

elsewhere in the UK. The Scottish stranded porpoises were associated with lower overall toxicological levels. This toxicological population structure is compared to population structure, obtained from population genetic (microsatellite) data. Further, we interpret PCB and heavy metal principle components to identify the key pollutants, associated with the greatest variance in overall toxicology, and show temporal trends in the most influential pollutants. Identifying differences in spatiotemporal patterns of ecological (toxicological) and evolutionary timescale (genetic) population structure is essential to understand dynamic responses to disease and, therefore, for effective conservation management.

S10 PRELIMINARY DATA ON SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALES (EUBALAENA AUSTRALIS) IN BAHÍA DE SAN ANTONIO, PATAGONIA, ARGENTINA

CAMMARERI, ALEJANDRO AND VERMEULEN, ELS

*Foundation Marybio; Conaniyeu 475, 8250 Las Grutas, Rio Negro,
Argentina; ale@marybio.org*

A preliminary study was conducted in 2007 on the presence of southern right whales (*Eubalaena australis*) in Bahía San Antonio (BSA). Land based observations covered a total of 265h spread consistently over the months March-December. First whales were sighted inside BSA as early as April but no steady build up was seen until early August. A clear peak in sighting frequency (SF) was found in September (SF=0.3) after which it declined again rapidly. In total, 43 right whale groups were observed of which 48.8% consisted out of a solitary animal. Other group compositions were non-surface active groups (non-SAG's; 25.6%) consisting on average out of 2.3 individuals (SD=0.47), mothers and calves (M&C; 20.9%) and SAG's (4.7%) consisting out of 5 individuals (SD=1.4) on average. In total, 70% of the observed whale groups (n=33) were present at more than 1km from the coast. Whales present in BSA were mainly resting or in a slow traveling behaviour (63.4%). 22% of the whales were seen to be socializing with each other (non-SAG) whereas only few groups were believed to be engaged in a real courtship behaviour (4.9%). Other behavioural states were medium travel (7.3%), and other (2.4%). Data, although preliminary, indicate a clear presence of whales in BSA and suggest that it is not a main breeding area. The lack of information and the recent legalization of a "swim with whales" activity in the area point to the urgent need of continuous effort and research.