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**Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) sightings in Serra Grande and Cumuruxatiba, Cost of Bahia State.**

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In order to verify the presence and habitat use of humpback whale along the coast of Bahia State, a pilot study was done from July through September 2003. The chosen areas were: Cumuruxatiba (17°16' S; 39°13' W) and Vila de Serra Grande (15°50' S; 39°32' W), locations close to Prado and Ilhéus Villages. The observations were done from land station by the shoreline. We did visual 1-hour scans with half hour interval. Two observers searched for whale groups using 7X50 binoculars and spotting scope. When humpback groups were close to the land station, group focal follows were done. Scan data were clustered by periods: Period 1- from July 25<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>st</sup> in Serra Grande and from July 29 to August 1<sup>st</sup> in Cumuruxatiba; Period 2 - from August 13<sup>st</sup> to 16<sup>st</sup> in Cumuruxatiba and finally Period 3 - From August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 2<sup>nd</sup> in Serra Grande and September 6<sup>th</sup> in Cumuruxatiba. In Serra Grande a total of 17 scans were made, the sightings per unit of effort (SPUE) was 1,94 groups/scan (3,24 adults/scan and 0,24 calf/scan). In Cumuruxatiba 31 scan were made, showing a SPUE of 1,97 groups/scan (3,65 adults/scan and 0,1 calf/scan) . The highest SPUE values were obtained during Period 3, showing similar pattern of occurrence of the species in the region around Arquipélago dos Abrolhos. Besides different groups categories containing calves, competitive groups containing up to 7 individuals were sighted, suggesting that these areas are not only a passage corridor to the Northern coast of Bahia State, but also are used by humpbacks as a calving and mating ground. In one focal follow a group of mother and calf performed very active behavior. In face of the presence of humpback whales and the beginning of whalewatching activities, it is important to study and monitor the species in these areas.