

HUMAN INDUCED CETACEAN MORTALITY IN THE ADRIATIC SEA



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Introduction

- human induced mortality can impact the population dynamics of small or localized cetacean populations
- bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) - only resident cetacean species in the Adriatic Sea
- estimated population size: 250 animals

Materials and methods

- from October 1990 till November 2008 - post-mortem examinations were performed on 158 cetacean carcasses found in Croatian part of the Adriatic sea

Results

- cause of death was determined in 57.6% of cases
- **human induced mortality:**
 - higher in resident (bottlenose dolphin) species - 62.3%
 - lower in nonresident species - 27.3%
- in bottlenose dolphins - bycatch - 59%
 - larynx strangulation with gillnet parts - 28%
 - gun lesions - 5%
 - physical traumatic injuries - 5%
 - blast trauma? - 3%



Fig. 1: Study area, Croatian part of the Adriatic Sea is marked red

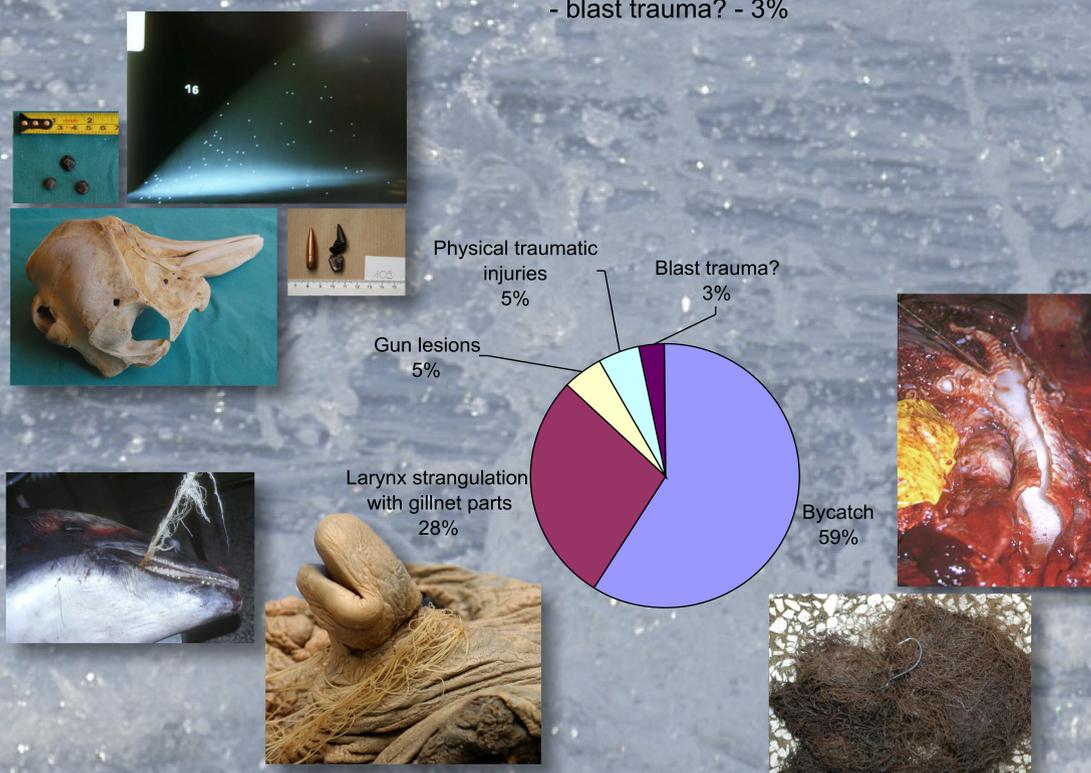


Fig. 3: Human induced mortality in the bottlenose dolphin

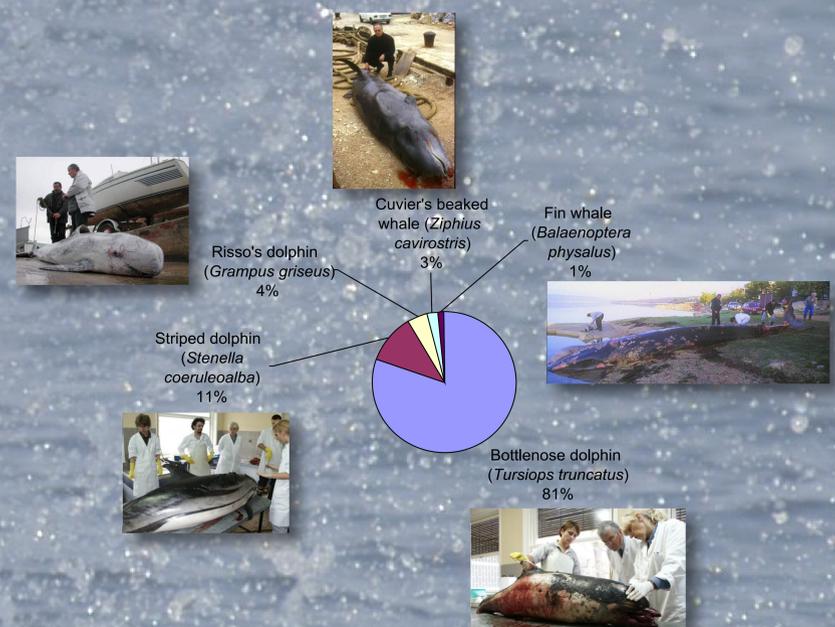


Fig 2. Cetacean species examined

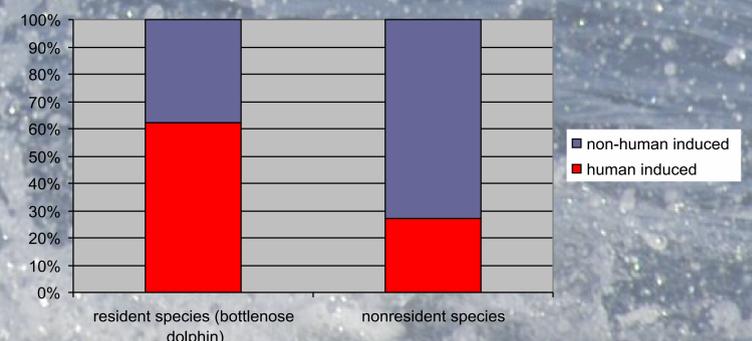


Fig. 4: Human induced mortality ratio

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