Sei Whale Feeding lunges—migrating whales or—flinging pec slaps

P BLOW—a visible whirl at the surface also called a spout

T APEX—the blow and the first visible splash are at the same height

T SLOW—passing the blow, looking for the water; often the surface wave or the splash is the only visible sign

SPLASH—looking for the wave, then the whale is fully visible

TAIL SWIPE—rolling the body at the surface, with one or both pectoral fins

FLUKING—some dolphins roll, the resonator enclosed by the fin

PSLAP—lying on both pectoral fins

LAUNCHING—some dolphins roll, the resonator enclosed by the fin

IDENTIFICATION TIPS—What to look for

• Dark fins present or absent? Note the fin’s size, shape and proportion relative to the body height.

• Fin shape—sickle, lance or straight? Note the fin’s size, shape and position relative to the body.

• Flukes: some large cetaceans display flukes when diving. A whale may be identified by its flukes.

• Resembling Risso’s—short, pointed rostrum; white band on pectoral fin.

• Beaked—dark gray; dorsal fin angle less than 45°.

• Humpback—dorsal fin: present or absent? Note the fin’s size, shape, and position relative to the mid-back.

• Flukes: some large cetaceans display flukes when diving. A whale may be identified by its flukes.

• Bowriding—i.d. dorsal origin downward, but not of the pressure wave.

• Approach and leave cetaceans cautiously and slowly from the side.

• Reduce speeds in areas where cetaceans may be sighted.

• Show extreme caution when observing cetaceans involved in the following behaviours:

Responsible Whale Watching

IFAW works to improve the welfare of both wild and domestic animals throughout the world by addressing the underlying needs of these species and by working to eliminate the conditions that lead to their suffering and exploitation. Our work is focused on those animals that are most in need of protection and whose welfare is most at risk, and our policies and strategies are designed to make the most effective use of available resources.

BIODIVERSITY—A globally significant area that supports a wide range of marine life, especially in the tropical waters of the Pacific Islands region. Marine turtles (chelonians) such as loggerhead, hawksbill, leatherback, flatback and olive ridley turtles. Marine turtles are reptiles that have lungs for breathing and have a large shell called a carapace for protection. They have four strong, powerful flippers for swimming, a beak for eating and a large shell to protect them from predators.

THERE ARE 45 KNOWN SPECIES OF TURTLES IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION. THESE CREATURES ARE NOT FISH BUT AIR BREATHING, WARM BLOODED, MARINE MAMMALS THAT POSSESS A LARGE SHELL CALLED A CARAPACE FOR PROTECTION. THEY HAVE FOUR STRONG, POWERFUL FLIPPERS FOR SWIMMING, A BEAK FOR EATING AND A LARGE SHELL TO PROTECT THEM FROM PREDATORS.

MIGRATION

These creatures are not fish but air breathing, warm blooded, marine mammals that possess a large shell called a carapace for protection. They have four strong, powerful flippers for swimming, a beak for eating and a large shell to protect them from predators.

Once whales in the tidal pools often appear to be useful, and regulating conservation measures. However, while whales can have a negative impact on cetaceans if protective guidelines and regulations are not in place, they are also important to the culture of many indigenous peoples. Whaling in the last century resulted in the decline of many cetacean populations, and while some of these marine mammals are recognized as an important part of the cultural heritage of many indigenous peoples and cultures. Today, cetacean populations are recovering and many species are no longer at risk. In the tropical Pacific, cetaceans and turtles are managed and protected through the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and related agreements. The continued protection and recovery of marine mammal and turtle populations is vital to marine biodiversity in the region.

DUGONGS

Dugongs are herbivorous marine mammals that feed on seagrass and are found in warm coastal waters. Although including habitats with seagrass, they are not as abundant as dolphins, but are still an important part of the coastal marine ecosystem. The dugong is protected in the waters of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia.

Marine Mammals and Marine Turtles of the Pacific Islands Region

These creatures are not fish but air breathing, warm blooded, marine mammals that possess a large shell called a carapace for protection. They have four strong, powerful flippers for swimming, a beak for eating and a large shell to protect them from predators.