II. General Description

- external morphology
- colouration
- osteology

III. Distribution

- global
- general habitat type(s)

IV. Behavioural Ecology

- group size
- diet and foraging techniques
- predators

- movements (seasonal, daily, resident, etc.)
- life history (age of first reproduction, gestation period, nursing period, calving interval, reproductive rates, mortality, mating strategies, etc.)

V. Conservation

- status
- main threats

VI. Other

Something you found interesting about the species but not covered in the sub-headings above

Taiwan 2011 – Species/Genus Assignments

Students	Species or Genera
Anna PAUER	<i>Sousa chinensis</i>
Rebecca ROSS	Genus <i>Neophocaena</i>
Lauren SINGER	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Chana STEINBERG	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>
Kirk SZAFRANSKI	Genus <i>Delphinus</i>
Sarah VAN OIRSCHOT	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>
Amanda VEGLIA	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>
Crystal ZHANG	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>
Hannah ANDERSON	<i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i>
Cléo BEAULIEU	<i>Steno bredanensis</i>
Carling BIEG	<i>Grampus griseus</i>
Joshua CALDWELL	<i>Peponocephala electra</i>
Brianna CHADWICK	<i>Feresa attenuata</i>
Katelyn DAMENT	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>
Yucong HONG	<i>Orcinus orca</i>
Ravinder JHAJJ	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>
Laura KLEIN	<i>Kogia breviceps</i>
Felicity LEE	<i>Kogia sima</i>
Jennifer LEVERTON	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>
Alexandria LOVERIDGE	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>
Caroline LYNN	<i>Indopacetus pacificus</i>
Cassandra MORRIN	<i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i>
Emily ALLEN	<i>Mesoplodon ginkgodens</i>
Pascale CAMPAGNE-SLATER	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>