

# CURRENT AND HISTORICAL THREATS TO DOLPHINS IN THE ATLANTIC AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

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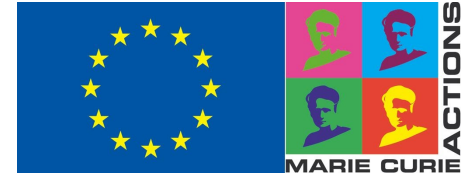
Universidade de Vigo



## PHD PROJECT PRESENTATION

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# 1 – SEACHANGES ITN



15 PhDs related to the interface between marine biology and archaeology

## SeaChanges

Thresholds in human exploitation of marine vertebrates

An international doctoral training network

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<https://sites.google.com/york.ac.uk/seachanges/home?authuser=0>



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# 1 – SEACHANGES ITN

## 1 – Aim of the Innovative Training Network

Lack of information regarding the period before anthropogenic disturbances (lack of baseline, limitation in temporal studies). A need for long-term perspectives to inform marine management.

- Bring together archaeology, zoology, marine ecology and conservation biology
- Integrating historical data to inform the present

## 2 – Aim of the PhD project

Investigating the current and historical ecology of common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*) in the Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea to improve understanding of their different population trajectories and their drivers.

## 2 - PROJECT PRESENTATION

### Background

#### Mediterranean Sea

A 50% decline in common dolphins abundance since the 1960's, especially during the last twenty years

→ Possibly due to a combination of threats

- Fishing interactions (prey depletion and bycatch)
- Habitat degradation leading to emergence of diseases (eg. contaminants)
- Climate change
- Competition for habitat and resources with the striped dolphin



## 2 - PROJECT PRESENTATION

### Background

#### Northeast Atlantic

Widespread and abundant (although difficult to assess population trends)

→ Facing similar threats, but at different levels

- Fishing interactions (bycatch)
- Pollution
- Disturbance (noise)
- Prey depletion and climate change
- Vessel collisions





# 2 - PROJECT PRESENTATION

## Thesis organisation

*(Covid-19 permitted)*

### Threats

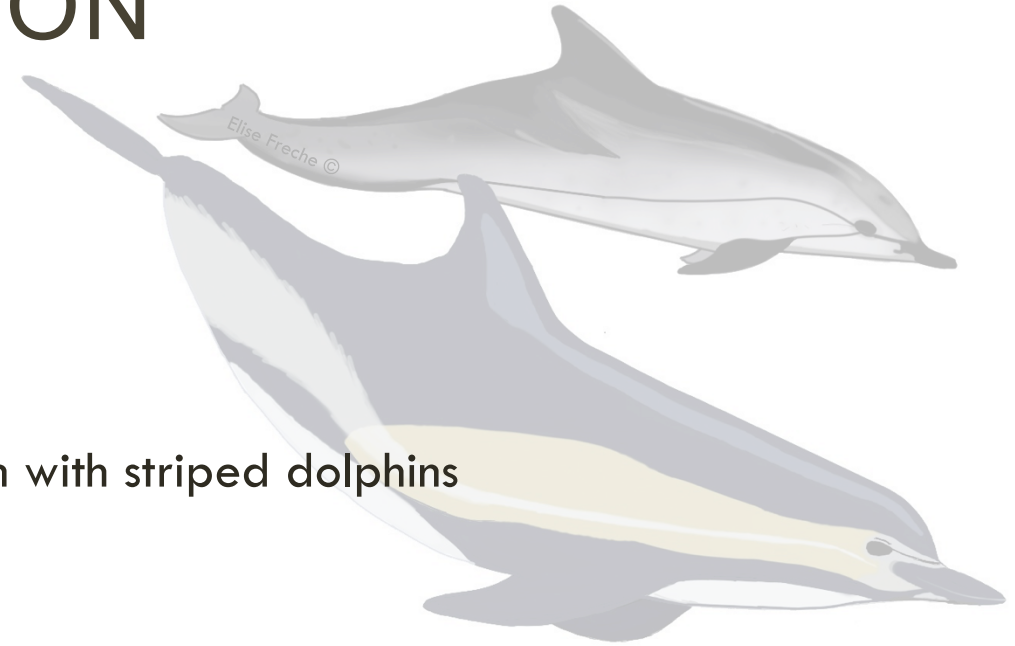
Particular focus on bycatch, overfishing, health issues, competition with striped dolphins

### Methods

Historical data review, ecological modelling, stable isotopes and microbiome analyses

### Outcome

Add knowledge on the influence of each threat on the different population trajectories



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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## CONTACTS

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