

**Research Article**

## **Current Status of Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) in Halda River, Chittagong, Bangladesh**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Population density of the Ganges River Dolphin *Platanista gangetica* was studied in the Halda River from July to September 2019 and February to April 2022 using the direct count method. The study was conducted from Sattar Khal and ended at Karnafully confluence which covers almost 22 kilometers of area. A total of 6 boat-based surveys, 3 trips in 2019 and 3 in 2022 were conducted for making the dolphin estimates within the study area and a total of 112 dolphins were recorded in 2019 and 162 dolphins were recorded in 2022 which indicates an increase in the dolphin population in the Halda River. In 2019 the highest monthly count was in July of a total of 137 dolphins and in 2022 the highest monthly count was in February of a total of 167 dolphins with best-high-low estimates were 29-27-25 and 43-41-45 in July 2019 and February 2022 respectively in the river from the Chayar Char area. The density rate in the entire Halda River was 1.38/km and 2.00/km in 2019 and 2022 respectively. But in the study area, the density of the population was 5.09/km and 7.37/km respectively. These rates are fairly high when compared with any other areas of dolphin distribution in Bangladesh.

**Key Words:** Halda River Dolphin, *Platanista gangetica*, Chittagong, Bangladesh.

