

## Project Update: March 2015

Dolphin bay is an important nursery area for bottlenose dolphins in Bocas del Toro. During the study period, a total of 31 days were spent following dolphins in Dolphin Bay and surrounding areas to measure the effect of dolphin-watching boats on individuals. 74.9 hours of behavioural data were collected from a total of 79 focal animals. The number of boats interacting simultaneously with a focal animal varied between one and 18, with an average of 1.5 boats at a time. Results show that the transitions Traveling®Traveling and Socializing®Traveling increased as a result of tour boats being present. Also, tour boats have a significant effect on behavioural transitions for females with dependent calves. These results suggest that dolphins may be responding to tour boats in Dolphin Bay by travelling more, which may have bioenergetic consequences for individuals. Of particular concern are females and calves, whose behavioural states are significantly affected by dolphin-watching boat interactions.



1) The first picture was taken by Mónica Gamboa. The title of it is "Baby dolphin socialising".



2) The second one was taken by Giselle Veve. The title of it is "Underwater photo of a dolphins' group."



3) The third one was taken by Shakira Quiñonez. The title of it is "Another injured dolphin in Dolphin bay".



4) The fourth one was taken by Dalia C. Barragán-Barrera. The title of it is "Photo ID of individuals prior to 'focal-follows' methodology".