

1 **Mitogenomic differentiation in spinner (*Stenella longirostris*) and pantropical**
2 **spotted dolphins (*S. attenuata*) from the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean**

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19 **Running Title:** Mitogenomic population structure of pelagic dolphins

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21 **Keywords:** mitochondrial DNA, conservation genetics, pelagic dolphins

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23

24 **Abstract:**

25 Spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*) and spotted dolphins (*S. attenuata*) show high
26 intraspecific morphological diversity and endemic subspecies in the eastern tropical
27 Pacific Ocean (ETP). Previous studies of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) have found low
28 genetic differentiation among most of these groups, possibly due to demographic factors,
29 ongoing gene flow, and/or recent divergence. These species were heavily depleted due to
30 bycatch in the ETP yellowfin tuna fishery. Because population structure is important for
31 accurate management of the recovery of these species, we collected whole mitochondrial
32 genome sequences from 104 spinner and 76 spotted dolphins to test structure hypotheses
33 at multiple hierarchical levels. Our results showed significant differences between
34 subspecies of spotted (F_{ST} : 0.0125; $P = 0.0402$) and spinner dolphins (F_{ST} : 0.0133; $P =$
35 0.034), but no support for the division of existing offshore stocks of spotted dolphins or
36 Tres Marias spinner dolphins. We compare these results to previous results of genome-
37 wide nuclear SNP data and suggest high haplotype diversity, female dispersal, male
38 philopatry, or relative power of the two datasets explains the differences observed. Our
39 results further support a genetic basis for biologically meaningful management units at
40 the subspecies level, and provide a critical component to mitigating historical and
41 continued fishery interactions.

42 **Introduction:**

43 Determining population genetic structure is important for accurately managing protected
44 wildlife species (Taylor 2005). Because mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is more abundant
45 in cells and has a higher rate of mutation - thus accruing variability on a time-scale
46 typical of population divergence – it has been the preferred marker for population genetic
47 studies of wildlife (Moritz 1994; Allendorf 2017). Moreover, because of the strictly
48 maternal inheritance of mtDNA, comparing the strength of genetic structure between
49 mtDNA and nuclear DNA (nuDNA) can provide valuable insights into maternal genetic
50 structure and sex-bias dispersal in wildlife populations (Moritz 1994). Mitochondrial
51 DNA data are particularly useful for species with strong matrilineal social structure –
52 such as several toothed whale species (i.e., killer whales, sperm whales, and pilot whales).
53 In cetaceans, whole mtDNA genome (mitogenome) sequencing has provided additional
54 clarity species-level population structure and phylogeographic patterns where single
55 mtDNA markers have not (Archer *et al.* 2013; Morin *et al.* 2010). We expanded upon
56 previous mtDNA datasets and include the whole mitochondrial genome to test for
57 population structure in two species of dolphin.

58

59 Fisheries bycatch is arguably the largest threat facing cetaceans today (Read *et al.* 2006).
60 One of the largest fisheries bycatch events in history occurred in the eastern tropical
61 Pacific Ocean (ETP) and heavily impact pelagic spinner and spotted dolphins in this area.
62 These two species were abundant (numbering in the low millions) in the ETP (Wade *et al.*
63 2007), but because both species commonly associate with one-another and with large
64 tuna (see Scott *et al.* 2012 for details), bycatch in the dolphin-set tuna purse-seine fishery
65 starting in the 1960s killed hundreds of thousands annually (Lo and Smith 1986, National
66 Research Council 1992, Wade 1995). Despite protection under the U.S. Marine Mammal
67 Protection Act of 1972 and multi-national protection under the 1999 Agreement on the

68 International Dolphin Conservation Program (Joseph 1994, Gosliner 1999), ETP spinner
69 and spotted dolphin population abundances remain low (Wade *et al.* 2007, Gerrodette *et*
70 *al.* 2008). Determining how populations are naturally structured in the ETP is critical to
71 accurately managing the recovery of these populations.

72

73 **ETP Spinner Dolphins**

74 Globally, there are four subspecies of spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*). The
75 nominate form, the pantropical spinner (*S. l. longirostris*) inhabit in all tropical waters of
76 the world outside the ETP. Pantropical spinners are usually associated with islands in the
77 central and western Pacific, such as the Hawai‘ian Islands. In shallow waters of Southeast
78 Asia, there is a much smaller dwarf spinner subspecies (*S. l. roseiventris*) (Perrin *et al.*
79 1989, 1999). The Central American spinner dolphin (*S. l. centroamericana*) and the
80 eastern spinner dolphin (*Stenella l. orientalis*) are endemic to the ETP (Fig. 1, based on
81 Perrin 1985). Analyses of external coloration, body size, and the extensive analyses of
82 cranial morphology lead to the erection of these ETP subspecies (Perrin *et al.* 1991,
83 Douglas *et al.* 1992). The Central American subspecies is found off the Pacific coasts of
84 Southern Mexico south through Panama, in relatively near-shore waters. The eastern
85 spinner dolphin (*S. l. orientalis*), on the other hand, inhabits offshore waters that extend
86 from Baja California, Mexico, south to Ecuador (Perrin 1990).

87

88 For management purposes, the two ETP endemic spinner dolphin subspecies are
89 considered stocks, plus a third stock - the whitebelly spinner. The "whitebelly" spinner is
90 proposed to represent a hybrid swarm between the eastern subspecies and the pantropical
91 subspecies of the central and western Pacific (Perrin *et al.* 1991). Taxonomically, it is
92 classified as part of the nominate (pantropical) spinner subspecies *S. l. longirostris*.

93 Significant geographic overlap exists between the eastern subspecies and the whitebelly

94 form (Perrin *et al.* 1985) (See Fig. 1). Finally, a distinct morphotype of the eastern
95 spinner dolphin, known as the "Tres Marias" spinner dolphin, has been described from
96 near the islands of the same name off the coast of Mexico. These were thought to be a
97 distinct type based on external body morphometrics (Perryman and Westlake 1998).
98
99 Some molecular genetics approaches have not found genetic structure corresponding to
100 the subspecific morphological differences (Dizon *et al.* 1994, Galver 2002). Andrews *et*
101 *al.* (2013) estimated high levels of gene flow between subspecies in the ETP using
102 autosomal and mitochondrial genes and found a shared Y chromosome haplotype in the
103 eastern and Central American subspecies that was not found in the pantropical or dwarf
104 subspecies. Interestingly, this locus was found to be polymorphic in whitebellies,
105 supporting the hypothesis of introgression in this form (Andrews *et al.* 2013). The
106 authors proposed that sexual selection was driving the divergence of spinner dolphins in
107 the ETP. Recently, Leslie and Morin (2016) found strong population structure within
108 both species using genome-wide SNP data.

