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5	Abstract title:	CETACEAN POPULATION IN STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR: A FIRST APPROACH
6	Abstract:	The Strait of Gibraltar is the only possible passage between Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, and the whole area has very special oceanographical conditions due to the mixture of these quite different masses of water. Many species of cetacean are frequently sighted in this area, but important aspects about their ecology are still poorly known. That is why the Foundation <i>firmm@España</i> , dedicated to whale-watching activities, also tries to get all the possible information in every encounter with these animals. So, in every trip, different data about weather conditions, positions, social structure and behaviour were noted. When weather permitted, daily trips for a duration of 2 h and 05 minutes of average were conducted to the Strait waters from April 15 th to October 30 th . During this time, 268 trips were done using two similar motor-boats of 9 and 11 meters length, respectively, during which 501 sighting recordings were registered. The most frequent species of cetacean observed during the season were pilot whale (<i>Globicephala melas</i>), with 167 sightings (33,33 % of the total number), bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>), 104 (20,8 %), striped dolphin (<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>), 99 (19,76 %) and common dolphin (<i>Delphinus delphis</i>), 90 (17,96 %). Beside these species, other less frequent recordings of sightings were sperm whales (<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>), 30 (6 %), killer whales (<i>Orcinus orca</i>), 5 (1 %), and fin whales (<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>), 4 (0,8 %). Further data analysis explains how pilot whales and bottlenose dolphins prefer the deep waters close to the African coast of Strait, and how striped and common dolphins are found in not so deep waters, closer to the European side.
7	Word count:	268
8	Presentation type:	Poster preferred
9	Keyword 1:	Stock identity/distribution
10	Keyword 2:	Surveys/Abundance
11	Keyword 3:	
12	Keyword 4:	
13	Student award :	No
14	Grant request:	No
15	File name:	FERNANDE.rtf