

Project Update: November 2014

Observations

We have made observations on the Amazon River close to the city of Iquitos with nine outings in November 2014 (1st, 4th, 8th, 12th, 15th, 19th, 22nd, 27th and 29th but the one on 1st November was stopped early because of a big storm, so we will consider only eight outings. The motor is repaired but still not in good state (as the boat...). A total of four different volunteers have participated with an average of three per outing. A total of 63 river dolphins were counted, 21 pink dolphins *Inia geoffrensis* and 42 grey dolphins *Sotalia fluviatilis*. It seems the number is regularly increasing, so the water level of the river has a real impact on the presence of dolphins but where are going the animals when the level is too low? That's something we would like to work on.

Education

We have organised 14 presentations in three primary schools (Sara Alicia Saberbein Pinedo, Corpus Christi English School and Nuestra Señora de Loreto), with levels 4, 5 and 6. A total of 480 children have received a diploma in November 2014.

Meetings

Two weekly meetings were organised, always on a Thursday.

Conferences

No conference in November 2014.

Others

I was in Lima the first week of November and in Cartagena (Colombia) from 26th November to 6th December 2014, so four observations (outings) and three education conferences in primary schools were managed by volunteers.

From 29th-30th November 2014 in Cartagena I participated in a workshop to update the Action Plan for the Conservation of River Dolphins in South America, representing Peru. I have made three presentations, one with a summary of all available data (biology, distribution, threats and conservation initiatives), one to explain the work of Solinia in Iquitos and another to make a summary of the works we have made with the groups during the workshop (part of Peru).

This event was not only interesting for the updates but also for the networking. I have met again colleagues I already know (from Bolivia and Colombia) but on top I have discovered new colleagues especially from Brazil and Venezuela. Three main topics were clearly on top of the discussions, the use of dolphin meat as bait to fish the mota fish, the numerous projects of dams in the Amazon basin (important threat) and the genetic of river dolphins (*Inia* and *Sotalia*).

