

P12- Assessing feasible food contribution to *Tursiops truncatus* diet.

C. Alomar¹, S. Deudero¹, J. M. Brotons².

¹ Instituto Español de Oceanografía. Centre Oceanogràfic de les Balears. Moll de Ponent s/n, 07015 Palma de Mallorca, Spain.(email:c.alomar@ba.ieo.es)

² Asociación Tursiops, Pop 25, 1r, 07639, Sa Ràpita, Islas Baleares.

* c.alomar@ba.ieo.es

Stable Isotopes Analysis (SIA) has been applied to study food sources contributing to bottlenose dolphins' diet. Carbon and nitrogen stable isotopes have been used as tracers to examine potential preys of *Tursiops truncatus* and to study trophic relationships in marine food webs. Fresh muscle samples obtained by means of remote biopsies from living bottlenose dolphins around the Balearic Islands were examined. Potential preys found in stomach contents of stranded *Tursiops truncatus* such as *Mullus surmuletus*, *Diplodus spp*, *Merluccius merluccius*, *Spondylionoma cantharus*, *Xyrichtys novacula*, *Octopus vulgaris*, *Loligo vulgaris* and *Aristeus antennatus* have been assessed along with Stable Isotope Mixing models to study food contributions. Results have demonstrated existing differences in prey contributions to *Tursiops truncatus* diet at spatial scale around the Balearic Islands with preference towards teleosts rather than to cephalopods. However, feasible contributions vary among sampling sites reflecting fidelity effects which can have strong impacts on population dynamics of this species and important implications for conservation proposes within the delicate situation of *Tursiops truncatus* in the Mediterranean.