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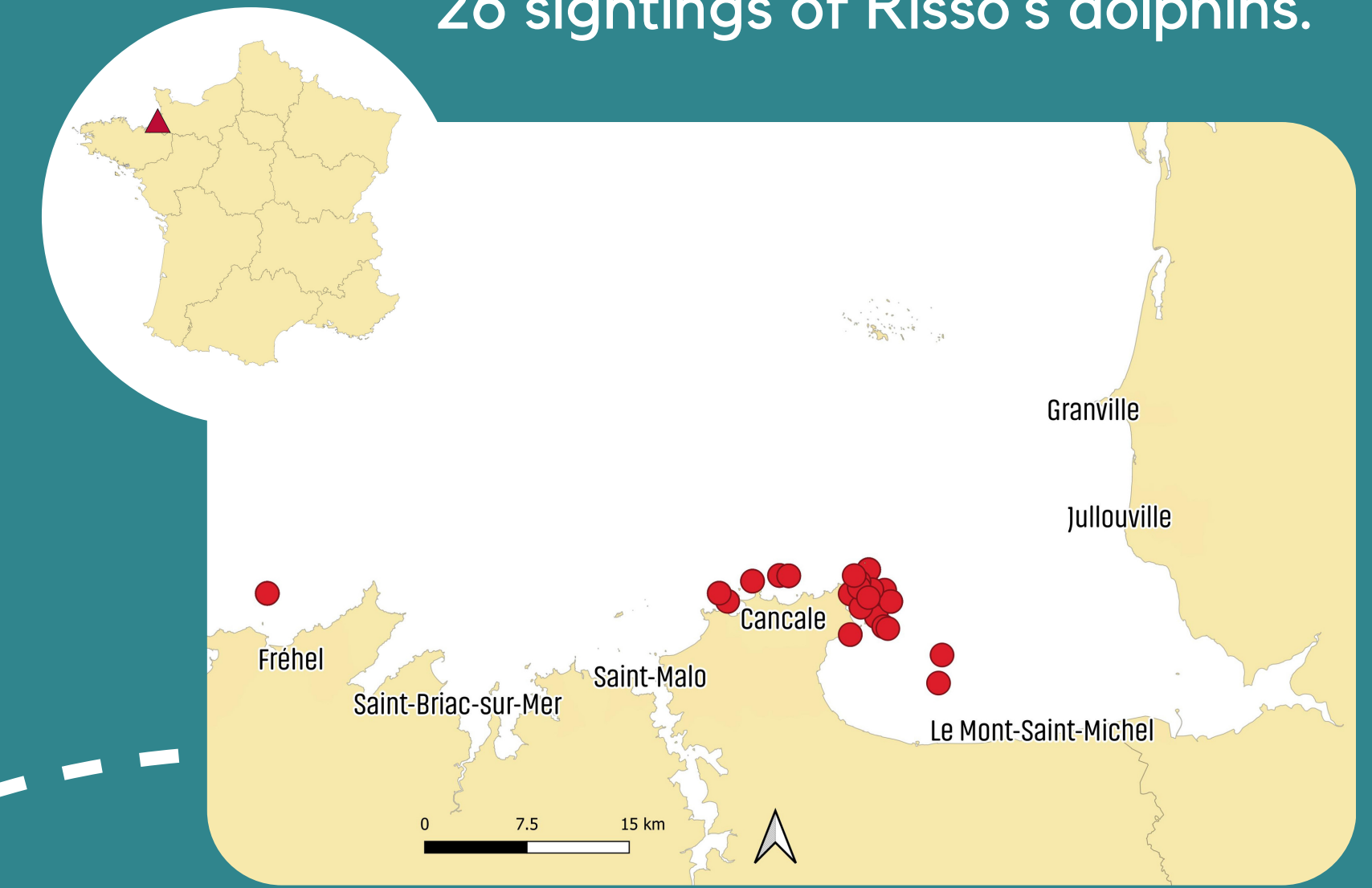


# FIRST CATALOGUE OF RISSO'S DOLPHIN (*GRAMPUS GRISEUS*) IN NORMAN-BRETON GULF AND PRELIMINARY STUDY ON THEIR HABITAT USE

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## DATA COLLECTION

Georeferenced data were collected on boat-based surveys from 2017 to 2022 and represent a research effort of 3,266 h and 26 sightings of Risso's dolphins.

