

Project Update: August 2014

In July 2014, we conducted an open forum in order to identify strategies to achieve sustainable dolphin-watching activities in Bocas del Toro. A number of specialists and biologists attended, including Lissette Trejos (from Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama-ARAP), José Julio Casas (from International Maritime University of Panama-UIMP) and Laura May-Collado (from Panacetacea). The local community, represented by touristic and boat operators and tourists attended this forum, as they are aware of the risks and difficulties related to this activity. This was a space to discuss better practices to watch dolphins. Most of the people acknowledged that this situation is out of control and lacks regulations, and recognise the importance of training and showing to boat operators that good dolphin-watching activities will allow good experiences for tourists. Training activities will be conducted in coming months as an urgent action needed in order to reduce negative impact of dolphin-watching on dolphins.



Left: A dolphin traveling in Bocas del Toro. Photo by Dalia C. Barragán-Barrera. Right: Specialists discussing good practices to dolphin-watching. Photo by Ayshah Kassamali-Fox



Left: Attendees in open forum about good practices to dolphin-watching. Photo by Ayshah Kassamali-Fox. Right: Open forum about good practices to dolphin-watching in Bocas del Toro. Photo by Dalia C. Barragán-Barrera