

Project Update: November 2014

In 2014, we collected focal follow data and skin samples from the population of bottlenose dolphins in Bocas del Toro. In total we conducted 48 days of boat surveys. Genetic analysis of skin samples confirmed high philopatry of bottlenose dolphins to this Archipelago. New samples showed that individuals share the same unique haplotype reported in 2013 for mtDNA. Similarly, microsatellite analyses show this population to be differentiated from other populations in the Caribbean, with very restricted gene flow with neighbouring populations. The situation for these dolphins is critical. Therefore, during field trips we also conducted different activities with local people in order to increase awareness about responsible dolphin-watching activities. We participated in the "Open House" at Smithsonian Bocas del Toro station and we visited some local schools like the "Buena Esperanza" school. We presented our preliminary results and explained to the public the critical situation of these the bottlenose dolphins.



1) The first picture was taken by Dalia C. Barragán-Barrera. The title of it is "Our conservation campaign Watch, Admire, Protect".



2) The second one was taken by Dalia C. Barragán-Barrera. The title of it is "Outreach activity during Open House at Smithsonian Bocas del Toro Station".



3) The third one was taken by Aysha Kassamali-Fox. The title of it is "Outreach activity in Buena Esperanza School".

4) The fourth one was taken by Dalia C. Barragán-Barrera. The title of it is "Dolphin with a fresh scar mark in its head from boat propellers".

