

Risso's dolphin *Grampus griseus* (Cuvier, 1812) rescued off Aligadda Beach, Karwar, Karnataka

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On 23rd August 2013, a Risso's Dolphin was nearly stranded on the Aligadda beach, Karwar. The dolphin appeared to be under stress and it was coming towards the shore. On seeing the dolphin, the local fishermen dragged it into the deeper waters to rescue it. This dolphin is locally known as "God's fish", and hence the rescue operation was carried out by the local fishermen. Body was covered with extensive white scars, which seemed to be the marks made by the teeth of mates or rivals. There was an oval or anchor-shaped white patch on the chest and chin. No external injuries were noticed on the body. The body was deep and massive for the front two thirds, and tapered behind the dorsal fin to the narrow tail stock. There was no beak, and the head was large and blunt. It was a size of about 3 meters in length and weighing approximately around 350 - 400 kg.

Risso's Dolphins are found worldwide in temperate and tropical waters. This species has been observed near Sri Lanka, the Maldives, the



Fig. 1. Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)
Seychelles and the Horn of Africa. Earlier, a single specimen of Risso's Dolphin was captured off Madras in 1986.