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(5) Abstract title:	UNUSUAL BY-CATCH OF LONG-FINNED PILOT WHALES (<i>Globicephala melaena</i>) BY TRAWLING FLEET IN ASTURIES (NORTHERN SPAIN), DURING THE FIRST SEMESTER OF 2006.
(6) Abstract:	<p>Since 1996, the strandings network of Asturias (CEPESMA) has been attending all the strandings of marine fauna, and analysing the causes of death of cetaceans. All the records are incorporate to a data base that allows an analyse of interannual variations. Moreover, CEPESMA staff carries on interviews to fishermen, with the purpose of approach to the by-catch incidence in the mortality of marine mammals. The amount of strandings of long-finned pilot whales (<i>Globicephala melaena</i>) in Asturias reached a mean value of 2 individuals per year. Between February and July of 2006, this value raised significantly to 21 specimens. The size and sex ratio of the stranded pilot whales has been very variable, including total lengths from 209 to 660 centimetres (63% males and 37% females). Although some specimens were by-caught and transported by fishermen to harbour, just a few of studied individuals showed signs of incidental capture in fishing gears. Moreover, the interviews made to trawling fleet fishermen during the first semester of 2006, revealed a high interaction between this gear and the pilot whales. The interviews also brought information about an unusual higher presence of this species in Cantabrian sea waters during the period described, in comparison with precedent years. Causes of this high number of pilot whales, as well as the presence of other non-usual species in these waters, are under the scope of scientific community. Although there were no definitive evidences of incidental captures in the majority of animals studied, the collaboration with the fishermen allowed obtaining very valuable information about cetacean by-catch. So, the significant increase in stranded pilot whales can be clearly related with the high incidence of trawling fleet in the by-catch of this species, as well as the unusual high number of pilot whales in these waters during this period of time.</p>
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