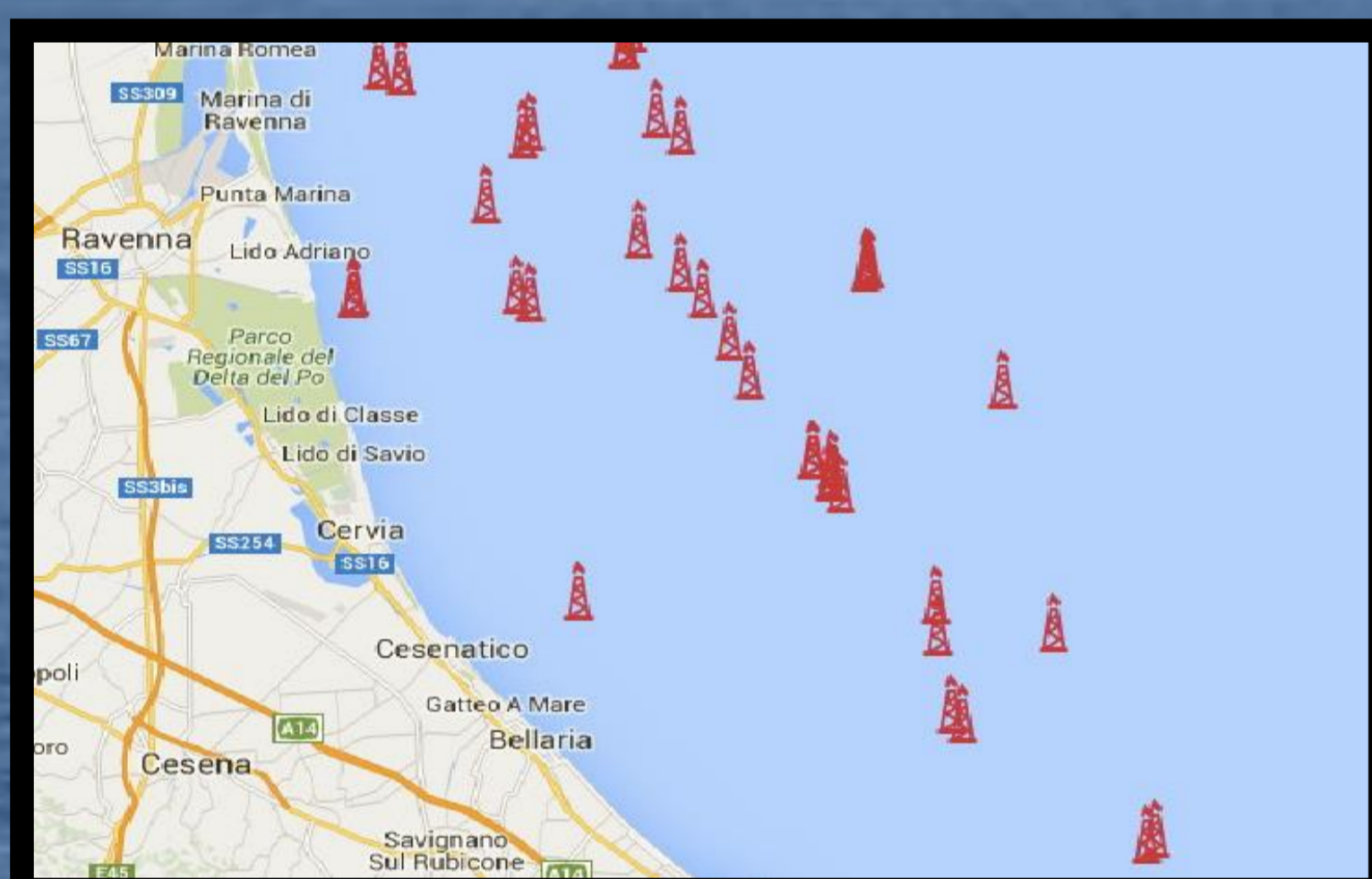


# URBAN BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS (*Tursiops truncatus*): FIELD SURVEY PROGRAM IN ITALIAN NORTH EAST ADRIATIC SEA

