

## Project Update: July 2013

The first stage of the project is complete. Meetings and consultations with local stakeholders were successful. Foça, which is a town in İzmir Bay, was chosen as centre of our project works. Municipality Foça has assigned a place for research base at Yeni Plaj region in Foça. It helps us to manage project works in research region and communicate easily with local people. Fisheries cooperative of Foça encourages us with our research in Foça and we have agreement about the network on dolphin observation. They showed us the region where they see dolphins frequently in İzmir Bay while they fish and will inform us if they see dolphins in duration of our project.

Beside local stakeholders, a national NGO, SAD (Underwater Research Society), has started to support our project as local collaborator. SAD has two important contributions with assigning their research caravan during the research period and providing web area in Turkish for our project.

Using social media and website, we informed the universities and students about the project and invite people to see our research and help us for office and field work as volunteer. Until now, a total of 13 people from three universities and two NGOs visited our research centre to see our study and contribute with their creative ideas about the further steps of the project.

A preliminary field survey was accomplished in July 2013. The methodological field survey has started. Additionally, researchers decided to perform effort using local transportation ferry line among Foca, Karaburun and Mordoğan to increase sea time in the project. This line is only available between June and September and has two different lines which cross along İzmir bay from east to west and vice-versa and also parallel line to coast of Karaburun Peninsula.

You can follow news about the project in Rufford webpage in English ([http://www.rufford.org/rsg/projects/fethi\\_bengil](http://www.rufford.org/rsg/projects/fethi_bengil)), the project webpage in Turkish (<http://www.sad.org.tr/arastirma-gruplari/demag/izmir-korfezi-yunuslari>) For further information contact [izmirdolphinproject@gmail.com](mailto:izmirdolphinproject@gmail.com).



Project research base with help of Municipality Foça and SAD.



We put our stickers on the caravan, beside of the Banner in the first photograph

