

# Editorial

**Miriam Marmontel**

Editor-in-Chief

Instituto de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Mamirauá

*Latin American Journal of Aquatic Mammals*, 21(1), 1.

<https://doi.org/10.5597/lajam00369>

---

Dear LAJAM readership,

I am happy to present you the first issue of 2026 of the journal *Latin American Society for the Study of Aquatic Mammals*, LAJAM 21(1). This issue contains seven contributions (two articles and five notes) from colleagues and students working from the Mexican Pacific coast to the Southern Ocean. One manuscript deals with a marine mustelid – which appears on our cover - and the other six with different aspects of cetacean biology.

Habitat loss is an important threat to aquatic mammals, especially those with restricted distribution, such as the endangered marine otter, *Lontra felina*. Through satellite imagery, Sánchez et al. document urban growth and loss of habitat along the coast of Peru's capital (Lima) in at least two localities during a period of seven recent years.

Systematic sampling efforts, coupled with opportunistic, citizen science, and public records, can improve our knowledge of presence and diversity of cetacean fauna along our waters. Bernier et al., using visual boat-based surveys and additional information, expanded the number of reported cetacean species for the Dutch Caribbean islands of Saba, St. Maarten, and St. Eustatius, from six to 17 – including eight recorded for the first time in the area. Novillo et al. documented a group of Arnoux's beaked whales, (*Berardius arnuxii*) at 20 m depth and less than one kilometer from shore of Paradise Bay, Antarctic Peninsula, and argue that this species may have more coastal habits than usually thought for other ziphiids.

Three of our notes deal with feeding and predation aspects of three odontocetes. Da Silva I. et al. analysed feeding habits of the common bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus truncatus* in Santa Catarina State, Brazil. The authors detected potential age- and sex-related variation, and called attention to the possibility of bycatch and feeding competition in the case of overlap between fisheries targets and bottlenose dolphin prey. Jaguars have been reported to scavenge on marine dolphin carcasses. Silveira et al. presented the first physical evidence of jaguar predation on the dolphin of the endemic Araguaia-Tocantins River basin *Inia araguaiaensis*, in Brazil, previously only documented by video. Cookie-cutter sharks (genus *Isistius*) have interacted with several cetacean species, including orca *Orcinus orca*, usually in lower latitudes. The documentation of this shark's bites in seven specimens of orca off the coast of Argentina by Loureiro et al. represents the first for temperate coastal waters.

Twin births in cetaceans are rare, and the birth of a single calf is the norm. However, Frisch-Jordán et al., through multiple lines of evidence, presented the case of a live twin birth in humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*. Molecular analysis confirmed they were fraternal twins; both fetuses were male, and at least one was born alive.

I hope you enjoy the papers herein. Happy reading!

Sincerely,

*Miriam Marmontel*  
Editor-in-Chief

---