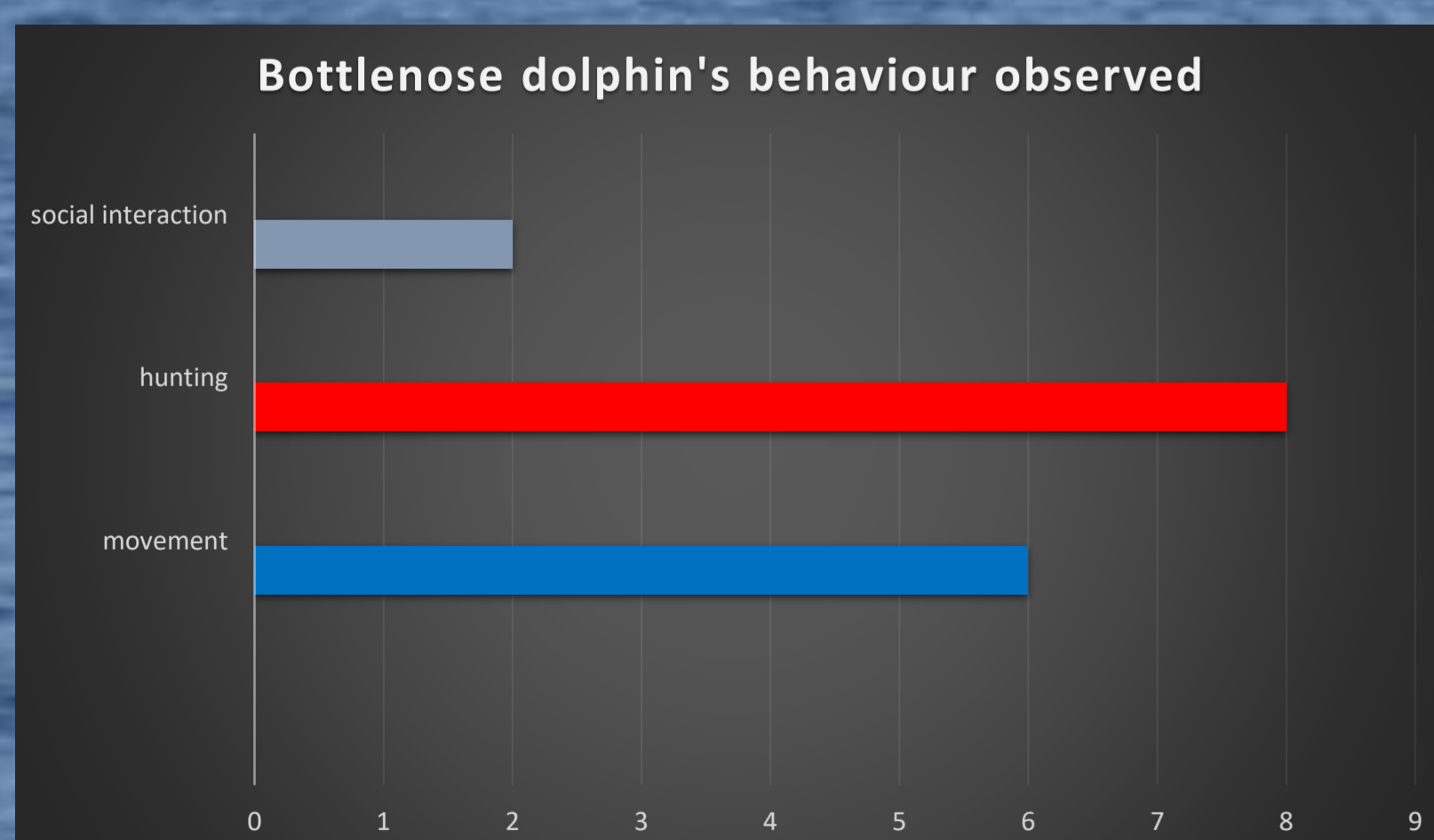
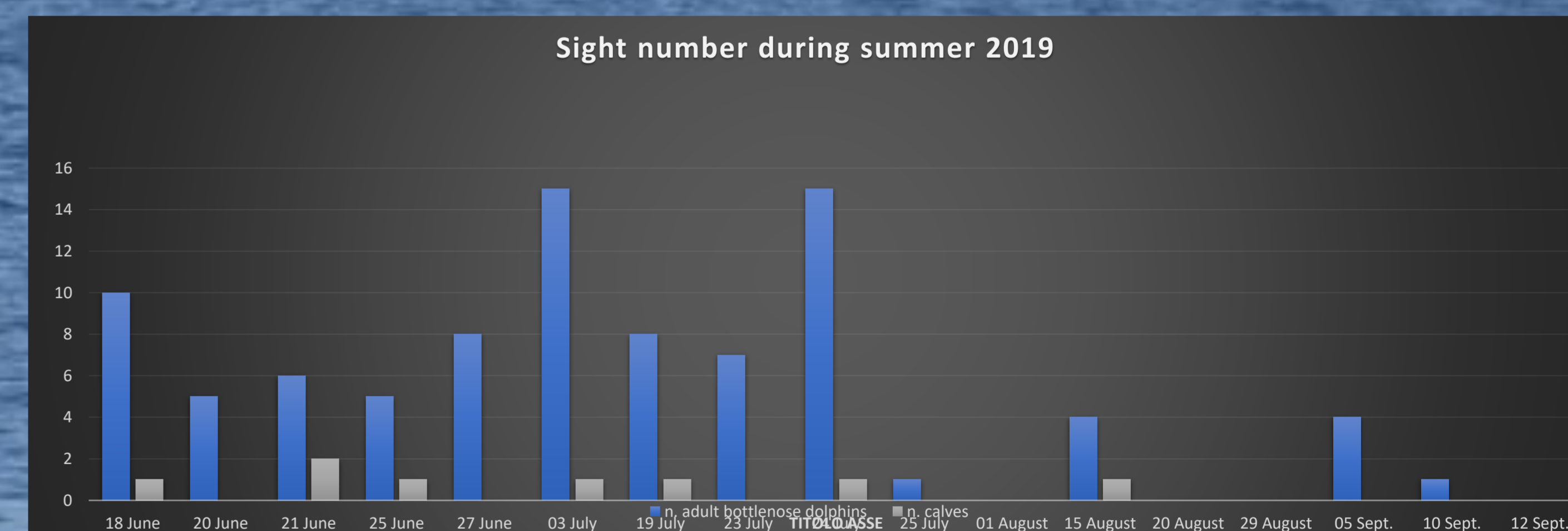
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**Data on abundance, population structure and spatial distribution of bottlenose dolphins in Italian North East Adriatic Sea are scarce. During summer 2019 a first field survey has been conducted evaluating presence and behaviour of Bottlenose dolphins in Cesenatico coastal waters**