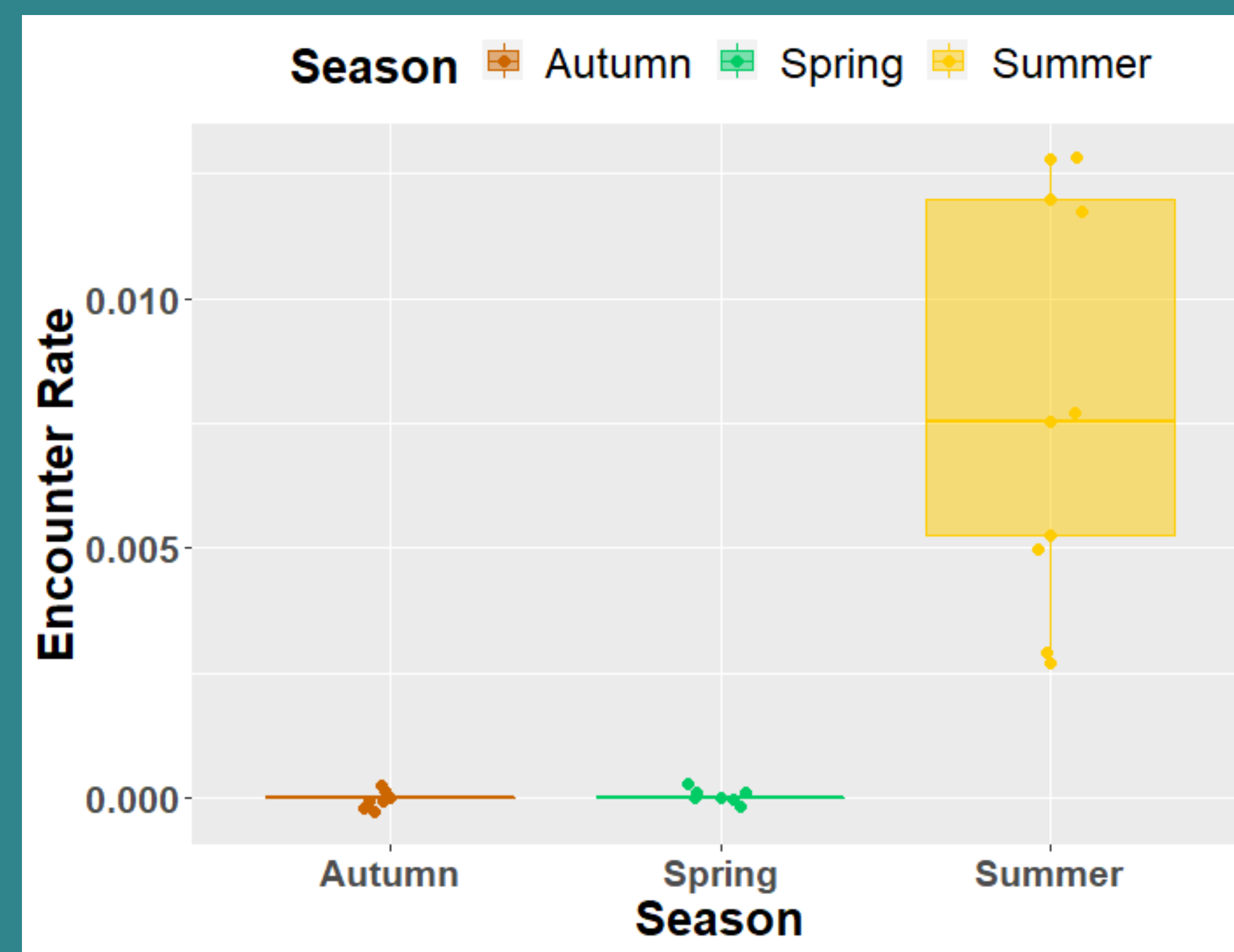


## DISTRIBUTION & SEASONALITY

Kruskal-Wallis test ( $p=0.00031$ ) and Wilcoxon pairwise comparison ( $p=0.0056$ ) showed that summer encounter rates are significantly higher than others.

## HABITAT USE LINKED TO PREY AVAILABILITY?

Risso's dolphins were observed at an average depth of 10 meters. Observation periods and locations correspond to cuttlefish summer migration for reproduction in the area (Gras, 2013). It suggests that habitat use may be linked to prey availability.



## HIGH DEGREE OF SITE FIDELITY

52 % of the individuals were resighted, on average 3 times, some with a 8-9 years periodicity between resightings. 20 % of the individuals were followed by calves or juveniles. Among them, the individual "GgAL0001", first seen in 2007, was resighted 14 times, almost every year (3 years without recapture) and always followed by a calf. This individual was also recaptured thanks to opportunistic data from the Parc Naturel Marin Iroise (PNMI), highlighting the interest of a scientific partnership in order to study the distribution area of this population on the whole Breton coastline.

## REFERENCES

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JUVENILE "GGAL0025"  
SIGHTED EVERY CONSECUTIVE  
SUMMER SINCE 2016

2020  
IMPORTANT EVOLUTION IN ITS  
NATURAL MARKS: TRANSITION  
TO ADULT AGE-CLASS?

## TO GO FURTHER

These results emphasize a high degree of seasonal site fidelity and suggest a use of the area for calving and nursing. It highlights the importance of year-round and long-term study to improve characterization and to minimize errors during photo-identification analysis. Further studies are needed to better understand the distribution, abundance, habitat, and marine resources used by this species in this region. An ongoing study based on Tschopp et al. (2018) methods is underway to calculate site fidelity indices (D'Cruz et al., 2022).

44 INDIVIDUALS  
CATALOGUED



28 ADULTS  
15 JUVENILES  
1 NEW-BORN

## PHOTO-IDENTIFICATION

From 2007 to 2022, 8,044 photographs were taken, of which 66 % were used to build the catalogue. Group size varies from 1 to 13 individuals (median=4).

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