109

110

111 **ETP Spotted Dolphins**

112 The pantropical spotted dolphins (*Stenella attenuata*) in the ETP is split into two
113 subspecies based on morphometric analyses: a coastal endemic subspecies (*S. a.*
114 *graffmani* - Perrin 1975, Perrin *et al.* 1987) and an offshore pantropical subspecies (*S. a.*
115 *attenuate*). Genetic analyses of microsatellites show high genetic diversity in spotted
116 dolphins and support some differentiation between subspecies (Escorza-Treviño *et al.*
117 2005). This study identified at least four demographically independent populations within
118 the coastal subspecies (*S. a. graffmani*) and differences between southern populations of
119 the coastal subspecies and the pelagic subspecies. However, they found no differences

120 between the northern populations of the coastal subspecies and the pelagic subspecies.
121 Escorza-Treveño *et al.* (2005) identified demographically independent populations within
122 the coastal subspecies and posited that interchange continues between the northern *S. a.*
123 *graffmani* populations and the offshore pantropical subspecies.

124

125 Although the results of Escorza-Treviño *et al.* (2005) indicate substructure, the entire
126 coastal subspecies is currently a single management stock. Offshore pantropical spotted
127 dolphins in the ETP are divided into two stocks: 1) the ‘northeastern’ (NE) stock is
128 defined geographically as north of 5°N, east of 120°W, and 2) the ‘western-southern’
129 (WS) stock is defined as south and west of this northeastern area (Fig. 2) (Perrin *et al.*
130 1994). A distributional hiatus along 5°N is the basis for the north-south boundary
131 between NE and WS stocks (Perrin *et al.* 1994), and this has recently been supported by
132 SNP analyses (Leslie and Morin 2016).

133

134 Given the morphological differentiation between subspecies and recent evidence of
135 nuclear DNA genetic differentiation, we assume the previous results from single mtDNA
136 loci lacked power to resolve these close intraspecific relationships. In addition, studies of
137 other cetacean species have shown mitochondrial genomes to be a useful tool for
138 resolving intraspecific relationships when single mtDNA genes cannot (Archer *et al.* 2013,
139 Morin *et al.* 2010).

140

141

142 **Objectives**

143 We used DNA capture array library enrichment and highly paralleled DNA sequencing to
144 collect whole mitochondrial genome sequence data from 104 spinner and 76 spotted
145 dolphins to test hypotheses of population genetic structure at multiple hierarchical levels

146 in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. We performed analyses of whole mtDNA genomes
147 (mitogenomes) and individual mtDNA genes to test observed levels of differentiation
148 between recognized and proposed management stocks. We also tested for structure
149 supporting the Tres Marias spinner dolphin and alternative stock boundaries in the
150 offshore spotted dolphins. Although still only representing one locus, mitogenomes allow
151 us to examine matrilineal population structure and contrast our findings with those found
152 in previous studies using nuclear DNA (Escorza-Treviño *et al.* 2005; Andrews *et al.*
153 2013; Leslie and Morin 2016) to infer sex-biased dispersal.

154

155

156 **METHODS**

157

158 **Sample Collection and DNA extraction**

159 Skin samples used in this study were collected from free-ranging animals *via* biopsy dart
160 (Lambertsen 1987) on research cruises or from dead specimens killed as bycatch in the
161 tuna purse-seine fishery between 1982 and 2010 (104 spinner dolphins and 76 spotted
162 dolphins Fig. 1, 2; Supplementary Material Tables S1, S2). On research cruises it is
163 relatively common to see some fraction of spinner dolphins of alternate morphology (*i.e.*,
164 possibly different subspecies) within a school of dolphins comprised mostly of another
165 morphotype/subspecies. For this reason, spinner dolphin samples collected from research
166 cruises were assigned to a stock based on the external morphology of the majority of
167 animals in the school, rather than the morphology of the individual sampled or the
168 geographic location of the school. This method was preferable because: 1) only after
169 observing the group (which could contain > 1,000 individuals) for some time could
170 observers classify it to stock, 2) the external characters distinguishing subspecies are
171 subtle, therefore researchers collecting biopsies from the bow of the research vessel could

172 not confidently classify fast-swimming individuals in real time, and 3) the ranges of ETP
173 spinner dolphin subspecies overlap making geography an unreliable predictor of stock
174 identity. Some samples were used from areas where the eastern and whitebelly spinners
175 are known to geographically overlap (see Figure 1). Spinner dolphin samples from
176 Hawai‘i spanned the breadth of the main islands and also Midway Atoll.

177

178 Because there is little overlap of subspecies distribution in ETP pantropical spotted
179 dolphins, geographic location of the sampling site was used to assign samples to
180 subspecies and stocks. To avoid misassigned individuals near the borders of the NE and
181 WS offshore stocks, we did not use samples collected between 4°N and 6°N east of
182 125°W. Hawai‘ian spotted dolphin samples were collected from the Kona Coast of
183 Hawai‘i and O‘ahu.

184

185 Biopsy samples were stored in salt-saturated 20% DMSO, 70% ethanol, or frozen with no
186 preservative. We extracted DNA using silica-based filter membranes (Qiagen, Valencia,
187 CA) on an automated workstation (Perkin Elmer, Waltham, MA). DNA was quantified
188 using Pico-Green fluorescence assays (Quant-it Kit, Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) and a
189 Tecan Genios microplate reader (Tecan Group Ltd, Switzerland).

190

191 **Library Preparation and Sequencing**

192 Next-generation sequencing libraries were generated as described by Hancock-Hanser *et*
193 *al.* (2013), using unique 6bp and 7bp index sequences for each individual to allow up to
194 100 samples to be multiplexed. Multiplexed libraries were enriched for whole
195 mitogenomes and 85 nuclear DNA loci using Sure Select DNA Capture Arrays (Agilent
196 Technologies, Inc., Santa Clara, CA, USA) as described by Hancock-Hanser *et al.*
197 (2013). Sequence data from the 85 nuclear loci were not used in this study. Target

198 sequences for capture enrichment included the reference pantropical spotted dolphin
199 mitochondrial genome (Genbank No. EU557096; Xiong *et al.* 2009) and a suite of 85
200 nuclear loci (not included in this study). Three identical arrays - designed with the eArray
201 software package (Agilent Technologies, Inc., Santa Clara, CA, USA) - were used to
202 capture a multiplexed mix of both species. Each array contained one replicate of the
203 mitogenome probes at a probe interval of 15bp as well as 13 replicates of probes for the
204 nuclear loci at a probe interval of 3bp. Each enriched library was then sequenced using
205 1X100bp Illumina HiSeq technology (two using Illumina HiSeq2000 and one using
206 HiSeq2500).

