



**Weekly Wire**  
**News from East Asia and Pacific**  
**National Science Foundation**  
**Tokyo Regional Office**  
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**AUSTRALIA: Smart Phone Data to help Marine Species**

Scientists from the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the University of Western Australia are conducting research using smart technology to learn more about the migrations of the world's largest marine animals. These large datasets resulting from the GPS technology and the novel analyses used highlight an opportunity that can be applied to understanding the movements of marine megafauna, one of the key groups for which a large amount of tracking data exists. A group of renowned national and international multidisciplinary researchers, including physicists, animal biologists, and ecologists, will attend the Marine Megafauna Synthesis Group workshop the week of November 24 to share their data and work together to compare the movements and behaviors of these animals on a global scale.

*Source:* [http://www.aims.gov.au/docs/media/latest-news/-/asset\\_publisher/EnA5qMcJvXjd/content/17-november-how-techniques-for-analysing-smart-phone-data-will-help-marine-specie](http://www.aims.gov.au/docs/media/latest-news/-/asset_publisher/EnA5qMcJvXjd/content/17-november-how-techniques-for-analysing-smart-phone-data-will-help-marine-specie)

**JAPAN: Conservation Efforts Put Pacific Blue Fin Tuna on the Red List**

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. It includes 76,199 assessed species, of which 22,413 are threatened with extinction. As nearly half of the newly assessed species exist within protected areas, IUCN calls for better management of these places to stop further biodiversity decline. The List has moved Pacific Blue Fin Tuna from the Least Concerned category to Vulnerable, which means that it is now threatened with extinction. The



species is extensively targeted by the fishing industry for the sushi and sashimi markets predominantly in Asia. Most of the fish caught are juveniles which have not yet had a chance to reproduce and the population is estimated to have declined by 19 to 33% over the past 22 years. Also on the list is the American Eel. Due to the decline of the Japanese Eel, the intensive eel farming industry in East Asia is seeking to replenish seed stock with other species such as American Eel. "The growing food market is putting unsustainable pressure on these and other species," says IUCN's Global Director of Biodiversity.

*Source:* an article on Nikkei Newspaper—November 17, 2014 and <http://www.iucn.org/?18621/Global-appetite-for-resources-pushing-new-species-to-the-brink--IUCN-Red-List>

**New Zealand: Noise in the Oceans**

Ocean noise is believed to have doubled in the past 40 years and Auckland University scientists want to know more about how much ships and marine industry generates sound, and whether marine life is being threatened. New Zealand-designed hydrophones (underwater microphones) are being deployed in seven locations in and around the Hauraki Gulf. Each one records two minutes of audio every 20 minutes. It is hoped the recordings will paint a picture of life underwater, including what happens during a feeding frenzy.

*Source:* <http://tvnz.co.nz/national-news/nz-scientists-eavesdrop-sounds-deep-6116753>