Habitat use of the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin,- (*Tursiops aduncus*,-) around Mikura Island, Japan

Information on the habitat use of animals is important for their conservation. The number of resident Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins,- (*Tursiops aduncus*,-) observed around Mikura Island, Tokyo, Japan, decreased from 164 to 109 during the period 2007-2011. The reason is still unclear due to lack of basic ecological information on their lives. To understand the habitat use of this population, we recorded data of observed dolphins (i.e. group composition and behavioral state) and physical environmental factors (i.e. wave height, BF scale and bottom substrate) of each observation site from June to September in 2011 and analyzed the relationship between observation frequency and physical environmental conditions at each observation site. Dolphins were observed more frequently at sites with complex bottom substrates (i.e. mixtures of rock, sand and seaweed) than at sites with homogenous bottom substrate (i.e. only rock). It might be because dolphins preferred complex bottom substrates for some behavior such as -bottom rubbing, feeding at sea floor and playing with seaweed. Groups with calves and resting groups were observed significantly more frequently at sites with less wave height. The result suggests that high waves were dangerous for calves with poor swimming ability and inconvenient for resting.