Second project report

Participation in the 26th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals

From 19–23 October 2026, I attended the 26th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where I presented a poster entitled "Watching from Above: Reviewing Drone Use in Sirenian Research."

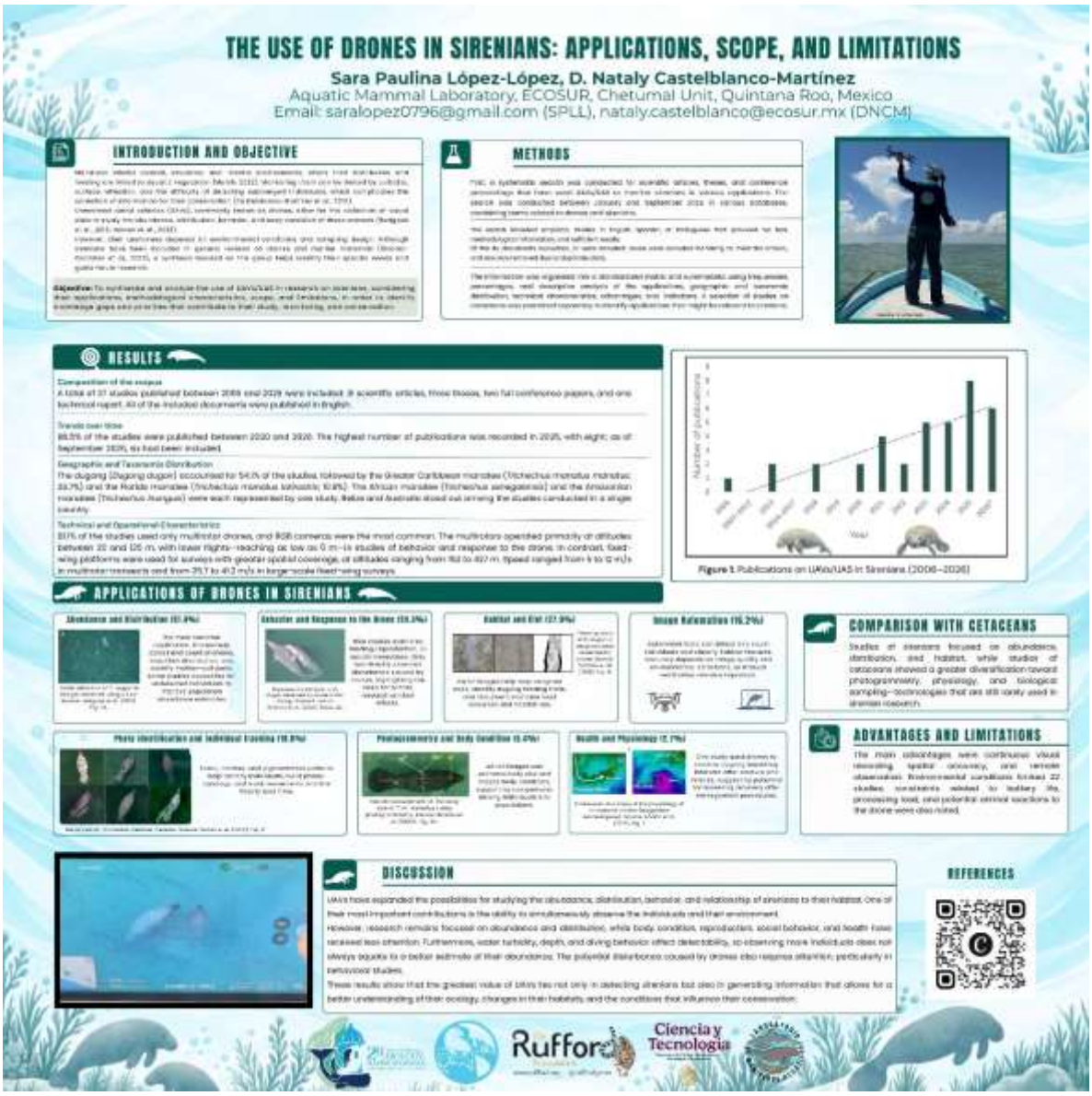
The presentation featured preliminary findings from a literature review examining the use of drones in sirenian research. A total of 29 studies published between 2013 and 2026 were analyzed, focusing primarily on dugongs (51.7%) and manatees (41.4%). Publication frequency increased notably after 2020, reaching its peak in 2025, suggesting growing interest in the application of drone technology in sirenian research. Australia (13.8%) and Mexico (10.3%) accounted for the highest proportions of studies.

Participation in this international conference provided an opportunity to share preliminary research findings, exchange knowledge with marine mammal researchers, and strengthen scientific connections within the field. It also contributed to the project's broader objective of improving research approaches for the study and conservation of sirenians.

Photographic Appendix:



Certificate of participation in the SMM2026 conference



Poster presented on the use of drones in sirenian research



Poster presentation with my thesis advisor, Dr. Nataly Castelblanco