

## **The objectives and purposes of the action**

### *Project aim*

In this study, satellite-monitored radio tags will be deployed on Bryde's, and if opportunity arises on Sei and Omura whales with the aim to investigate migration routes and to identify wintering grounds of these poorly known whales migrating along the eastern Australian coast.

### *Purpose of the project*

This study will help understanding of the migration patterns of three poorly known species of baleen whales along the eastern Australian coast through satellite tagging.

There is little or no information on the species targeted in this study. The identification of critical habitats (including migration routes) obtained from satellite telemetry data is therefore crucial to develop focused conservation efforts and for the long term management of these species.

### *Procedures used*

During remote satellite tagging whales are subjected to minor procedures which do not require anaesthesia or analgesia, although some short-term distress may occur. Tagging does not affect reproductive success or the behaviour of individuals during and immediately after tagging. Individuals most often show no reaction to tagging. In the majority of the cases tagging causes only a slight reaction such as a slight flinch, slight shake, short acceleration, or immediate dive. Severe immediate reactions are rarely observed. Overall there are no significant mid- or long-term changes in the behaviour and survival of whales following biopsy sampling or tagging.

### *Timing and duration of your surveys*

Surveys will be conducted during the migration season from May to November. Each survey will be run between 6:30 am to 16:00 pm.

Surveys will be conducted on various commercial vessels depending on availability and opportunity. At the present the two primary options are a 8.5 m Cougar Cat powered with 250 hp (Bay Warrior LFB13559) a 8.5 m rigid inflatable with a twin 100 hp (Sport Dive 21646) and 7.5 m centre console aluminium ponton vessel (RV Circe 22220)