

Project Update: August 2016

We conducted a survey of 20 days on board of a small fishing boat, from 7:00 to 16:00, following 30 transects in zigzag parallel to coastline. Each transect was approximately 14 nautical miles, so we travelled 450 nautical miles in total. We had twelve sightings of two different dolphins' species: Atlantic spotted dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*) and bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*). We collected the following data:

- Position.
- The predominant behaviour. The most common was bow riding, but dolphins were also seen jumping, traveling, resting, mating, and socialising.
- The number of animals. The group size ranged between three and 30 individuals.
- Number of calves, which ranged between one and two by group.
- Depth that ranged between 5 m and 457 m.

Photographs of individual's dorsal fin were taken to start a catalogue of species. We also collected 15 skin samples from individuals using the PAXARMS system to conduct genetic studies and mercury analyses.



Left: Collecting samples using PAXARM system. Right: Taking photographs of the dolphin's dorsal fin (Photo: Dalia Barragán)



Left to right: A juvenile of Atlantic spotted dolphin jumping; A juvenile of Atlantic spotted dolphins swimming and an adult bottlenose dolphin jumping.