



XI CONGRESO DE LA SOCIEDAD LATINOAMERICANA DE ESPECIALISTAS EN MAMÍFEROS ACUÁTICOS

28 de Noviembre y el 1 de Diciembre de 2016. Valparaíso, Chile

www.solamac2016.com/congress/



AUSPICIADORES



Ilustre Municipalidad de Valparaíso



HIGH MORTALITY OF FRANCISCANA DOLPHINS (*PONTOPORIA BLAINVILLEI*) IN BRAZIL

Cremer M J¹, Barreto A S², Maranhão A³, Domit C⁴, Barbosa C B⁵, Kolesnikovas C K M⁶, Groch K⁷, De Oliveira L V⁸, Santos M C⁹, Castilho P V¹⁰, Valle R R¹¹, ¹Projeto Toninhas, Centro de Ciências Humanas e Biológicas, Universidade da Região de Joinville.²Laboratório de Informática da Biodiversidade e Geoprocessamento, Centro de Ciências Tecnológicas da Terra e do Mar, Universidade do Vale do Itajaí.³Instituto Gremar Instituto Gremar de Pesquisa, Educação e Gestão de Fauna.⁴Laboratório de Ecologia e Conservação, Centro de Estudos do Mar, Universidade Federal do Paraná.⁵Instituto Argonauta Instituto Argonauta para Conservação Costeira e Marinha.⁶Associação R3 Animal Associação R3 Animal.⁷Projeto Baleia Franca Instituto Australis.⁸IPEC Instituto de Pesquisas Cananéia.⁹Laboratório de Biologia da Conservação de Mamíferos Aquáticos, Instituto Oceanográfico, Universidade de São Paulo.¹⁰Laboratório de Zoologia Universidade do Estado de Santa Catarina.¹¹Instituto Biopesca Instituto Biopesca.

Franciscana dolphin is the most endangered cetacean species in the Southwestern Atlantic Ocean. The main threat is the accidental capture in fishing operations, but the number of dead animals is unknown. A stranding survey has been conducted since August 25, 2015, between Ubatuba, São Paulo State (23.36S/44.72W) and Laguna, Santa Catarina State (28.49S/48.76W), Brazil. In a year survey, a daily effort was conducted along 674.1 km and a weekly effort along 148.7 km, totaling 822.8 km of coastline. The aim was to record stranded tetrapods. Animals recorded by local people were also considered (activation). This effort was made using vehicles, bikes, boats and on foot. Whenever possible, sex was determined by the macroscopic analysis of gonads and total length was measured. Two categories (juveniles and adults) were determined considering total length (mature males ≥ 116 cm; mature females ≥ 126 cm). A total of 522 franciscana dolphins was recorded and 26.9% were from activation. 36.2% of the individuals were in an advanced state of decomposition, and it was not possible to measure the length and for 64.91% it was not possible to define the sex. For males ($n = 111$), 53.1% of the individuals were immature ($94.5 \text{ cm} \pm 19.03 \text{ cm}$) and 33.3% were mature ($124.1 \text{ cm} \pm 7.75 \text{ cm}$); for 13.5% the length was not measured. For females ($n = 77$), 57.1% of the individuals were immature ($88.9 \text{ cm} \pm 22.05 \text{ cm}$) and 29.9% were mature ($139.4 \text{ cm} \pm 9.16 \text{ cm}$); for 13% the length was not measured. Although this represents a high number of dead individuals, the number of stranded carcasses do not represent the total mortality of franciscana dolphins. These numbers show that the species is continuously suffering a strong pressure in Brazilian waters, despite the regulation for the use of fishing nets established by the government (INI MMA/MPA 12/2012). Urgent actions need to be implemented to reduce bycatch and the risk of extinction.