

HISTÓRIA REPRODUTIVA DE BALEIAS JUBARTE (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) IDENTIFICADAS INDIVIDUALMENTE NO BANCO DOS ABROLHOS, BRASIL

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Records of individually identified female humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) provide information on calving intervals and other reproductive parameters. Combined with biopsy samples it is possible to attend an individual female across the different breeding seasons reinforcing the importance of the photoidentification and genetic studies as management tools for whale conservation.

Reproductive histories of females identified from 1988 and 2002 by genetics and photoidentification were documented in the Abrolhos Bank, considered the main breeding ground for humpback whales in the Southwestern Atlantic Ocean.

Of the 1,626 whales catalogued by their flukes, twelve were inferred to be reproductively mature females based on their close association with a calf in one or more years. These informations are the preliminary data for future studies of reproductive biology of this population.

Keywords: Abrolhos Bank, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, photoidentification