

## Project Update: July 2019

### Scientific efforts

From January 2019 to July 2019, 67 land and nine boat surveys were carried within the Montenegro territorial waters. In this period, we encountered 32 groups of dolphins, 31 groups of bottlenose dolphins and one group of striped dolphins. While striped dolphins were only encountered in winter in the deeper waters of Montenegro, bottlenose dolphin sighting was consistent throughout the season with mainly a coastal distribution. However the lack of sightings of striped dolphins were closely link to the survey effort as we could organise only two survey efforts to the deeper waters of Montenegro due to the delay on the project permission. The dominant behaviour recorded for bottlenose dolphins were travelling and diving which is indicating the importance of the area as a "corridor" and possible feeding grounds, mainly on the northern waters.

### Conservation efforts

Overall, 10 conservation events has been organised since January 2019. In this period we carried presentations on cetacean conservation in Primary School "Meksiko" in Bar and in United Kids International Montenegro – UKIM School in Podgorica. Also, we visited two kindergartens in Bar where through work on arts and crafts and some games we taught the kids about the importance of the conservation of marine environment.

We organised a Community Day, were we held a presentation about marine mammals in Montenegro and their importance for our sea and marine environment in general, in front of the locals and we had work on arts and crafts for the kids. We carried out two beach cleaning events in Bar and we joined to the offshore and on – shore clean up in Petrovac organized by local NGOs. In addition, we joined to the workshop about "Importance of the involvement of local communities in the management of MPA" in Petrovac and to the International Conference: Adriatic Biodiversity Protection "AdriBioPro 2019" in Kotor.

### Publications

We have submitted one article on the effect of tourism on bottlenose dolphin behaviour and currently in major revision.

Three articles, on photo-identification, the effect of fishing vessels and seismic practices, are ready for a publication and will be submitted within a month.



Beach clean-up events



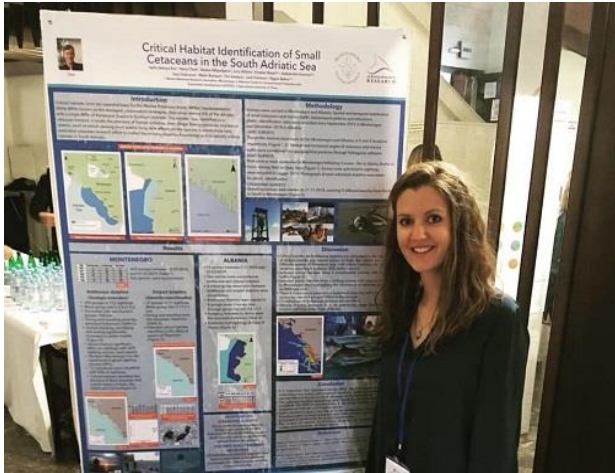
Community day



Kindergarten



Workshop in Petrovac



Conference in Kotor



Land and boat surveys