

## Project Update: February 2016

Between August 24<sup>th</sup> and October 16<sup>th</sup> 2015, 31 boat trips were completed, traveling 1851.9 km during 138 hours. A total of 65 groups, and 146 whales, were observed in coastal waters of the Gulf of Tribugá. Of those, 12 (18.5%) corresponded to a mother-calf pair. Furthermore, nine groups (13.8%) included at least one escort. On average, mother-calf pairs were sighted on waters that were 139.3 m deep. Groups that included one or more escorts were registered on an average water depth of 172 m. A total of four tissue samples were collected through remote biopsy from humpback whale groups containing a calf in the area. To date, genetic analyses have accomplished DNA extraction and PCR amplification of mtDNA. Community outreach activities include participation in workshops with environmental and civil authorities and talks with hotel owners, guides, and visitors in relation to whale-watching activities.



Left: Young calf breaching next to its mother. Right: Whale watching boat approaching the whales a bit too close.



Left: S-posture (allegedly aggressive) seen by a calf as part of a group that included an escort  
Right: Mother-calf pair where the female shows evidence of a negative interaction with a vessel