207

208 **Mitogenome Assembly**

209 Raw read data were filtered for quality (minimum quality score of 15) and demultiplexed
210 by unique barcode. Consensus sequences for each sample were generated from
211 mitogenome sequence reads using a custom pipeline (Dryad data repository
212 doi:10.5061/dryad.cv35b) in R v2.15.0 (R Core Team, 2014). Reads were first mapped to
213 the reference spotted dolphin sequence with the short-read alignment tool BWA (Li and
214 Durbin, 2009). The mpileup module in SAMTOOLS (Li *et al.* 2009) was then used to
215 convert the resulting BAM-format alignment file into a “pileup” text format, which was
216 then parsed by custom R code to create the consensus sequence for each individual. The
217 following rules were used in this process: A “N” was inserted at a position if the
218 assembly had <3 reads, <5 reads where not all contained the same nucleotide, or >5 reads
219 where no one nucleotide (*i.e.*, A, C, G, T) was present in >70% of the reads. All
220 mitogenome sequences were initially aligned with MAFFT using the automatic selection
221 of an appropriate handling strategy (“auto”) and default parameters (Katoh *et al.* 2009)
222 followed by a refinement of alignments by eye.

223

224

225 **Diversity Estimates and Population Structure Analyses**

226 Two mitogenome data sets were created for each species. First, we partitioned each
227 species' mitogenome into fifteen loci (12 coding sequences, the control region and 2
228 rRNA genes). ND6 and tRNA loci were removed prior to analyses because they conform
229 to different evolutionary models and ND6 falls on the opposite strand from the remaining
230 genes (Duchene *et al.* 2011). Sequences were aligned to the pantropical spotted dolphin
231 reference and locus start/stop positions were annotated in GENEIOUS v5.4 (Biomatters
232 Limited) using the GENEIOUS alignment tool and the amino acid translation tool,
233 respectively.

234

235 Second, we removed the control region because of high variation in this region and
236 concatenated the remaining 14 regions to make the concatenated mitogenome sequences.
237 The final sequence lengths for the concatenated data were 13,426bp and 13,425bp for
238 spinner and spotted dolphins, respectively. An individual was removed entirely from
239 analyses if it contained >10% missing data across the entire concatenated sequence.

240

241 For both data sets, we estimated haplotypic diversity (h , Nei 1987) and nucleotide
242 diversity (π , Tajima 1983), and assigned individual genes and whole mitochondrial
243 genome sequences to unique haplotypes using tools from the *strataG* package in R (v.
244 2.3.1; Archer *et al.* 2016). Two pairwise estimates of population genetic structure, F_{ST}
245 (Wright 1949) and Φ_{ST} (Excoffier *et al.* 1992), were also performed using the *strataG*
246 package. The significance of each estimate was tested using 5000 non-parametric random
247 permutations of the data matrix variables. For Φ_{ST} , pairwise distances were calculated
248 using the best substitution model as identified by Akaike's Information Criterion in
249 JModelTest version 2.1.4 (Posada 2008). Models were determined for individual gene

250 regions and the entire concatenated dataset.

251

252 We performed a substitution rate test on each species' mitogenome data set to determine
253 if mutations had reached a point of saturation. For this test, we generated pairwise percent
254 differentiation and plotted this against a Jukes and Cantor (1969) correction factor
255 generated using MEGA 5.2.2 (Tamura *et al.* 2011). We chose this model because of its
256 simplicity; if deviations were seen here then general saturation could be assumed.

257

258 Although mitochondrial loci are assumed to be under purifying selection (Stewart *et al.*
259 2008) we, nonetheless, tested spinner dolphin mitochondrial genes for evidence of
260 positive selection using both Tajima's *D* and Codon-based Z-Test as implemented in
261 MEGA 5.2.2 (Tamura *et al.* 2011).

262

263

264 **RESULTS:**

265

266 Hancock-Hanser *et al.* (2013) present information on the success rate of the DNA capture
267 method including summary statistics of the data analyzed in this paper. As it relates to
268 our analyses, questions might arise about how using arrays designed from closely-related
269 species affected our results. As presented in Tables 4 and 5 of Hancock-Hanser *et al.*
270 (2013), spinner dolphin samples had slightly higher number of mtDNA reads per
271 individual than spotted dolphin samples, despite use of the spotted dolphin mitogenome
272 as the capture bait. The same pattern was found for the nuDNA capture – spinner
273 dolphins had more reads per individual than spotted dolphins - despite all the baits being
274 common bottlenose dolphin DNA sequence. We interpreted this consistency as an
275 indication that inter-specific capture worked well and that any decrease in capture success

276 (as evidenced in reads per individual for a given species) was more likely due to a
277 combination of other factors (sample quality, multiplexing rate, sequencing technology,
278 and/or variation in library preparation) rather than reduced capture due to inter-specific
279 baits. The one area that might have been an issue for inter-specific capture was the hyper-
280 variable section of the control region (see below).

281

282 **Spinner dolphins**

283 We assembled 104 complete or nearly complete (<10% missing data) concatenated
284 spinner dolphin mtDNA data sets (Genbank accession numbers in Supplementary Table
285 S1). The hyper-variable section of the control region had consistently lower coverage in
286 many individuals and was removed from the concatenated data set (Supplementary Table
287 S1). Subspecies and regional sample sizes, summary statistics and genetic diversity
288 measures are listed in Table 1. At the subspecies level, haplotypic diversities were high
289 and nucleotide diversity was low (>0.9722 , <0.0073 , respectively). The substitution rate
290 test did not show any signs of saturation. The best nucleotide substitution model
291 estimated by JModelTest (Posada, 2008) was JC69 (Jukes and Cantor 1969) for each
292 individual gene region and the entire concatenated data set. The results of F_{ST} and Φ_{ST}
293 analyses of the mtDNA concatenated genes and Φ_{ST} of the individual gene regions for
294 spinner dolphins are shown in Table 2. Due to space limitations, we only discuss Φ_{ST} for
295 the partitioned gene region analyses.

