

Project Update: June 2022

Date: 2022/14/06

Progress:

All samples collected in fieldwork trip in March-April 2022 have been processed. DNA has been extracted and sequenced at the mitochondrial control region. Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) data analyses has been completed and the results are being written up for my thesis submission. mtDNA results are showing possible connectivity between the South African population and other populations worldwide, but further analyses are required to confirm these potential scenarios. Microsatellite genotyping data generation is complete. A few loci must be sequenced to confirm the results we have obtained from genotyping. Preliminary analyses are being conducted microsatellite genotype data now. So far, we have found that of 106 individuals genotyped, 21 samples were duplicates, totaling 85 unique genotypes. We found five first order relatives in the dataset and 30 second order relatives. And results are suggesting that the South Africa's inshore Bryde's whales may form one population. Once again, further analyses are required to confirm these results, and these are being conducted currently. Mitochondrial DNA and the preliminary microsatellite genotyping results will be presented at the South African Marine Symposium on 21st June 2022. This will be an opportunity for me to showcase my research to the South African Marine Science community and show the importance of genetic work on marine mammals in our country, since this is an area notably lacking.



