

Report of SMM Grants 2018

By

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Tilte: *The assessment of impacts of aquatic bush meat on marine mammals (Dolphins and African manatee) in Cameroon estuary for National action plan*

Abstract:

The assessment of impacts of aquatic bush meat on marine mammals (Dolphins and African manatee) in Cameroon estuary for National action plan was conducted for 14 months, from November 2018 to December 2019 with the aim of evaluating the consequences of this activity on marine mammals. The surveys and observations were made with data collected at main 2 fishing ports (Londji and embouchure Lokoundjé), 3 markets, 11 restaurants and 25 households from the study area. The qualitative and quantitative aspects were recorded for the actors, the targeted species and the costs. The Student T-test made it possible to make a seasonal distribution and the ANOVA to compare the origins.

The results obtained showed that 88% of the households were men and women involved in markets (90%) and in restaurants (67%). The actors involved are mainly Cameroonian (58.8%) between the ages of 21 and 40. Dolphins are caught incidentally whereas most manatees were harvested by harpoon. Around 5 dolphins and 10 manatees are caught in this area per year; also we had 1 humpback whale recorded in a fishing net. Other species as sea turtles (33 ± 4 per year), sea turtle eggs (1620 ± 32 per year) are commonly harvested in the dry season. In restaurants manatee meat is common and the price per piece is 2500 ± 710 CFA francs [US $\$4.13 \pm \1.17].

For the conservation of these species, ecotourism programs and raising awareness campaigns could be welcome in this area in partnership with the indigenous people.