



धर्मसमस्तस्य कर्मणि

Citizen science and social media posts: the recent sightings of the common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*, Linnaeus 1758) in the Gulf of Trieste (North Adriatic Sea, Italy).



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WHO IS DELTA? DelTa comes from "Delfini e Tartarughe nel Golfo di Trieste" (Dolphins and Turtles in the Gulf of Trieste) and is a non-profit NGO founded in 2016. Our watchword is "Conservation through Knowledge", meaning that our objectives are the research and science dissemination aimed to the promotion of the culture for the respect for natural ecosystems and the conservation of marine and coastal ones, in collaboration and networking with local entities pursuing similar purposes. The monitoring activities are performed on opportunity platforms such as ferry and pleasure boats. In order to endorse citizen science outline, crew members and passengers are involved in the surveys too, enriching data gain even from social networks contents.

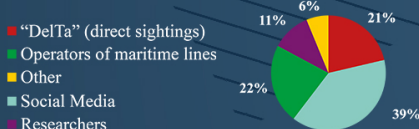
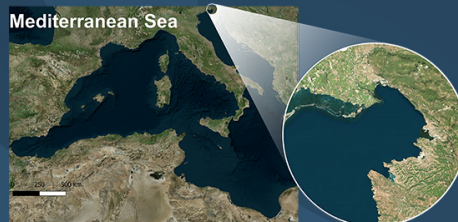


Figure 1: Sightings sources from 2016 to 2021

CITIZEN SCIENCE AND SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS: THE RECENT SIGHTINGS OF THE COMMON DOLPHIN IN THE GULF OF TRIESTE. After 10 years, in which there have been no reports or sightings except of individuals belonging to the species *Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu, 1821) and occasionally of *Stenella coeruleoalba* (Meyen, 1833), from May 2022 two individuals of common dolphin were repeatedly reported along the coasts of the Gulf of Trieste (Tab.1 and Fig. 2). Although they have not been the object of direct sightings during the usual monitoring activities in which DelTa Association has been engaged since 2016, it has nonetheless been possible to trace the movements of the pair through the observations that citizens, pleasure boats crews and operators have made directly to the competent authorities and through information gathered from social media. Citizen Science proves to be a useful tool for gathering information: awareness-raising activities and the setting up of specific channels for reporting data on the presence of the species directly to researchers can be a valuable tool to support knowledge.

STUDY AREA. The Gulf of Trieste (Kralj et al., 2019).



ID	Date	Coordinate*		Source
		Latitude	Longitude	
1	13/5/2022	45.5547778	13.71361667	
2	21/8/2022	45.6113611	13.74289722	
3	11/9/2022	45.6860611	13.74294722	
4	22/9/2022	45.6521944	13.76029167	
5	15/10/2022	45.6498694	13.7232	
6	19/10/2022	45.6352861	13.74208333	
7	20/10/2022	45.685625	13.7434	
8	24/10/2022	45.6507611	13.74813889	
9	25/10/2022	45.6367222	13.74813889	
10	26/10/2022	45.636694	13.76188333	
11	10/11/2022	45.636694	13.76188333	
12	20/12/2022	45.631556	13.75933611	
13	09/01/2023	45.6326667	13.74293056	
14	30/1/2023	45.6107861	13.78216389	
15	31/01/2023	45.6107861	13.78216389	
16	13/02/2022	45.6245111	13.74633333	
17	04/03/2023	45.6245111	13.74633333	
18	06/03/2023	45.6245111	13.74633333	

Table 1: Sightings information

All sightings are *Delphinus delphis* species.

*Coordinates are approximated based on the sighting area indicated. The number of individuals is always two.

LEGEND: SIGHTINGS

- 1) 13/05/22: 16-17m
- 2) 21/08/22: 13-14m
- 3) 11/09/22: 14m
- 4) 22/09/22: 1-2m
- 5) 15/10/22: 20-21m
- 6) 19/10/22: 19-20m
- 7) 20/10/22: 13m
- 8) 24/10/22: 11-12m
- 9) 25/10/22: 16m
- 10) 26/10/22: 1-2m
- 11) 10/11/22: 1-2m
- 12) 20/12/22: 2-3m
- 13) 09/01/23: 20m
- 14) 30/01/23: 15m
- 15) 31/01/23: 15m
- 16) 17/02/23: 19-20m
- 17) 04/03/23: 19-20m
- 18) 06/03/23: 19-20m



Figure 2: Sightings points.

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Graphic by Hernandez Alessandro