296

297 At the subspecies level, the Φ_{ST} test showed no differentiation between Central American
298 spinners and eastern spinner dolphin subspecies in either the concatenated or partitioned
299 data sets. F_{ST} was significant in the concatenated data set (0.0133 , $P = 0.034$). Φ_{ST}
300 comparisons of the whitebelly form and coastal Central American subspecies showed
301 nearly significant differentiation in the concatenated data set ($\Phi_{ST} = 0.0490$; $P = 0.0542$)

302 and seven individual gene regions. ND3 showed a significant difference at $P = 0.0054$,
303 while all other significant comparisons between these strata were at $P < 0.05$ (Table 2).
304

305 We found no significant differences between the whitebelly and the eastern subspecies
306 using the concatenated mitogenome data ($\Phi_{ST} = 0.0181$; $P = 0.0741$). However, eight
307 individual mitochondrial genes showed significant differentiation. All individual gene
308 partitions in spinner dolphins were found to be under purifying selection using Tajima's
309 D tests for selection (Table S3) and Z-Test for positive selection using the Nei-Gojobori
310 method (Nei and Gojobori 1986) (Table S6).

311
312 Φ_{ST} tests showed no differentiation between Tres Marias spinners and either ETP spinner
313 dolphin subspecies in either the concatenated or partitioned data sets. Four individual
314 gene regions were significantly different in the pairwise comparisons of Tres Marias and
315 whitebelly spinner dolphins ($P < 0.05$; ND3 at $P < 0.01$).

316
317 All tests involving comparisons with Hawai'ian spinner dolphins (*S. l. longirostris*) -
318 using the concatenated data set - were highly significant. Four genes showed population
319 structure (significant Φ_{ST}) in all pairwise comparisons between Hawai'i and ETP groups
320 (*i.e.*, Central America, Tres Marias, eastern, and whitebelly spinner), but not in any
321 pairwise comparisons between these ETP groups: 16S, ATP6, ND2, and ND5. Because
322 of the low abundance and geographic isolation of the Hawai'ian population, we presume
323 these genetic differences between Hawai'i and the ETP groups resulted primarily from
324 drift in the Hawai'ian population, though some unique haplotypes in Hawai'i also
325 suggest sequence divergence between the subspecies. 16S had 24 haplotypes total, but
326 only 4 haplotypes among all 15 Hawai'ian samples. ATP6 had many more haplotypes in
327 total (53), but again reduced diversity in Hawai'i (5). One of these Hawai'ian haplotypes

328 was common among all ETP groups, and two were exclusive to Hawai‘i. The final two
329 Hawai‘ian ATP6 haplotypes were shared with one ETP spinner dolphin each. ND2 also
330 had 53 haplotypes total, but only 4 spread among the 15 Hawai‘ian samples. Twelve
331 samples from Hawai‘i had two haplotypes that were not shared with ETP populations.
332 One individual shared a haplotype with an eastern spinner dolphin, the other two
333 haplotypes were single samples unique to Hawai‘i. Finally, ND5 had 70 total haplotypes,
334 but only 5 among the Hawai‘ian samples – none of which were shared with ETP
335 populations.

336

337

338 **Spotted dolphins**

339 We assembled 76 complete or nearly complete (<10% missing data) spotted dolphin
340 mitogenomes (Genbank accession numbers in Supplementary Table S2). Sample sizes,
341 summary statistics and genetic diversity measures are listed in Table 1. At the level of
342 subspecies, nucleotide diversity was higher in spotted dolphins (>0.0162) than spinner
343 dolphins. Haplotypic diversity (h) is high in both species (>0.9529), but ETP spotted
344 dolphins subspecies have slightly lower levels (0.9529 and 0.9804 for the coastal and
345 offshore groups, respectively) than spinner dolphin subspecies (0.9722 and 0.9985) in
346 this region. The coastal ETP subspecies for both spinner and pantropical spotted dolphins
347 in the ETP show reduced h compared to their offshore ETP counterparts (Table 1).
348 Similar to the spinner dolphin mitogenome data, the substitution rate test did not detect
349 any signs of saturation, and JC69 was the best substitution model for all individual gene
350 regions and the entire concatenated data set.

351

352 Results of F_{ST} and Φ_{ST} analyses of the mtDNA concatenated genes and Φ_{ST} of the
353 individual gene regions for spotted dolphins are presented in Table 4. Similar to the

354 spinner dolphins, our analyses at the subspecies level for spotted dolphins (coastal *vs.*
355 offshore) show no significant differentiation using Φ_{ST} for the concatenated or partitioned
356 data sets. F_{ST} was significant in the concatenated data set (0.0125, $P = 0.0402$).

357

358 Estimates of differentiation between the current management stocks within the offshore
359 subspecies (NE and WS stocks) using the whole mitogenome data and individual mtDNA
360 genes showed no differences. Using Φ_{ST} , no significant differences were observed
361 between the coastal subspecies and the NE offshore stock, however F_{ST} (0.0302) was
362 highly significant at $P = 0.0002$ between these management units. Similarly, Φ_{ST} was
363 not significant for pairwise comparisons of the Coastal subspecies and WS offshore stock
364 using the concatenated data or individual genes.

365

366 Within the WS offshore stock, we found nearly significant Φ_{ST} differences between the
367 southern and western offshore regions using the concatenated mitogenome (0.1666; $P =$
368 0.0668). One individual mtDNA gene (ND4) had significant differentiation ($p < 0.05$) and
369 three others had nearly significant p-values (16S, ND1, ND5).

370

371 Comparing separate western and southern portions of the WS stock to other partitions
372 using the mitogenome data set also yielded no significant Φ_{ST} estimates. Our comparison
373 of the NE stock to the western portion of the WS stock, however, was nearly significant
374 using the concatenated mitogenome ($\Phi_{ST} = 0.1135$; $P = 0.0517$) and four individual
375 mtDNA genes showed significant Φ_{ST} differences ($p < 0.05$). Neither data set showed
376 significant differences between the NE stock and the southern portion of the WS stock for
377 either statistic.

378

379 Comparison of the coastal subspecies to just the southern portion of the WS stock
380 resulted in no significant F_{ST} or Φ_{ST} difference in the concatenated data set or individual
381 gene regions. Between the coastal subspecies and western offshore portion of the WS
382 stock, however, one individual gene region (ATP8) showed significant differentiation (P
383 < 0.05), and one (12S) showed nearly significant differentiation ($P = 0.0559$). Ideally we
384 would have partitioned the coastal subspecies south of central Mexico into the population
385 units described by Escorza-Triveño *et al.* (2005), but our smaller sample size prevented
386 us from doing this.

