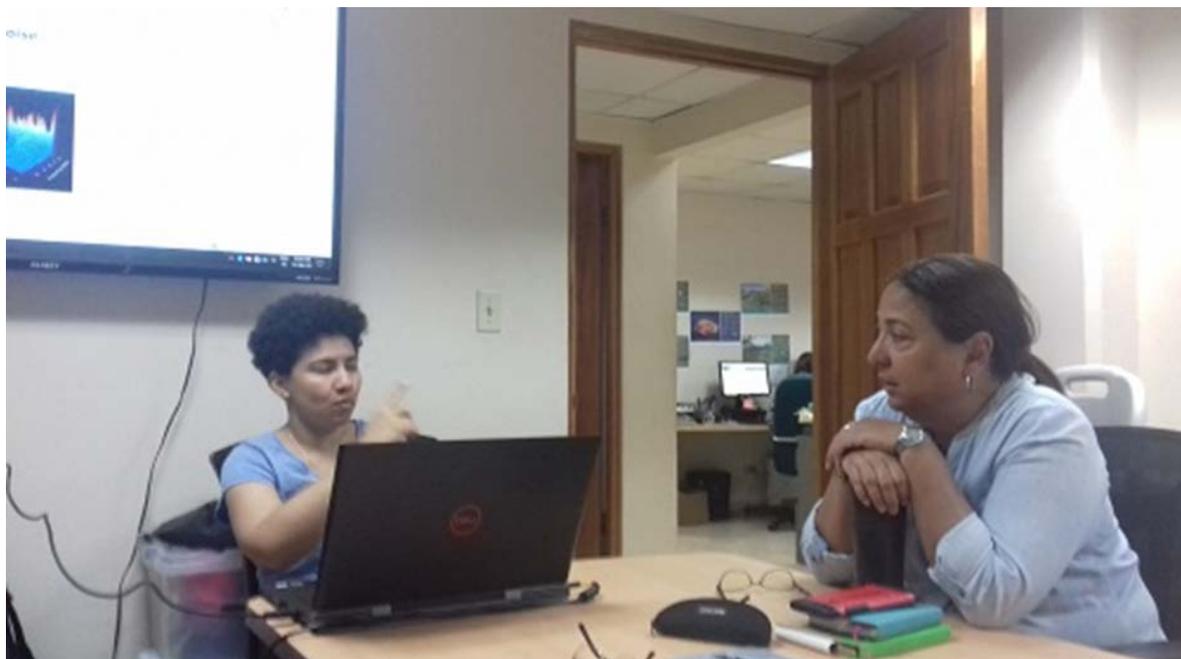


Project Update: April 2020

In March 2020, we gave talks at the International Maritime University of Panama to show local people, and particularly some students, the current situation of bottlenose dolphins in the Bocas del Toro Archipelago. Additionally, we participated in a meeting with officials of the Panamanian Environmental Ministry in order to present all scientific data that the Panacetacea team, led by Dr Laura May-Collado, has collected during last 15 years about biological, ecological, genetic and conservation status of bottlenose dolphins in Bocas del Toro. The goal of this meeting was providing scientific evidence to the Panamanian Government to demonstrate the high vulnerability of these dolphins in order they can extend a protected area in Bocas del Toro to include Dolphin Bay, the most important area for dolphins within this protected region. This is one of the most important steps that we have achieved to ensure the conservation of this bottlenose dolphin population in Panama.



Outreach activities with students. © Julie Tomczyk



Meeting in Environmental Ministry - Panama. © Dalia C. Barragán-Barrera



A dolphin tail (fluke). © Dalia C. Barragán-Barrera



Dolphins socializing in Dolphin Bay. © Dalia C. Barragán-Barrera

On the other hand, I would like to share with you a recent publication on the tour boat effects on the activity patterns of bottlenose dolphins in Bocas del Toro, Panama. This

work was possible with support from the Second Rufford Small Grant (project 15129-2), and we really appreciate all the support The Rufford Foundation has provided for this project. I wonder if you can post only the link of this paper on my web page of project "Studying Genetic Structure and Boat Disturbance on Individual Behaviour of an Isolated Coastal Population of Bottlenose Dolphins in Bocas Del Toro, Panama". The paper is available online in this link: <https://peerj.com/articles/8804/>