

## Project Update: August 2022

1. Collection of biopsies from cetaceans
  - N = 8 biopsies of orcas, *Orcinus orca*, in the south part of the Gulf of California.
  - N = 24 biopsies of fin whales, *Balaenoptera physalus*, in the Bay of La Paz.
  - N= 12 biopsies of bottlenose dolphins, *Tursiops truncatus*, in the Bay of La Paz.
  - N = 8 false killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*) biopsies collected in the Bay of La Paz.
  - N = 13 biopsies of common dolphins, *Delphinus delphis*, in the Bay of La Paz.
  - N = 22 samples of mobula ray, *Mobula munkiana*, from The Gulf of California

Where possible, biopsies of cetaceans were separated between fat and skin. This was done in order to establish any difference in trace elements concentration between tissues.



Figure 1. Dr. Hiram Nanduca Rosales collecting samples from a fin whale in the Bay of La Paz. © Erick Higuera.



Figure 2. Biopsy of tissue collected from a fin whale in La Paz Bay. © Erick Higuera.

## 2. Preparation of samples for analysis

All samples have been sent to the laboratory and have been prepared for analyses of trace elements and stable isotopes. Results should be ready in November 2022.

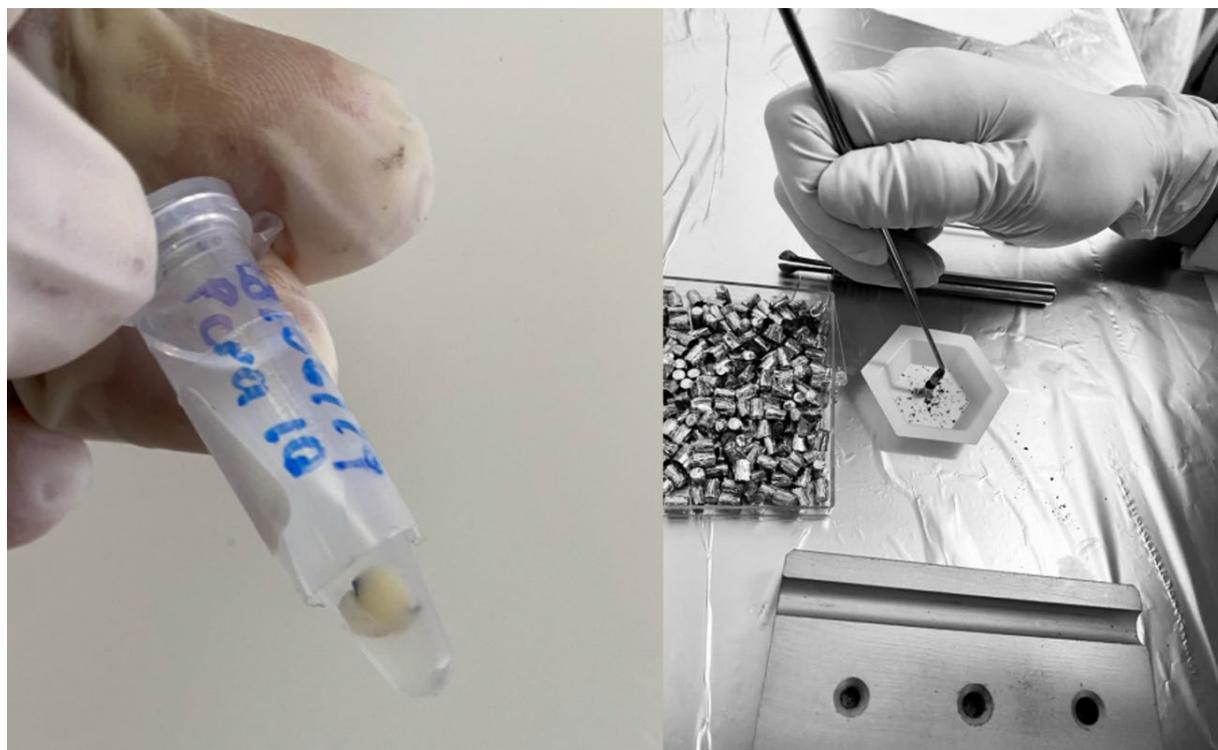


Figure 3. Preparation of samples for trace elements and stable isotopes analysis. © Francesca Pancaldi.

## 3. Participation to the first meeting on good practices in touristic activities with orcas.

In the city of La Paz, we have participated in the first meeting on tourist activity with orcas in La Paz and La Ventana. Local actors such as captains, guides, tourism companies, NGOs and the academy have participated in the meeting whose objective was to spread good practices. This activity has recently increased in the aforementioned sites and has created much controversy and conflict within the community. Furthermore, it has often been recorded as being very stressful for the animals, which eventually change their behaviour due to the presence of boats and people in the water. The meeting represented a space for dialogue, discussion, and exchange of ideas. This is expected to be the beginning of a process that will lead to the development of an official code of conduct for orca tourism in this region.