

## University of Groningen

### Population biology of fin whales

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1. Divergent site fidelity patterns among individuals can lead to capture heterogeneity, thereby violating one of the key assumptions of mark-recapture models.
  
2. Cetacean sighting data collected on opportunistic platforms can be adapted for habitat modelling purposes using data-specific solutions; however, the lack of standardised sampling design can reduce inference power of species distribution models.
  
3. The continuation of long-term wildlife monitoring initiatives is indispensable to detect demographic trends in response to natural and anthropogenic ecosystem changes.
  
4. Contemporary population genetic structure is the product of a multitude of historic and ongoing processes, whose disentanglement benefits from a multi-faceted approach.
  
5. Past climatic oscillations shaped contemporary global population genetic structure of fin whales through changes in inter-oceanic gene flow and effective population sizes.
  
6. Given the considerable costs and efforts associated with the collection of data on cetaceans, the marine mammal community can benefit tremendously from collaboration and data sharing.
  
7. There is growing evidence of a high prevalence of mental health issues in PhD researchers. Universities urgently need to address the structural causes that can lead to anxiety, depression, or burn-outs among PhD researchers.
  
8. “All opinions are not equal. Some are a very great deal more robust, sophisticated and well supported in logic and argument than others.” Douglas Adams, *The Salmon of Doubt*