**Problem:** Increasing coastal zone development, coastal pollution, marine aquaculture, and fishery interactions, threaten the long-term viability of bottlenose and common dolphin populations.

**Opportunity:** Collaborative research projects with dolphin researchers, oceanographers, tourism operators, and industry.

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**Research Ideas:**
- Monitor dolphin distribution, abundance and habitat use patterns using aerial, vessel based and photo-identification surveys
- Monitor dolphins movements and habitat use patterns using passive acoustics and satellite tags
- Determine the responses of dolphins to environmental heterogeneity and anthropogenic activities in space and time and the potential costs associated with these changes.
- Determine population genetic structure and socio-genetics of common and bottlenose dolphins
- Determine the impact of anthropogenic activities such as wildlife tourism, fisheries interactions and coastal zone development.
- Identify "hotspots" of coastal dolphin concentration and suitable habitat,
- Identify priority areas for management intervention according to risks to dolphins from multiple anthropogenic activities
- Define appropriate management units for dolphin conservation

**Benefits:**
- The outcomes will inform dolphin conservation
- Opportunity for State funding of Honours, PhD, and Postdoc positions
Strategic Significance:

- The conservation and management of dolphins is of particular importance in coastal zones where increasing levels of human activities threaten their long term survival and the function of coastal ecosystems on which both marine biodiversity and humans depend.
- Opportunity to collaborate with local tourism operators, mining and fishing industry, Natural Resource Management Groups, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, SA Museum.

Current Projects:

- Population size, structure and habitat preferences of common dolphins in South Australia: enhancing the assessment, reduction and mitigation of fisheries operational interactions. Funded by the Australian Marine Mammal Centre, Australian Antarctic Division.
- 2011. Honours. Lauren Holmes. Relative abundance of bottlenose dolphins Tursiops australis within the South Australian Gulfs