

Project Update: August 2019

Within the project development, we have two different lines, visual surveys and acoustic monitoring. We conduct a visual survey in the southeast Pacific Ocean on board of the boat of the Colombian Navy called "ARC 20 de Julio". The whole trip was 90-day long during the austral summer. During this trip, the researcher Natalia Botero had 88 sightings of humpback whales.

From 2nd to 22nd July 2019, we completed the effort for visual and acoustic survey in the Colombian Pacific. We visited three different areas, Bahía Solano, Bahía Málaga, and Tumaco, these places are distributed from the north to the south along all the Pacific coast and are under different noise conditions. We navigated 15 days in the Colombian Pacific. We obtained 58 sightings (57 of humpback whales) and 38 recordings of 42.7 hours in total. The other species sighted was the Pantropical spotted dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*). Humpback whale group composition sighted includes mother and calf pairs, competition groups, single male singer, and three adult groups. Male singers and social sounds were recorded. Presence of boats, airplanes and touristic activities were registered.

In the Colombian phase of the project, fieldwork was made by four people from different institutions of Mexico and Colombia: Lorena Vilorio, UABCS, Camila Salazar and Angie Murcia, biologist and biology student of the National University of Colombia and Andrea Bonilla, as project responsible. Fieldwork was developed in collaboration with local people from the tourist services. In Tumaco we used a boat provided by the Maritime National authority of Colombia (DIMAR).



Humpback whale in Bahía Solano. © Andrea Bonilla



Competition group in Bahía Málaga. © Andrea Bonilla



Fieldwork team. © Lorena Vilorio



Recording submarine landscape in the Colombian pacific. © Lorena Viloria