

Project Update: May 2021

Update of activities

Land-based whale-watching

In the last months, we had meetings with the Secretary of Tourism of General Alvarado with the aim to advance the establishment of land-based whale watching. Based on the report that we prepared with the most relevant information relative to Responsible Whale Watching from our scientific studies, the Secretary of Tourism requested the collaboration of Fundación Cethus in putting together a proposal to start developing the necessary infrastructure to initiate land-based activities.

Miramarita's mural

Local artists, known as "NanaBego", approached us with the idea of representing "Miramarita" in a life-size mural. After advising them with technical data, "Miramarita" was painted on one of the walls corresponding to the Maui Beach Club, located at one of the main entrances to the city. This is a contribution from the local community to the dissemination of the southern right whale (SRW) knowledge in the region "Miramarita" is the SRW that symbolically represents the district. She was named by a public contest last year.

New whale season is coming

Sightings of southern right whales in Miramar have already started. The first one was reported on 10th April 2021 by a member of our Facebook group, "*Ballenas en Miramar*". Although whales begin to transit the waters of Miramar at this time of the year, it is important to note that they are much more frequently observed between July and October.

Southern right whale Photo-ID

The Buenos Aires' SRW catalogue held by this project was compared with the other ones belonging to Fundación Cethus, San Jorge and Cabo Vírgenes catalogues, to find matches between them. Moreover, we compare it with the SRW catalogue of Península Valdés held by Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas/ Ocean Alliance. Although no matches were found with the catalogues of San Jorge and Cabo Vírgenes, it was found with that of Península Valdés. The results of this analysis were presented to the 68C Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission in May 2021.

We want to express our gratitude to The Rufford Foundation, IBM Argentina, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, and Fundación Cethus for the support to this project. Also, thanks to General Alvarado's Secretary of Tourism, Culture and Sports and NanaBego's artists.



NanaBego artists painting Miramarita's mural



Miramarita's mural