387

388 Significant differentiation was detected between Hawai‘i and the coastal subspecies, and
389 between Hawai‘i and offshore spotted dolphins, in F_{ST} and Φ_{ST} of the concatenated data
390 set. As expected, given this result, significant differentiation was detected in many
391 individual mtDNA genes (see Table 4). We also detected significant differences between
392 Hawai‘i and the NE stock in four genes, but not for the concatenated mtDNA data set
393 (although it was nearly significant for Φ_{ST} at $P = 0.0645$). Hawai‘i and the WS stock
394 were significantly different in the concatenated data set using Φ_{ST} , and in nine individual
395 genes ($P < 0.05$).

396

397 Finally, we also tested hypotheses of differences between Hawai‘i and divided western
398 and southern portions of the WS stock. Hawai‘i and the western portion were
399 differentiated using the concatenated dataset ($\Phi_{ST}: 0.4932; P = 0.0179$). Ten individual
400 genes showed differentiation between these two strata (see Table 4). Hawai‘i and the
401 southern portion of the WS stock were not differentiated based on our concatenated data
402 sets, but did show significant differentiation in five individual genes ($P < 0.05$).

403

404

405 **Discussion**

406

407 Spinner and spotted dolphins in the eastern tropical Pacific offer a unique opportunity to
408 study genetic differentiation at multiple scales in species with strong intraspecific
409 morphological differences. Recent divergence, high genetic diversity, large population
410 sizes, and ongoing gene flow likely contribute to low detectability of genetic divergence
411 (Galver 2002, Escorza-Treviño *et al.* 2005, Andrews *et al.* 2013, Taylor and Dizon 1996,
412 Waples 1998). Using complete mitogenomes, we found some genetic support for
413 endemic subspecies of spinner and spotted dolphins, although the strength of this support
414 varies between markers (see Table 5). We did not find support, however, for the division
415 of offshore stocks of spotted dolphins; nor did we find separation of the Tres Marias
416 spinner dolphins as an independent population. In contrast, nuclear SNP analysis
417 recovered these stock-level differences (Leslie and Morin 2016). The difference in our
418 findings compared to those of Leslie and Morin (2016) could reflect the limitations of our
419 mtDNA data or something biologically meaningful about the populations.

420

421 First, we will discuss the individual comparisons for each species, then finish with an
422 overall discussion comparing our findings with those of others.

423

424 **Spinner Dolphins**

425 Traditional F_{ST} was very low as expected, but supported endemic subspecies distinction
426 (Central American and eastern). We found non-significant results from Φ_{ST} – a metric
427 that includes differences in nucleotide divergence. Thus we conclude that haplotypes
428 within these two subspecies are very similar, but that haplotype frequencies are
429 significantly different.

430

431 Nevertheless, our results provide evidence of genetic differentiation between the accepted
432 ETP endemic subspecies concordant with morphology (Perrin *et al.* 1991) and results
433 from Andrews *et al.* (2013) who used data from the nuclear Actin gene, and Leslie and
434 Morin (2016) who used restriction-associated nuDNA sequencing. Differences in
435 ecological, distributional, morphological, nuDNA, and now mtDNA data support the
436 recognition of these distinct subspecies.

437

438 Breeding biology and movement patterns could also affect the patterns we see between
439 the Central American and eastern spinner dolphins. In particular, assortative mating can
440 decrease N_e , which could serve to amplify signal of structure in the nuDNA genome. The
441 eastern spinner dolphin is thought to have a polygynous mating system (Perrin and
442 Mesnick, 2003). Perrin and Mesnick (2003) concluded that relatively few males are
443 involved with mating, serving to reduce N_e and potentially increase genetic structure
444 (Perrin and Mesnick, 2003). Conversely, however, a skewed breeding system might also
445 increase dispersal, as adult male dominance might promote movements of juvenile males
446 which then become established breeders outside their natal range. Unfortunately, very
447 little is known about the movement patterns of individual dolphins in the ETP, and less is
448 known about differences in movement based on sex. High site fidelity in males could also
449 restrict male-mediated geneflow between groups and increase relative signal in nuDNA
450 analyses.

451

452 F_{ST} and Φ_{ST} tests between the whitebelly spinner and the Central American endemic ETP
453 subspecies revealed nearly significant differentiation (Table 5), indicating possible
454 separation. Nuclear SNP data support differences between these two groups (Leslie and
455 Morin 2016). In our mitogenome data set, every whitebelly sample had a unique
456 haplotype. As a result, frequency-based measures of differentiation such as F -statistics

457 were likely underestimated.

458

459 Using slightly different samples, Andrews *et al.* (2013) also found differentiation
460 between Central American and whitebelly spinners using mtDNA genes (control region
461 and *cytb*). We recovered the same pattern for *cytb* and several others (Table 2). Moreover,
462 Andrews *et al.* (2013) included 10 samples of Central American spinners that had
463 questionable subspecific identity (based on further investigation of the sample collection
464 records at SWFSC by MSL). These samples were initially identified as Central American
465 spinners, but the confidence in the identification was low and they should have been
466 labeled as “unidentified”. Given the uncertainty, these samples could have been from
467 eastern spinner dolphins. Removal of these samples reduced our representation of Central
468 American spinners ($n=9$), which may have impacted our ability to detect intraspecific
469 structure. However, the Central American subspecies has lower relative abundance, and
470 therefore might be expected to show higher levels of structure due to drift.

471

472 Two biological explanations for the possible differentiation between Central American
473 and whitebelly spinners in the mtDNA are isolation by distance and admixture between
474 whitebellies and Hawai‘ian spinners. These are the two most geographically distant
475 putative populations of ETP spinner dolphins; therefore, isolation by distance could
476 contribute to population genetic structuring. Admixture between the whitebelly and
477 Hawai‘ian spinners would bring novel haplotypes from the Gray’s subspecies (Hawai‘i)
478 into the whitebellies resulting in genetic structure.

