

Project Update: September 2018

We conducted fieldtrip from May 19th to June 22nd 2018, on board an artisanal fishing boat with an engine of 40 hp. We followed 40 transects in zig zag around the coast, each one with 20 nm of distance from shore. Once we sighted a group, we collected following information:

1. Position.
2. Size of the group. Adults, juveniles or calves.
3. Behaviour (jumping, swimming, feeding, copulating or other).
4. Photos and videos.
5. Skin samples from some individuals using PAXARMS system to conduct genetic and ecotoxicology analysis.

We recorded 10 sightings of three dolphin species: common dolphin (*Delphinus* spp.), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) and spotted Atlantic dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*). From three fishing localities, we also collected muscle tissue samples of fishes that are considered potential prey for dolphins and part of local community diet, in order to assess ecotoxicological status of both preys and top predators. These analyses are currently underway.



Adult of spotted Atlantic dolphins jumping out of the water.



Photo 2. Group of common dolphins swimming close to the boat.



Photo 3. Bottlenose dolphins swimming fast.



Photo 4. Collecting skin samples using the PAXAMARS system.



Photo 5. Taking measures of a fish, like size, weight and sex.