

Project Update: December 2017

In December 2017 Dr Daniel Gonzalez-Socoloske joined us again in another fieldtrip to Amanã Reserve. This time, it was the dry season, a more favorable period to conduct sonar surveys. Our aims during these few days were:

- (i) To survey the deepest areas in Amanã Lake;
- (ii) To ground-truth manatee images through observations and surveying radio tagged manatees.

We conducted surveys in the deepest areas called "boiadouros" and generated some images that are similar to those observed for Antillean and Florida manatees. However, because of the difficulty to visualise Amazonian manatees in the dark waters of Amanã Lake and because rehabilitated radio tagged manatees showed an escape behaviour from the boat we have yet to validate our image bank with the visual confirmation of a live manatee. The next step is confirm Amazonian manatee's sonar images in a small semi-captive area containing a known number of rehabilitated manatees.



Camila Carvalho and Dr. Daniel Gonzalez-Socoloske trying to confirm manatee images of rehabilitated and released Amazonian manatees in Amanã Lake, Amanã Sustainable Development Reserve, Amazonia, Brazil. Photo by José Raimundo dos Reis