479

480 We found nearly significant Φ_{ST} between the whitebelly spinner and the eastern spinner
481 using the concatenated mitogenome data. In addition, we also found significant
482 differences between these strata in eight individual mtDNA genes. Leslie and Morin’s

483 (2016) SNP analysis supported differentiation of these two groups. Andrews *et al.* (2013)
484 inferred high migration rates between whitebelly and eastern spinner dolphins (30.1
485 migrants per generation from whitebelly to eastern and 57.9 migrants from eastern to
486 whitebelly). Despite this high rate of migration, we detected evidence of differentiation.
487
488 As discussed, the statistical power to estimate levels of migration between very large
489 populations with low relative sample sizes is weak (Waples 1998, Taylor *et al.* 2000). For
490 this reason, we did not estimate levels of migration for these data. Andrews *et al.* (2013)
491 did estimate migration in ETP spinner dolphins and found lower, but significantly
492 different from zero, rates of migration per generation between populations of Gray's
493 (Hawai'ian and other Pacific Island groups) spinners and the whitebelly spinners (3.22
494 migrants per generation into Gray's and 1.6 into whitebelly spinners). The rate of
495 migration into Gray's spinner populations from the eastern population was estimated to
496 be less than one (0.82), but significantly different from zero. Although this was not a
497 major focus of our study, the differences we detected between the Hawaiian population
498 and the ETP pelagic populations were higher than any comparisons within the ETP,
499 supporting the hypothesis that this is an insular population or possibly subspecies.
500
501 Differences in breeding systems could help drive or maintain differentiation between
502 eastern and whitebelly spinner dolphins (Perrin and Mesnick 2003). A polygynous system
503 in eastern spinners could result in higher site-fidelity and lower male N_e – both of which
504 would accentuate signal in nuDNA population structure. Alternatively, as discussed
505 above, admixture between whitebelly and Hawai'ian spinners could also result in novel
506 whitebelly genotypes resulting in higher apparent population structure between
507 whitebelly and eastern spinners.
508

509 **Alternative spinner dolphin stocks:**

510 We found no support for a Tres Marias population that differs from the eastern or Central
511 American subspecies (*e.g.*, Perryman and Westlake 1998) using the concatenated or
512 individual mitochondrial gene data sets. Given the weak genetic differences we found
513 between the accepted endemic subspecies with much more marked morphological
514 differences, this result may not be surprising. We found statistically significant
515 differences in four individual mtDNA genes when comparing the Tres Marias group to
516 the whitebelly spinners and several nearly significant genes. We do not feel confident
517 making taxonomic recommendations for the “Tres Marias” spinners based on these
518 analyses. Additional studies should approach this question using larger sample sets and
519 additional data.

520

521 **Spotted dolphins:**

522 Spotted dolphin mitogenomes have lower haplotypic diversity but higher nucleotide
523 diversity than spinner dolphins, despite extremely high historical population sizes in the
524 former. The two main reasons for lower haplotypic diversity could be a recent and/or
525 prolonged population bottleneck, such as the decrease caused by mortalities in the tuna
526 purse-siene fishery, or an extremely matrifocal social structure (Hoelzel *et al.* 2007).
527 Although matrifocal social structure is known in several species of odontocetes (*e.g.*,
528 killer whales and sperm whales), it is not a known characteristic of spotted dolphins, and
529 thus is an unlikely cause of low genetic diversity.

530

531 Similar to our findings for spinner dolphins, traditional F_{ST} calculated for the spotted
532 dolphin mitogenome data set supports differentiation of the offshore *S. a. attenuata* and
533 the endemic coastal *S. a. graffmani* subspecies, whereas Φ_{ST} failed to indicate any
534 difference - either for the entire genome or within any single gene. Our results show the

535 NE stock being strongly differentiated from the coastal subspecies (based on allele
536 frequency alone), counter to the results found by Escorza-Treviño *et al.* (2005) showing
537 connection between the NE stock and the coastal subspecies based on seven
538 microsatellite loci. In that study, the authors inferred that there was a strong connection
539 between the coastal and offshore subspecies in northern Mexico. The differences between
540 our results and those of Escorza-Treviño *et al.* (2005) could be due to sampling; the
541 previous study included more samples from the northern portion of the coastal spotted
542 dolphin range than we did. Additionally, the differences could be attributed to the unique
543 evolutionary patterns of the different markers examined in Escorza-Treviño *et al.* (2005)
544 (*i.e.*, microsatellites) vs. the mitogenomes used in our study.

545

546 **Spotted dolphin stocks:**

547 A main objective of this work was to test for difference between existing (NE, WS, and
548 Coastal) and proposed (independent W and S) management stocks. Using the whole
549 mtDNA genome data set, we found no evidence for differentiation between the two
550 current stocks (NE and WS). This could be because the two stocks are genetically
551 connected or because our data lack power to detect differentiation at this fine scale. The
552 concatenated mtDNA indicated weak evidenced for splitting up the current WS stock - a
553 high Φ_{ST} value (0.1666) and nearly significant ($P = 0.0668$). Similarly, we detected
554 nearly significant differences between the NE stock and the western group of the WS
555 stock using the concatenated mtDNA genome. Four mtDNA loci had significant Φ_{ST}
556 estimates for this partition. The NE and the offshore southern group were not
557 significantly different in any test, suggesting that the distributional hiatus at 5° north is
558 not a barrier to gene flow. We cannot say with any certainty if this is the case, however,
559 because of the low sample size for the southern portion of WS stock (n=9); a larger
560 sample size is necessary to convincingly investigate this hiatus. Overall, the whole

561 concatenated mtDNA genome was not as useful as anticipated for delimiting stock
562 structure, possibly because it introduced more variation (*via* novel haplotypes) into an
563 already highly variable system. Whole mtDNA genomes have been useful for clarifying
564 subspecific boundaries where information in single mtDNA genes has shown low
565 variability (Archer *et al.* 2013, Morin *et al.* 2010), including in this paper, but testing
566 population-level boundaries in highly abundant cetaceans using mtDNA genomes may be
567 less feasible.

568

569 Leslie and Morin (2016) found divergence between the offshore and coastal spotted
570 dolphin subspecies, but did not include data from individuals from the NE offshore stock
571 of spotted dolphins. Therefore, this comparison includes animals from the most
572 geographically separate portions of the offshore (WS) and coastal subspecies range.
573 Additional nuclear data from the NE stock are needed to determine whether proximate
574 populations of these two subspecies are also as genetically divergent.

575

576 **Overall Patterns Observed**

577 Despite the increase in data over other mtDNA studies, it is likely that whole
578 mitogenomes still do not provide enough statistical power to detect differences given the
579 recent divergence, continued low-level interbreeding, and/or high diversity and historical
580 abundance. We collected whole mitogenomic data to help resolve close population
581 relationships. However, one risk of adding more data in this situation – with populations
582 with high genetic diversity – is that haplotype discovery may not plateau within a sample
583 set. In other words, more unique haplotypes are added thereby increasing the difficulty of
584 characterizing haplotype frequencies among and between populations. Sequencing
585 additional samples could help rectify this issue.

