

## Project Update: July 2018

Since the beginning of 2018 we have conducted outreach activities and given talks in several local Institutions as our commitment to sharing key information about situation of bottlenose dolphins in the Archipelago of Bocas del Toro, as well our project divulgation. These institutions include the Smithsonian Institution-STRI, the Guabito Middle School, University of Panama, Changuinola University, Environmental Ministry, and International Maritime University of Panama. Similarly, we continued working with the Teacher Science training programme discussing with local teachers how we can help to conserve this unique dolphin population. Simultaneously, since March 2018, we started the fieldwork in the archipelago.

During this survey, a total of 91 animals were counted in 27 sightings, and we collected samples of skin and blubber from dolphins in the archipelago and surrounding areas. The skin was preserved in alcohol at 70% and the blubber is maintained frozen at -80°C in the laboratory of STRI in Panama until the CITES exportation permit are ready.



Dolphins in Bocas del Toro. ©Betzi Pérez.



Left: Taking a sample from a dolphin in the field. ©Betzi Pérez. Right: Blubber sample of a dolphin in the field. ©Chelina Batista.



Left: Talk in the Changuinola University. ©José Julio Casas. Right: Talk in the Guabito School. ©José Julio Casas.