

Project Update: January 2014

The southern right whale season at Santa Catarina is now over. Our team has spent 44 days at the study area and we have made over 33 hours of synchronous behavioural observation and acoustic monitoring of mother and calf pairs. Our work received attention of the media and there were reports about it in local newspapers (*link in portuguese* - <http://diariocatarinense.clicrbs.com.br/sc/geral/noticia/2013/10/equipe-monitora-sons-e-comportamento-das-baleias-francas-em-santa-catarina-4310052.html>) and at a national TV channel (*link in portuguese* - <http://noticias.r7.com/videos/pesquisadores-aproveitam-temporada-para-decifrar-comunicacao-entre-baleias/idmedia/52927f150cf2eed7218ac757.html>). A press release, memos and technical reports were also produced for informative purposes. Ongoing data processing suggests that right whale mother/calf pairs produces sounds mostly when interacting with each other, with other species or with new elements in the environment. For the next months work will be focused in data analysis.



Left: A linear hydrophone array (white buoys) is used to record the sounds of whales (note an individual's head and tail stock behind the buoys). Photo: Paulo A. C. Flores. Right: Deployment of the hydrophone array in the study area. Photo: Karina Groch



Left: Deployment of the hydrophone array in the study area. Photo: Karina Groch. Right: Synchronous behavioural observations and acoustic recording of southern right whale groups from vessel. Photo: Paulo A. C. Flores.