



ЗАМЕТКА

New Data on Common Dolphins, *Delphinus delphis* (Cetacea), in the Kerch Strait (Ukraine) [Новые сведения о дельфине-белобочке, *Delphinus delphis* (Cetacea), в Керченском проливе (Украина)]. —

The distribution range of Black Sea common dolphins, *Delphinus delphis* Linnaeus, 1758, is generally restricted northwards to the Black Sea itself (Kleinenberg, 1956). Rathke (1837) reported the bones of common dolphin from the surroundings of Kerch. Zalkin (1938) observed common dolphins in the south part of Kerch Strait adjoining the Black Sea (primarily, near Takyl Cape). In 1976–1986 dolphins were observed near Takyl Cape and in the Kerch Bay (Mikhalev, 2008). For the subsequent 20 years, with the invasion of the ctenophore *Mnemiopsis leidyi* A. Agassiz, 1865, they were not reported for the Kerch Strait (Birkun et al., 2002, 2004; Savenko, 2007; E. B. Gol'din, 2008), except for a single stranding of a sick animal in 1994 (Birkun et al., 1999). Then, in the recent years, common dolphins were regularly seen in the south-western part of the strait, in the same area as reported by Zalkin (1938) and Mikhalev (2008); a group of 7 feeding animals was observed to the east of Zavetnoye in November 2007. On August 2, 2008, a carcass of an adult female, 160 cm long, was found at the north-western tip of Tuzla Spit (Island). On May 24, 2010, a carcass of an adult animal (sex was not identified) was found in Pavlovskaya Bukhta (Pavlovskaya Bay), to the south of Ak-Burun Cape, Kerch. Thus, common dolphins seem to restore their historical distribution range. In addition, bones of an adult common dolphin were found by D. B. Startsev at the archeological site of ancient city of Nymphaeum, south to Kerch, which suggests the occurrence of this species in adjoining sea area at least for 2,000 years. — **P. E. Gol'din** (V. I. Vernadsky Taurida National University, Simferopol), **K. A. Vishnyakova**, **V. V. Serbin** (South Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography, Kerch).