

Discovering a resident family of Risso's dolphins off São Miguel with a newly developed Photo-ID app

Martins Rafael¹, Gonzalez Laura² and Azevedo José¹

¹ Universidade dos Açores, Ladeira da Mãe de Deus, 9501-855 Ponta Delgada, Portugal
E-mail: rscmartins@gmail.com

² Universidade de Vigo, 36310 Vigo, Pontevedra, Spain

We developed a photo ID program to classify marks in the dorsal fin of Risso's dolphins and put together a catalogue containing 569 individuals and 1124 photos. We discovered, based on the number of resightings, that in the south coast of São Miguel Island there exists two kinds of pods: transients and residents.

Analysing the temporal distribution of the resident pod from 2010 to 2018, there are no encounters with the family in 2012 and 2013. Since 2014 the family remained in the area and 2 new individuals were added to the group. Nowadays, this pod is formed by 9 adult females and 2 calves.

Keywords: Risso's dolphins; photo-ID; Azores