

## Project Update: September 2016

Between June 27<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup> 2016, 45 boat trips were completed, traveling 3418.7 km during 284 hours. A total of 134 groups were observed in coastal waters of the Gulf of Tribugá. Of those, 11 (8.2%) corresponded to a mother-calf pair. Furthermore, eight groups (6%) included at least one escort. Satellite tagging of cows (accompanied by their calf) and escorts was attempted between the 9th and 19th August 2016. Such efforts were unsuccessful due to the low frequency of target groups registered during that time as well as harsh weather conditions linked to "La Niña" phenomenon. Nonetheless, a total of 16 tissue samples have been collected from humpback whale groups containing a calf in the area through remote biopsy or opportunistically after the execution of surface-active behaviours. Community outreach activities have included participation in workshops with environmental and civil authorities as well as Coquí locals.



Left to right: Fluke slap of a humpback whale calf in which a very recent predation attempt (by killer whales) is visible; Mother, calf and escort surfacing in close association; Opportunistic tissue collection of a humpback whale cow after the execution of a surface-active behaviour and Remote biopsy of the escort of a mother-calf pair of humpback whale.