

Those which are not counted

It could be seen from afar, as there were crows circling above it. A carcass of a Risso's dolphin presently lying on the beach between the big Taiji lighthouse and our vantage point, where we normally monitor the dolphin drive hunts, close to Taiji High School. It was washed ashore there last Monday or Tuesday. It is already in a progressing state of decay and various animals have started feeding on it. The sight of this dead juvenile dolphin is shocking to us. Its death is undoubtedly linked to last Monday's drive hunt, when about one dozen Risso's were killed in the infamous cove of Taiji.

We can only assume what killed the poor thing. Famous dolphin activist Richard O'Barry who also cooperates with CSI, has underlined many times that the dolphins do not just die in the cove of Taiji as they are slaughtered there for meat, but also out at sea during the drive hunts. The cetaceans die of stress, exhaustion, or due to injuries, when hunting boats run over the animals and they get hit by propellers or other parts of the boats. These animals do not always sink to the seafloor, but can remain afloat due to gasses in the body and then be washed ashore. This dead dolphin could just be proof for what Ric said.

The dolphin hunt we witnessed last Monday, October 19th, was of particular cruelty. It lasted for about 5 hours, before the dolphins were finally trapped in the cove. It was heartbreaking to see this family pod with several calves and their despaired, completely exhausted mothers trying to protect them, until they were brutally slaughtered one by one, hidden under tarps in the killing cove. The body of the dolphin seen in the picture is one of the victims of this killing. And it will never show up in any killing statistic...



In spite of its state of decay, many scratch marks can be seen on the body. Though

some may be a result of the carcass washing up on the sharp rocks ashore, others indicate different kinds of injuries, as if it had been entangled in nets, including around the snout. Dolphins drowning in the capture and killing process in the cove are common. Those are not used for their meat. The fishermen regularly put them on a skiff, cover them with tarp, haul them out to sea and dump them, as has been observed many times.

So it seems very plausible that this has been the case with this poor juvenile Risso. As she was still swimming free and unsuspecting with her pod last Sunday, her body is now reduced to a decaying carcass, her whole family having been wiped out.

Hans Peter Roth and Marna Olsen

Added note: Hans Peter also reported in his 10/24 email to CSI that a “Whale Festival” October 31st-November 1st is expected to bring many Japanese nationalists to Taiji. They will come to demonstrate against anyone opposing the drives. Marna and Hans Peter have behaved peacefully and respectfully while witnessing the killing drives, and documenting the rock-cast dead Risso’s dolphin, but just for daring to be there they are called “eco-terrorists” on pro-whaling websites, like: http://taiji.blog.jp/archives/cat_640895.html, with their images and information posted to make them easy targets for demonstrators.

Keep Marna and Hans Peter in your thoughts, with gratitude for their willingness to stand for us at the center of this horrific spectacle, seeking only peace for the whales and dolphins.

