

**FIRST RECORD OF THE MELON-HEADED  
WHALE, *PEPONOCEPHALA ELECTRA*, IN  
THE EASTERN PACIFIC, WITH  
A SUMMARY OF WORLD DISTRIBUTION**

*Peponocephala electra* (Gray 1846) is a tropical pelagic delphinid previously known to occur in the eastern Atlantic, Indian, and western and central Pacific oceans. It is also known as the electra dolphin, the Hawaiian blackfish, and the many-toothed blackfish. Since van Bree and Cadenat (1968; localities 1-4, 6-9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, and 19 in

Figure 1) summarized world records, the species has been reported from Thailand (Pilleri 1973, locality 17), the Philippine Sea near Cebu (W. H. Dawbin pers. commun., locality 15), near Townsville, Australia (G. E. Heinsohn pers. commun., locality 12), the New Hebrides (Rancurel 1974, locality 10), and the Tuamotos-Marquesas region (K. S. Norris pers. commun., locality 5). Records cited by van Bree and Cadenat (1968) as "in litteris" or in press, have subsequently been published (Dawbin et al. 1970, locality 11; Mörzer Bruyns 1971, localities 6-9). The purpose of this note is to report a capture that extends the known range of the species some 3,000 miles into the eastern tropical Pacific off Central America (Figure 1; triangle).

The specimen (Figure 2), a male calf 112 cm long (tip of upper jaw to base of notch in flukes) and weighing 15 kg, was captured in a tuna purse seine that had been set on an aggregation of yellowfin tuna, *Thunnus albacares*, and dolphins, *Stenella* sp., approximately 90 nautical miles (about 167 km) due west of Champerico, Guatemala (lat. 14°20'N, long. 91°52'W), in May 1974. More precise information on date and locality of capture is not available. A crew member found the calf dead in the net, placed it in the ship's freezer, and on return to port donated it to the National Marine Fisheries Service, La Jolla. The specimen was identified using X rays of the dentition. The

high tooth count ( $\frac{23+}{22+} \frac{23+}{22+}$ ), combined with the

blunt head and dark coloration, is diagnostic of the species. The specimen was then photographed, measured, weighed, cast in plastic, and sent frozen to the U.S. National Museum (USNM), Washington, D.C., where it was preserved whole

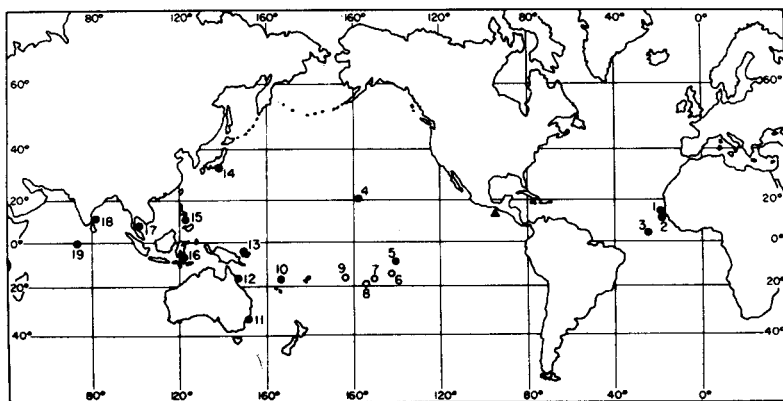


FIGURE 1. — Known distribution of *Peponocephala electra*. Triangle is new record; sources of others in text. Closed circles are specimen localities, open circles are sightings. Some circles represent multiple records from single localities, e.g., Hawaii and Honshu, Japan.

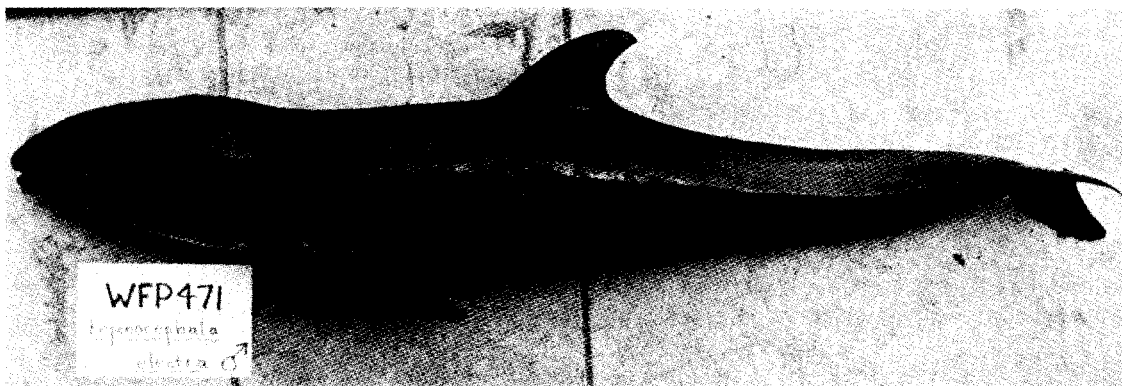


FIGURE 2. — Calf of *Peponocephala electra* collected in eastern tropical Pacific (USNM 504087).

and placed in the marine mammal collection (USNM 504087).

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#### FOODS OF JUVENILE SOCKEYE SALMON, *ONCORHYNCHUS NERKA*, IN THE INSHORE COASTAL WATERS OF BRISTOL BAY, ALASKA, 1966-67

For most living organisms the early portion of life is most critical in determining survival. Anadromous fishes such as Pacific salmon have two critical periods during early life — development and growth in fresh water and subsequent adaptation to a marine environment. The food of juvenile salmon during the first few months of marine life influences growth and condition, which in turn probably influences parasitism, predation, and other factors which ultimately determine marine survival.

Although the sockeye salmon, *Oncorhynchus nerka* (Walbaum), is one of the most valuable commercial fishes in Alaska and has been the object of extensive research, little is known of its early life in the sea. Straty (1974) and Straty and Jaenicke<sup>1</sup> have made the only comprehensive study of early marine life of the sockeye salmon in Bristol Bay, historically the largest sockeye fishery in the North Pacific. Documented studies of sockeye salmon food habits during this period of life are generally limited to brief accounts of Soviet research in Kamchatka waters (Synkova 1951), a study in British Columbia (Manzer 1969), examination of a few specimens from Aleutian and Kodiak waters (Chamberlain 1907), and 45 specimens taken off Cape Seniavin in lower

<sup>1</sup>Straty, R. R., and H. W. Jaenicke. 1971. Studies of the estuarine and early marine life history of sockeye salmon in Bristol Bay, 1965-67. Unpubl. manuscript, 137 p. Northwest Fish. Cent. Auke Bay Lab., Natl. Mar. Fish. Serv., NOAA, Auke Bay, AK 99821.