



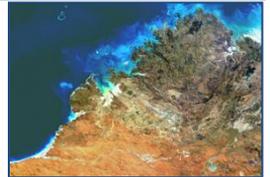
KIMBERLEY MARINE

RESEARCH STATION • CYGNET BAY

NOV / DEC
2012

What's been happening at KMRS lately?

November 9: KMRS presents at the WAMSI Kimberley Marine Science Seminar series: KMRS General Manager James Brown flew to Perth to present at the recent WAMSI Kimberley Marine Science Seminar series. The presentation entitled "An insider's perspective on marine research in the Kimberley" provided insight into the opportunities, logistics and exciting potential for marine scientists interested in operating in and on Kimberley waters. [Click here](#) for further info on the series.



November 21-24: MUCRU dolphin team return to KMRS: Murdoch University Cetacean Research Unit PhD candidate Alex Brown & team onboard the MUCRU vessel *Blue Steel* returned to KMRS briefly for a last sampling session before wrapping up the Kimberley near-shore dolphin surveys for 2012. The team have completed an intensive few months in the field which began in September with nearly five weeks at KMRS followed by a month-long stint at Beagle Bay on the west coast of the Dampier Peninsula. Congratulations Alex et al on a successful first year of surveys, we look forward to seeing you again in 2013! To read the team's field blog, please click here:

<http://mucru.org/blogs/snubfin-season/> (Photos: L: Alex & team using the biopsy rifle onboard *Blue Steel*. Below: Indo-pacific humpback dolphin mother & calf (left) and pod of Australian snubfin dolphins (right), all photographed by MUCRU during field work at KMRS)



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Field service provision at Cone Bay wraps up for the year with successful dry season sampling complete: The KMRS team



coordinated another three trips to Cone Bay during November to complete the "dry season" sampling period for the broad-scale environmental assessment of the finfish aquaculture zone proposed for Cone Bay. The work, which begun in September, has been carried out by KMRS staff under the direction of consulting firms Oceanica & Denmark Hydraulic Institute towards developing an ecological model and environmental management plan for the WA

Department of Fisheries. Field services in November covered water quality sampling and deployment of light loggers, wrapping up the schedule for 2012 which comprised of 8 trips to Cone Bay since late September. Work will recommence in January 2013 for the reciprocal "wet season" sampling. (Photos: L: water sampling gear, R: deploying light loggers)



Dr Peter Wood from James Cook University in Cairns, QLD, visited KMRS in February 2012 to discuss his research into marine research tourism focused on the Great Barrier Reef. Dr Wood has now set up an online survey to help gather information about offshore research tourism. For anyone interested in taking part in the survey online, please [follow this link](#).

What's been happening in the water lately?



It has been a sweltering build up to the wet over the past six weeks with ambient temperatures at Cygnet Bay peaking at 39°C in late November and only a few scattered rain showers to cool things down so far. With Christmas approaching, bets are on as we eagerly await the first storm of the wet and the arrival of the rainy season at the Bay. Conditions on and in the water have been fantastic with good underwater visibility over extended periods of calm weather, as seen in the photograph (left) taken near Sunday Island in late November. The photograph to the right was taken at Menmuir Falls, Sunday Strait, showing the tidal whirlpools still ripping even on neap tides.



Photo of the Month - Nov/Dec 2012

Mud crab (Scylla serrata)

Cygnet Bay front beach

Rachel Yells, November 2012

What's ahead at KMRS?

KMRS has a busy calendar already taking shape for the first half of 2013 and we look forward to updating you on happenings as they unfold in the new year. Please note that KMRS staff will be on leave from mid December to early January, 2013. Should you require assistance during this time, please contact the Cygnet Bay office on (08) 9192 4999.



For the latest news and happenings at KMRS and along the Kimberley coast, please follow our online news feed
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