

## **Project Update: October 2005**

Before the surveys, the project changed in form but not in content. We still worked with killer whales, false killer whales and pilot whales, in addition to with coastal communities. Knowledge of the behaviour and occurrence of these species is basic for the determining their distribution. Also can be used to indicate dolphin habitat use.

In order to quantify the attitudes and perceptions of the Drake Bay (south Pacific Costa Rica) and Cuajiniquil (north Pacific Costa Rica) communities we decided to hold workshops as well as conduct interviews. Tourism is the main source of income in the first community, whereas fishing generates most income in the second. This meant we would be able to create alternative conservation strategies.

We have been in contact with the Drake Bay guides association and Cuajiniquil's fishing association, both of which are willing to collaborate with the project.

In addition the area's high schools are looking forward to the workshops.

Until today we conducted 168 hours (24 days) of sampling resulting in 4 sightings (16% of the number of days). The average number of individuals per group was  $13.2 \pm 4.7$  individuals. So far, 25 individuals have been identified.

The predominant behaviour was travelling (64%), followed by feeding-foraging (23%).