

Behavioral Ecology of the *Sotalia guianensis* Dolphins in Extreme Southern Bahia, Brazil.

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Revista de Etologia Suplemento, contributions to the XXVIII International Ethological Conference. Florianópolis, SC, Brasil. 20 –27 october, 2003. pg 200.

In the Extreme Southern Bahia region, *Sotalia guianensis* dolphins have been monitored, in a coastal area of 135 Km, between Nova Viçosa (17 54' S; 39 21' W) and Caraíva (16 55' S; 39 08' W). In 304 hours of total effort, 18% (53h) were of direct observation of the animals. Three areas of concentration were identified: Barra Nova Viçosa; Estuary of Caravelas River and Ponta do Corumbau. The mean group size was 4.56 dolphins (min = 1, max = 22). The most observed behavioral states, in percentage of the total time of direct observations, were foraging when traveling (DS/PE) 52%, foraging (PE) 33% and traveling (DS) 14%. Behavioral events more frequent were diving (ME) 38.13%, tail up (LC) 13.43%, porpoising (PO) 19.66% and jumps (ST) 13.67%. We have seen that larger groups are sighted out of the estuary, while smaller groups are constantly seen entering in the river. The occurrence of *S. guianensis* in the extreme Southern Bahia must be related with the productive ecosystems there are present, like the estuary of the Caravelas river and Itacolomis coral reefs. Daily movements of getting in and out of Caravelas River seems to be associated with the tide regimen, when dolphins are benefited by the currents to get in and out of the river. Analyzing the dolphins in different ecosystems can bring highlights on their behavioral ecology.