

Project Update June 2019

For the conservation of whales proper regulations should be created and for that baseline knowledge on the species in the area needs to be provided to local authorities. This knowledge arises from research using non-invasive techniques that allow us to elucidate different aspects of whale ecology in this area.

Updates of activities

The next whale season is close, so we are working in order to finish details towards the 2019 fieldwork. During the last season, July to October 2018, 368 southern right whales were sighted in 274 groups, of which 69.7% were solitary animals. For each sighted group the behaviour, position, number of whales and climate conditions were recorded.



Theodolite training.

In addition to regular fieldwork, training on the use of theodolite on cetacean research was undertaken with the Instituto Australis/Projeto Baleia Franca researchers. This technique allows for greater precision in the positioning of whales at sea, which is very important for ecology studies. All data from last year, together with those from previous seasons, are being analysed. At the moment, the Miramar southern right whale catalogue comprises 19 photo-identified whales and has already been shared with researchers of Peninsula Valdés, Argentina, and Santa Catarina, Brazil, to be compared with their southern right whales catalogues. Any coincidence ("match") between any of these catalogues could reveal an important aspect of the population dynamics of the whales.

Naming the whales!

The second whale of Miramar southern right whale catalogue has been named. High school students of Mar del Sud worked with their teachers on marine environment conservation and named their own whale as "Aishe". We hope other schools continues working with our educational program and named more whales.



Southern right whale named "Aishe" ©J. Belgrano/F.Cethus.

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