



NEWSLETTER

Gephyreus Project



NATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE CONSERVATION OF LAHILLE'S BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN HELD IN ARGENTINA

On November 25–26, 2025, the University of Maimónides in Buenos Aires hosted the National Workshop for the Conservation of Lahille's Bottlenose Dolphin. The meeting focused on advancing the implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) in Argentina, where the subpopulation is estimated at approximately 150 individuals.

The first day featured an open session on the CMP and the progress achieved by the Gephyreus Network in Brazil and Uruguay, followed by presentations on abundance, demography and bioacoustics in Bahía Blanca, Bahía San Blas and Bahía San Antonio. The second day was dedicated to defining strategies to operationalize the CMP in Argentina, including project integration and alignment with the IUCN One Plan Approach.

The event was supported by Fundación Azara, Nuremberg Zoo, Yaqu Pacha, Fundación Mundo Marino, Kaosa and the IWC, marking an important step forward for the conservation of the species in Argentina.



GEPHYREUS PROJECT PRESENTS RESEARCH AT THE SOMEMLA-SOLAMAC 2025 CONGRESS

Pedro Fruet, coordinator of the Gephyreus Project, presented the results of the first formal regional extinction risk assessment of the southern Brazil–Uruguay subpopulation of Lahille's bottlenose dolphin at the SOMEMLA-SOLAMAC Congress, one of the leading scientific meetings on aquatic mammals in Latin America.

Other members of the network also presented their research: Elisa Ilha addressed individual variation among females engaged in cooperative fishing in southern Brazil; Master's student Gabriela Oms discussed the age structure of dolphins involved in this interaction with artisanal fishers – a presentation that received an award at the congress; and undergraduate student Ana Dotto presented findings on fungal epidermal lesions in the Laguna (SC, Brazil) population.

The participation increased the visibility of the Gephyreus Project, strengthened ties with the regional scientific community and fostered new collaborations across Latin America.



[Learn more](#)



Lahille's Bottlenose Dolphin Reclassified as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List

Lahille's bottlenose dolphin, a coastal dolphin endemic to southern Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina, has been reclassified as "Endangered" (EN) in the October 2025 update of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List — one of the world's most influential systems for assessing species' extinction risk. Previously, the species had been listed as "Vulnerable" (VU) in the 2019 assessment.

The change reflects evidence of ongoing population decline and increasing pressure on the species' habitat, including bycatch in fishing gear, coastal degradation, pollution and the combined effects of climate change. These threats have significant impacts on already small and fragmented populations distributed along a restricted stretch of shallow waters in the southwestern Atlantic.

Data collected and analyzed by the Gephyreus Project — which monitors occurrences, fisheries interactions and stranding events along the coasts of southern Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina — were essential to support the [IUCN reassessment](#). The Network's contribution highlights the importance of coordinated, long-term monitoring programs grounded in scientific evidence and institutional cooperation to inform conservation assessments at the global level.



The reclassification as "Endangered" not only reflects the current status of the species, but also underscores the urgent need for effective conservation actions, including strategies to reduce bycatch, protect critical habitats and strengthen coastal governance throughout the entire distribution range of Lahille's bottlenose dolphin.

IUCN World Conservation Congress and Cetacean Conservation

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is held every four years, bringing together thousands of experts, governments, civil society organizations and leaders to shape the global agenda for nature conservation. At the 2025 edition in Abu Dhabi, cetacean specialists — including members of the IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group — highlighted the role of the IUCN Red List and initiatives such as the Global Cetacean Action Plan in coordinating efforts to address threats facing whales and dolphins. The active engagement of these groups strengthens global recognition of the conservation needs of species such as Lahille's bottlenose dolphin.

[Learn more](#)



FULL-SCALE REPLICA OF LAHILLE'S BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN INAUGURATED IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL

A life-size replica of a female Lahille's bottlenose dolphin was inaugurated on Avenida Beira-Mar at Cassino Beach (Rio Grande, RS, Brazil). The species is a symbol of the connection between the city and the sea and is officially recognized as a Natural Cultural Heritage of the municipality.

The sculpture is a joint initiative by Kaosa and the Oceanographic Museum "Prof. Eliézer de C. Rios" (FURG), funded by the Whitley Fund for Nature and Yaqu Pacha, with support from the Municipal Government. The installation represents the link between nature, art and environmental conservation, reinforcing the importance of protecting the species in the region.

LAHILLE'S BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN FEATURED IN TEDX TALK

Pedro Fruet, coordinator of the Gephyreus Project, took the stage at TEDx Laçador to share reflections on the conservation of Lahille's bottlenose dolphin and the power of collaborative science. In his talk, he highlighted the challenges of protecting a threatened species and the importance of connecting knowledge, communities and action. The participation increased the visibility of the Gephyreus Project and reinforced the idea that conservation is also about inspiring change.

[Watch here](#)