586

587 Similarly, there are also limitations to using frequency-based F_{ST} statistics. F_{ST} is good at
588 detecting frequency differences that indicate genetic structure in cases where haplotypes
589 are similar within populations and different between populations (such as those that
590 would result via drift in small populations). However, when haplotype diversity is high
591 within and among populations, very large sample sizes are needed to characterize
592 haplotype frequencies to detect differences using F_{ST} . In this situation, F_{ST} point values
593 will be underestimated. Moreover, sampling effects can become important drivers of F_{ST}
594 beyond the base frequency of alleles present and result in false positive results. Our initial
595 hypothesis was that sequencing more of the mitogenome would result in more shared
596 differences within populations which would be reflected in both the frequency-based
597 statistics; this was not the case.

598

599 Instead, we found significant differences between subspecies of both spinner and spotted
600 dolphins using F_{ST} , but not Φ_{ST} . F_{ST} and Φ_{ST} provide slightly different perspectives on
601 population differentiation and we believe it is important to present both measures. Our
602 results show inconsistencies between these two metrics, which does not necessarily mean
603 analytical problems or inaccuracies, but reflects something interesting about our data. F_{ST}
604 tests for population differentiation are based on allele (or haplotype) frequencies and do
605 not provide direct insights into levels of molecular divergence (Weir and Cockerham,
606 1984, Excoffier *et al.* 1992, Meirmans and Hedrick 2011). Φ_{ST} estimates capture more
607 information regarding the differentiation due to sequence divergence (or nucleotide
608 diversity) in addition to differences in haplotype frequencies. The high heterozygosity
609 issues mentioned above can still impact Φ_{ST} . Although we chose to focus the bulk of the
610 discussion on Φ_{ST} , we do report statistically significant measures of F_{ST} and briefly
611 compare and contrast the two metrics. Φ_{ST} may be more indicative of older, long-term
612 processes, whereas F_{ST} can show recent differences among populations, indicating

613 another reason it is important to report both metrics. In addition, given that the test for
614 significance is determined by an arbitrary cut-off ($P = 0.05$), we also present results that
615 are “nearly significant”. Combined with given the difficulty of distinguishing these
616 groups in previous works, we felt it important not to focus too intensely on the arbitrary
617 cut-off, but rather overall patterns of indicators.

618

619 Moreover, our sample sizes were low in some partitions ($n=7$). This could result in the
620 allele frequencies of populations being under-characterized, which could skew results in
621 over- or under-classification. Efforts should be made to collect more samples for future
622 studies.

623

624 Alternatively, non-significant results could occur with low levels of geneflow between
625 strata that are demographically independent populations (Avice 1995; Taylor and Dizon
626 1996). Because management decisions rely on them, results must be interpreted within
627 the context of all available information and with recognition of the caveats of the data
628 used to generate them.

629

630 The discordance we observed between the mitogenome results and those using nuDNA
631 data (Leslie and Morin 2016) could also reflect biological factors. One possibility is
632 female-mediated exchange diluting the signal of structure in mtDNA or male site-fidelity
633 increasing structure in the mtDNA. Although there is some evidence from radio tagging
634 studies that spinner and spotted dolphins can move relatively large distances (Perrin *et al.*
635 1979), a thorough investigation into the differences between sexes is lacking. At least for
636 spinner dolphins it is likely that the polygynous breeding system described by Perrin and
637 Mesnick (2003) would contribute to increased signal of structure in the nuclear genome.

638

639 **Drift in mtDNA loci as indicated by comparisons with Hawai‘i**

640 Because of the greater divergence observed between Hawai‘ian and ETP populations of
641 these two dolphins, we thought it would be informative to highlight genes showing
642 structure (Hawai‘i vs. ETP), likely due to neutral drift acting on a small insular
643 population, that might be useful for studying other Hawai‘ian populations of cetacean
644 species. Four genes (16S, ATP6, ND2, and ND5) showed population structure
645 (significant Φ_{ST}) in all pairwise comparisons between Hawai‘i and ETP spinner dolphin
646 groups (*i.e.*, Central America, Tres Marias, eastern, and whitebelly spinner), but not in
647 any pairwise comparisons between these ETP groups. All of the mtDNA regions with
648 significant Φ_{ST} were found to be under purifying selection (negative Tajima’s D - Table
649 S3; and non-significant Z-tests – Table S4) indicating that the within-mitogenome
650 differences are accumulating by neutral drift rather than via positive selection in ETP
651 spinner dolphins. Significant differences between ETP groups and the Hawai‘ian insular
652 population of spotted dolphins were found in all but five of the mtDNA genes. We note
653 however that the low sample sizes for Hawai‘ian spotted dolphins may explain some of
654 the non-significant differences observed with respect to ETP stocks.

655

656 **Positive Selection in ETP Spinner Dolphin mtDNA**

657 Selection should affect linked loci equally; however, selection can act on individual
658 mtDNA genes, such as in the case of cytochrome *b* in Antarctic killer whales (Foote *et al.*
659 2010). We tested for positive selection in spinner dolphin mitochondrial genes and found
660 none. We did not test for positive selection in spotted dolphins because there were no
661 individual mtDNA genes that supported differentiation between the two ETP subspecies.

662

663 **Conclusions:**

664

665 Defining population genetic structure is challenging for species with large historical
666 population sizes and high mobility. These populations may retain high genetic variation
667 even as abundance becomes relatively low, which could obscure signals of genetic
668 structure used to designate stock boundaries for estimating population abundance and
669 setting stock-specific mortality limits. Ultimately, without information on structure,
670 populations could be under-classified and unique evolutionary units and populations
671 could go extinct as we may fail to take appropriate conservation action. Alternatively,
672 there is a cost to managing populations as separate when there is no biological basis to do
673 so. Such errors can have economic, social, and political consequences resulting from
674 unnecessary restrictions on human activity. Furthermore, a consistent pattern of these
675 errors will “stiffen the resolve of skeptics and make it difficult to accomplish sound
676 resource management in the future” (Waples 1998).

