

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM (MANDATORY)

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(5) Abstract title:	CALCULATION OF CORRECTION FACTORS FOR MARK RECAPTURE POPULATION ESTIMATE.
(6) Abstract:	Mark recapture methods estimate only marked individuals in a population. To calculate the total number of individuals, a correction factor is used, which is the ratio of the number of well marked individual pictures by the total number of pictures of all individuals. Since we could identify the unmarked individuals in a pilot whale population in the Strait of Gibraltar, we were able to compare real to calculated values from different methodologies. All results were very similar although the methods averaging correction factors between sightings had very large confidence intervals. Differences were found between real correction factors and calculated one however no trend allowed a constant conversion over the years. Therefore, it is recommended to use the percentage over the entire dataset to estimate the correction factor but reminding that some variance from true values may occur. This last method combines both precision and efficiency.
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