

News 22 March 2005

This month there have been a few dolphin sightings in the Uilenkraalsmond area and some Bryde's whales behind Dyer Island. Both Indo-pacific humpbacked (*Sousa chinensis*) and Indo-pacific bottlenose (*Tursiops aduncus*) dolphins have visited the bay. Bottlenose dolphin pods are larger (20 to 30 individuals) than the humpbacked dolphins (2 to 10 individuals) and they are also more playful. Both species are found near the surf zone where they hunt small fish. They use echolocation for navigation and to find prey. Individual dolphins can be identified by their dorsal fins. A few Southern right whales have been reported from Walker Bay, but it will be several months before we see them along our shores in significant numbers. Bryde's whale blows can be regularly spotted in Walker Bay a few kilometres from the coast.

Recent bird sightings include subantarctic skuas, sooty shearwaters, giant petrels, Cape gannets, African penguins, oystercatchers and swift terns. Researchers from Marine and Coastal Management recently conducted a nest count on Dyer Island and reported 800 pairs of swift terns breeding there. These birds do a spectacular synchronized flight prior to nesting.

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Humpbacked dol



Bottlenose dolphins

Daily boat trips

- Dyer Island & Shark Alley
- Seals
- Penguins
- Seabirds
- Sharks
- Dolphins

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