

## March - May 2006

**Simon Scarff** sends in the following report from Mirissa on whales. "During April while we have been out sports fishing off the South Coast we have had 3 sightings of Blue Whales. All were within 3-6 miles off the coast in roughly the same position between Mirissa and Dondra Head. The first sighting was on 6th April when we saw a mother and calf blowing in the distance at about 8am but they sounded very promptly when they heard our boat engines. The second sighting was on 11th April at 11.30am when we sighted a school of about 6 whales. The most exciting sighting was on Sat 15th April at about 4.40pm when we found a larger school - probably 8 whales including mother and calf. This time we stayed with the school for about 45 minutes whilst they sounded, dived and blew about the boat.

Anouk Ilangakoon has since identified these as Blue Whales, which apparently are seen fairly frequently during the first quarter off the South & West of Sri Lanka. At Mirissa Water Sports we will now be keeping accurate logs of the sightings so that we can begin to predict the arrival of the Blue Whales for future whale watching tours.

This period is also a good time for dolphins around the coast. Since January on our fishing trips we have regularly been accompanied by pods of spinner dolphins, particularly in the last few weeks during the peak yellow fin tuna season. For pictures please access our Mirissa Water Sports website. <http://www.mirissawatersports.com/>.

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