

## Project Update: March 2014

We did five field trips to San Felipe, Baja California, Mexico, from August 2013 to February 2014. We surveyed aboard a small outboard boat the Refuge of the Vaquita. We recorded sightings of the most critically endangered marine mammals of the world, the vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*), also bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), long-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus capensis*), Bryde's whale (*Balaenoptera edeni*) and humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). During the encounters with dolphins and vaquita, we navigated toward their swimming trajectory to deploy a C-pod (acoustic detector) to record the vocalisations of the animals. Furthermore, during the surveys to the refuge, we recorded the noise produced by fishing boats and shrimp trawlers, and we recorded the noise produced by wind and tidal forces by deploying an acoustic detector on the sea bottom with a mooring system.

After the field trips, we downloaded the track of the GPS recorded during the surveys (with recording of Lat/Long position every 30 seconds) to a laptop. It was saved as text file and then exported to Excel. In this last file, we transcribed up the field notes recorded every 2 minutes during the acoustic recordings. We already started the acoustic data analysis with the software CPOD V2-042.exe, in order to describe the acoustic signatures potentially recorded of the different noise sources. When this task is done, we will start to do the identification and assignment of the acoustic signals in the 2012 data of the acoustic monitoring programme of vaquita. The preliminary results we will be presented to the Steering Committee of the Acoustic Monitoring Scheme of Vaquita to be held in Ensenada in late April 2014.



Some of the photos recorded during the sightings of cetaceans are available in the next dropbox link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u0nhx0ux2kr61hk/5GapM8oP-H>