ELEVADA MORTALIDADE DE DELPHINIDAE AO LONGO DA COSTA DE SÃO PAULO, PARANÁ E SANTA CATARINA, SUL DO BRASIL

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The Brazilian coast has a high diversity of cetaceans, with the Delphinidae as the most diverse family, including both coastal and offshore species. Beach surveys have been conducted to record marine tetrapod strandings since August 25, 2015, covering an area between Ubatuba (23.36S/44.72W) and Laguna (28.49S/48.76W), Brazil. These surveys are part of the monitoring programs required for the environmental licensing process of the oil production and transport by Petrobras at the pre-salt province ($25^0$05'S $42^0$35´W a $25^0$55'S $43^0$34'W). For 34 months, daily effort, by vehicles, bikes, and on foot, was conducted along 674.1 km, and also weekly effort along 148.7 km, totaling 822.8 km of coastline. Strandings reported by local communities were also recorded. Whenever possible, total length was measured and sex was determined for each dolphin recorded. Three categories (calf, juvenile and adult) were determined based on total length. A total of 993 dolphins from ten species was recorded: *Sotalia guianensis* (58.3%), *Tursiops truncatus* (15.3%), *Stenella frontalis* (4.3%), *Steno bredanensis* (2.1%), *Peponocephala electra* (0.2%), *Delphinus delphis* (0.1%), *Feresa attenuata* (0.1%), *Lagenodelphis hosei* (0.1%), *Orcinus orca* (0.1%) and *Stenella longirostris* (0.1%). In total, 68.5% of the individuals were in an advanced state of decomposition and for 14.1% it was not possible to identify the genus. Most were found during regular monitoring, but 35.9% were originated from communities calls. *Sotalia guianensis* was the most frequent species (18.2% females; 38.7% males; 43.2% unidentified sex). For the females, 54.3% were adults, 38.1% juveniles and 3.8% calves; for males 55.3% were adults, 30.8% juveniles and 4.9% calves. The second most frequent species was *T. truncatus*, being the sample composed by 21.7% of females (42.2% adults, 36.4% juveniles, 12.1% calves), 42.1% of males (60.9% adults, 26.6% juveniles and 4.7% calves) and by 36.2% of undetermined sex. Although the number of stranded carcasses do not represent the total mortality of each species, the high numbers of *S. guianensis* is of great concern considering that this species is endangered in Brazil. Although it has not been possible to identify the cause of death in most cases, in fresh animals bycatch in fishing nets was the main cause.

This project is part of the federal environmental licensing process for the oil production and transport by Petrobras at the pre-salt province.