Field monitoring during Summer 2019 highlighted regular occurrence of bottlenose dolphins inside the surveyed area. Photo ID proved 4 subjects of 46 identified were sighted multiple times in June, July, and September 2019. Behavioural data collected suggest bottlenose dolphins exploit this area primarily for hunting activity, taking advantage of fishing boats. This is supported also by the absence of dolphins in August, during the fishing ban.



Picture	ID	Name	Date	Location	Damage	Rank: Error
	SE5M	SE5M				2 : 45,73
	JU25A	JU25A				3 : 71,86
	JU18A	JU18A				4 : 79,24
	SE5G	SE5G				5 : 84,58
	SE5KB	SE5KB				6 : 153,12

also feed bottlenose dolphins to attract them near the Whale watching's companies operating in this area frequently do not follow ACCOBAMS guidelines. Often they approach animals with the engine and high music volume on, cutting them off or encircling them. They boat.



### CONCLUSIONS

We will continue our project in order to obtain more data on abundance, structure and distribution of bottlenose dolphins in Cesenatico coastal waters. Moreover, we will organize scientific courses for fishermen and tourist operators to explain them how to interact with wild dolphins and how to approach them in a respectful way. A deeper knowledge of the structure of bottlenose dolphins' population in North Italian Adriatic sea is fundamental to set up concrete actions for future conservation of the species. A respectful and conscious approach to these animals is essential to guarantee a positive interaction between animals and human activities. A better communication, cooperation and concrete data sharing between research groups working on the same geographic area should be achieved. The institution of a virtual catalog available for each research group should represent a common goal, as well as the organization of scientific seminars to educate future generations and maritime operators.