

**Sighting of Risso's dolphin, *Grampus griseus* (G. Cuvier, 1812)
off Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh**

As a part of Marine Mammal Stock Assessment in India Programme, the vessel MFV Mastya Darshini of Visakhapatnam Base of FSI is continuing her mammal survey in the Andhra Pradesh coast. During the survey operation the Risso's dolphin, *Grampus griseus* (G. Cuvier, 1812) were sighted in the offshore waters of Kakinada & Machilipatnam on four occasions during 19.01.2023 to 24.01.2023. A total 75-80 nos of dolphin were sighted during the above period. The species is characterised by blunt head and no discernible beak. Dorsal fin tall, slender and falcate. Flipper long and pointed. The younger ones are grey/olive brown in colour and as they get older, they get whiter covered with scratches, spots and blotches. They are found in the temperate and tropical waters all over the world. They prefer the deeper waters and usually found on the edge of continental shelves. The preferred food items of Risso's dolphin are squids.

(Reported by : Shri Soumya Ranjan Panda, Young Professional, MMSAI Project, FSI, Vizag)

