

Project Update: August 2010

Between July 26th and August 26th 2010, 15 boat surveys were carried out along Tribugá's gulf, traveling 1271.4 km. Since depth increases gradually from the coast, transects covered a significant portion of the bathymetric gradient (0-4000 m). Sighted species included humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), spotted dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*), spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*) and rough-toothed dolphin (*Steno bredanensis*). Sightings occurred at depths of between 2 and 1793 m. Sighted groups often included all age classes. Environmental education activities included educative workshop with touristic operators in Coquí and Jobí and workshops at primary and high schools in five locations. On two occasions, touristic boats were used as a research platform. Touristic activities observed during humpback whales' breeding season included wrong approach manoeuvres as well as some reckless conduct from two surfers. Strandings have not been observed during the whole study period, so the biggest conservation threat seems to be entanglements occurring occasionally on industrial tuna fisheries.



Left: Bottlenose Dolphin. Right: Rough Toothed Dolphin.



Left: Spinner Dolphins. Right: Spotted Dolphin.



Left: Humpback Whale. Right: Coqui kids.