

Project Update: April 2018

According to the survey respondents, the entities in charge of whale watching monitoring and regulation are national natural parks - NNPs Fundación Yubarta and the Corporación Autónoma regional del Valle del Cauca - CVC. Likewise, operators and environmental interpreters declared to have received some type of training by the entities mentioned above with the Dirección general Maritima - DIMAR. Concerning to sanctions, 70% of the ones polled recognised at least one, mainly fines, confiscation and suspension of whale watching. Moreover, in relation to the equipment and safety measurements, half of survey respondents carry life jackets, rubber rings and oars, and only 32% used some type of technology such as cellphone, radio, and compass.

Regarding to internal governance of the socioecological system, 76.92% identified an association between operators, interpreters, and hotels and more than half belong at least one (Fig 1.). Although there was no specific association for whale watching, there were some informal agreements between the actors that try to manage tourism (Fig 2).

