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(5) Abstract title:	COMMON DOLPHINS DECREASE IN THE STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR
(6) Abstract:	Common dolphin populations have declined dramatically in the Mediterranean Sea over the last 30-50 years. Although they were still very common in the Strait of Gibraltar over the past decade, a recent decrease in their encounter rate has occurred. Since 1999, CIRCE has sailed over 10 000km on effort in the area and realised over 465 sightings of common dolphins. Although the group size has not shown any clear trend over the years with a mean number of individual per sighting of 35 (95% CI: 15-56), the encounter rate has decreased dramatically from over 100 sighting per year until 2001 and down to less than 25 between 2003 and 2005 (Pearson adjusted $R^2=0.67$ , Fisher test, $p<0.05$ ). Causes of this decrease are not known however many human impacts are taking place such as pollution, high maritime traffic, whale watching activities, recent morbillivirus epidemic that hit mainly striped dolphins but may have contaminated common dolphins as well.
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