

Sighting of the Short-finned pilot whale

Sajikumar. K.K., Jestin Joy and Gishnu Mohan
ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi

A small pod of Short-finned pilot whale *Globicephala macrorhynchus* (Gray, 1846) was observed during a fishing cruise of *FV Silver*

Pompano on 19th April, 2015 for exploration of the oceanic squid *Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis* in the Southern Arabian Sea. The pod was observed in the



Pilot whale spouting

Southeast side of Pitty Islands ($10^{\circ} 38' 05''$ N; $72^{\circ} 46' 02''$ E) and contained nine members of which four were large and five medium sized. The average length of the whales was estimated as 5 metres. They were travelling in a Northwest direction at an approximate speed of 2 knots per hour. The surface



Pilot whale pods exhibiting resting behaviour

water temperature at the location of sighting was 28°C and salinity was 34 ppt. The IUCN lists this species as data deficient in the Red List of threatened species (IUCN 2012). In India all the cetaceans are listed under Schedule-1 of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.