

Project Update: December 2017

Scientific efforts

From March to November 2017, surveys along the Montenegrin coast took place. During this period our land and boat surveys stations were in Ulcinj, Bar, Budva, Boka Kotorska Bay (Herceg Novi and Kotor) and for boat surveys we went from Ulcinj, Bar, Budva, Boka Kotorska Bay (Tivat – Porto Montenegro). In total we have conducted 137 surveys of which 49 were in the spring, 61 in the summer and 27 in autumn. We encountered two species of dolphins, bottlenose (*Tursiops truncatus*) and striped (*Stenella coeruleoalba*). Overall, bottlenose dolphins were encountered 47 times and striped dolphins five times. We sighted bottlenose dolphins 14 times in the spring, 21 times in the summer and 12 times in autumn and striped dolphins we have seen once in the spring, three times in the summer and once in autumn. Group number for bottlenose dolphins varied between one and 15 and for striped dolphins between one and six. The most dominant behaviour for bottlenose dolphins was traveling in the spring, traveling to diving in the summer and traveling to resting in autumn, and for striped dolphins traveling to diving in the spring, traveling in the summer and diving in autumn. Until now, we have catalogued 46 individuals.

Conservation efforts

Overall, we have carried more than 10 beach cleaning campaigns in Ulcinj Beach which was in the local TV as well in order to raise people's awareness and achieve better results.

We have also carried presentations on six different occasions; for the capacity building of researchers and students in the University of Podgorica, for stakeholder awareness in Porto Montenegro, Tivat, to spread the importance of nature conservation on Days of Science and lastly to reach to the wider range of public from every age group, we had organised two library events.

In regards to the media release, we were in the local TV in several times as well as several newspapers. Our final media release was a 45 min documentary movie "Life with the Sea" where we detail explained the goals and reasons of our project, where we already received numerous positive feedback.



