

## Project Update: June 2008

10 June 2008: Field work for the Namibian Dolphin Project is now under way in Walvis Bay. Investigatory trips on tour boats and initial dedicated surveys indicate clear differences in the use of the bay by bottlenose and Heaviside's dolphins. The bottlenose dolphins predominantly use the inshore environment along the open coast with occasional trips into the lagoon, while the Heaviside's dolphins seem to aggregate regularly at the tip of the bay, but are rare everywhere else.

Although tourism pressure is high in terms of boat numbers, local weather conditions limit the interaction time with animals to a short period during the mornings. The project has been very well received locally and many of the tour operators are contributing photographs to our growing catalogue of identifiable dolphins. We are also collating the existing informal data on stranding events as there is currently no formal stranding network in Namibia.

For more information go to <http://namibiandolphinproject.blogspot.com/>

