

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

UniversidadeVigo



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>



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

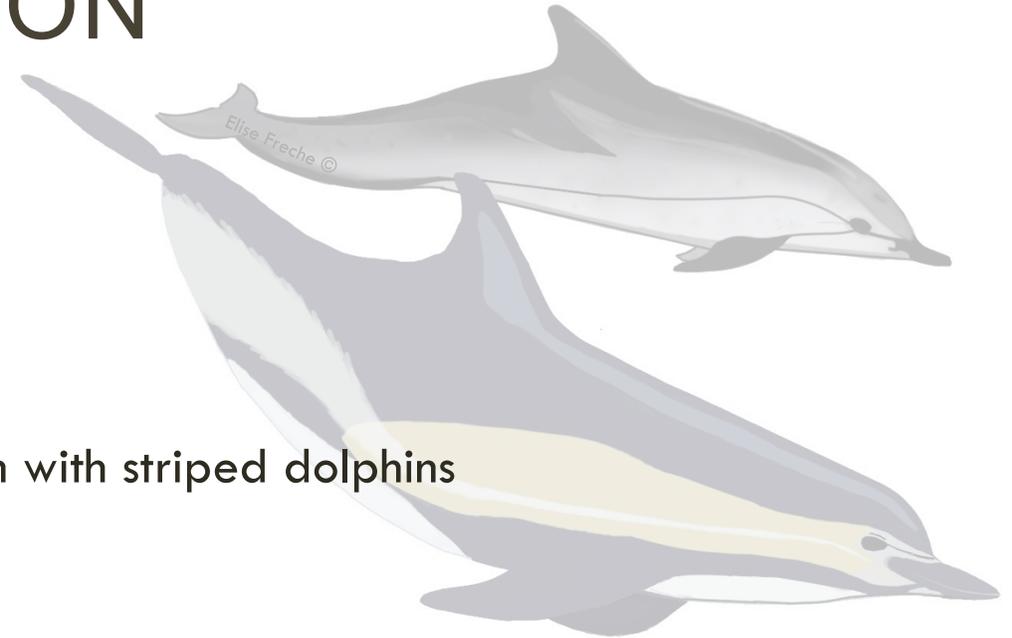
Particular focus on bycatch, overfishing, health issues, competition with striped dolphins

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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