677

678 This unique system of two delphinids, with available samples collected *in situ* from
679 remote offshore environments encompassing extensive geographic and morphological
680 variation, was used to test for population genetic structure at multiple hierarchical levels
681 in species with high historical abundance and high intra-specific morphological variation.
682 Our results show a complex pattern of genetic structure in the two different data sets for
683 each species. Although complex, we believe the structure observed in our results is
684 biologically meaningful. Given the aforementioned difficulties with detecting structure
685 using genetic techniques in this system – and the supporting morphometric results - even
686 subtle signatures of structure are significant findings. The mitogenome data show support
687 for the endemic ETP spinner and spotted dolphin subspecies.

688

689 We found very little support for the division of offshore stocks of spotted dolphins and no
690 support for the unique form of Tres Marias spinner dolphins as compared to the eastern

691 or Central American subspecies. This is not to say that these biological entities do not
692 exist, just that our mtDNA data do not support them or may not have sufficient power to
693 detect the subtle genetic differences between them. Further, we recommend the collection
694 and analysis of additional samples from the Central American subspecies to compare to
695 existing offshore subspecies samples collected from fisheries bycatch and research
696 cruises. In addition, we recommend additional studies of population structure that
697 incorporate environmental variables as potential population boundaries in this area.
698 Finally, placing these populations within a global phylogeographic context will help
699 provide a better context for our results by fully characterizing intraspecific diversity and
700 establishing the evolutionary process that led to ETP endemism.

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1 *Table 1.* Summary statistics for ETP spinner (A) and spotted (B) dolphin mitogenome
 2 data. n_H : number of haplotypes; PS: polymorphic sites; h : haplotype diversity; π :
 3 nucleotide diversity; %: percent of unique haplotypes.
 4

A. Spinner dolphins <i>Stenella longirostris</i> (n = 104)						
Subspecies/Stock	n:female/male/unk	n_H	PS	h	π	%
Central American <i>S. l. centroamericana</i>	9:4/4/1	8	648	0.9722	0.0057	0.7778
eastern~ <i>S. l. orientalis</i>	53:28/19/6	51	648	0.9985	0.0073	0.9245
Putative Stocks						
whitebelly <i>S. l. longirostris</i>	27:16/11/0	27	457	1	0.0043	1
Tres Marias^~ <i>S. l. orientalis</i>	21:8/10/3	20	373	0.9952	0.0078	0.9048
Hawai'i <i>S. l. longirostris</i>	15:1/4/10	9	104	0.9921	0.0068	0.8260

B. Spotted dolphins <i>Stenella attenuata</i> (n = 76)						
Subspecies	n:female/male/unk	n_H	PS	h	π	%
Coastal <i>S. a. graffmani</i>	24:11/13/0	16	234	0.9529	0.0162	0.5000
ETP offshore [§] <i>S. a. attenuata</i>	47:20/19/8	43	519	0.9804	0.0198	0.7222
Offshore Stocks (<i>S. a. attenuata</i>) - Current and Putative^						
northeastern	25:10/8/7	22	400	0.9867	0.0238	0.8000
western-southern	17:9/7/1	17	298	1	0.0096	1
Offshore western^	8:7/1/0	8	191	1	0.0087	1
Offshore southern^	9:2/6/1	9	253	1	0.0092	1
Hawai'i	5:1/3/1	3	36	0.7000	0.0244	0.4000

6 ^ Stocks that are not recognized for management purposes. ~ The Tres Marias
 7 spinner samples are part of the eastern stratum. § Includes data for five samples that
 8 were omitted from stock comparisons because they were sampled too close to
 9 geographic stock boundaries.

Table 2: Pairwise divergence estimates for subspecies and stocks of spinner dolphins based on concatenated mitogenome data (F_{ST} , Φ_{ST} and χ^2) and partitioned mitogenomic data (Φ_{ST} only). Light gray backgrounds for $p < 0.05$; medium gray for $p < 0.01$; darker gray backgrounds for $p < 0.001$ (p -values in parentheses).

Taxon 1 (n) vs. Taxon 2 (n)	Concatenated mitogenome		Partitioned mitogenome Φ_{ST} (p-value)														
	F_{ST} (p-value)	Φ_{ST} (p-value)	12s $n_H=24$	16s $n_H=24$	ATP6 $n_H=53$	ATP8 $n_H=11$	COI $n_H=65$	COII $n_H=39$	COIII $n_H=47$	CYTB $n_H=61$	CR $n_H=50$	ND1 $n_H=59$	ND2 $n_H=53$	ND3 $n_H=21$	ND4 $n_H=56$	ND4L $n_H=22$	ND5 $n_H=70$
Central Amer. (9) vs. eastern (53)	0.0133 (0.034)	-0.0127 (0.5235)	-0.0120 (0.5265)	0.0061 (0.4977)	-0.0076 (0.4001)	0.0590 (0.0801)	-0.0276 (0.8640)	-0.0199 (0.6988)	-0.0158 (0.5766)	-0.0094 (0.4711)	0.0017 (0.3983)	0.0148 (0.2501)	-0.0260 (0.7376)	0.0338 (0.1325)	-0.0287 (0.6950)	-0.0268 (0.7444)	-0.0139 (0.5368)
Central Amer. (9) vs. whitebelly (27)	0.0128 (0.056)	0.0490 (0.0542)	-0.0165 (0.5882)	0.0217 (0.1947)	0.0311 (0.1277)	0.1279 (0.0189)	0.0351 (0.0903)	0.0936 (0.0144)	0.0086 (0.2995)	0.0601 (0.0456)	0.0555 (0.0412)	0.0844 (0.0362)	0.0113 (0.2833)	0.1505 (0.0054)	0.0870 (0.0464)	0.0478 (0.0931)	0.0273 (0.1203)
eastern (53) vs. whitebelly (27)	0.0007 (0.2867)	0.0181 (0.0741)	0.0307 (0.0414)	0.0159 (0.0835)	0.0051 (0.2421)	-0.0065 (0.5546)	0.0264 (0.0288)	0.0342 (0.0152)	-0.0020 (0.4501)	0.0154 (0.1165)	0.0270 (0.0059)	0.0260 (0.0468)	0.0104 (0.1687)	0.0638 (0.0018)	0.0464 (0.0422)	0.0343 (0.0214)	0.0026 (0.2859)
Tres Marias (21) vs. Central Amer. (9)	0.0155 (0.0914)	-0.0345 (0.7576)	0.0113 (0.2921)	-0.0283 (0.7240)	-0.0436 (0.7284)	-0.0082 (0.2863)	-0.0393 (0.8636)	-0.0318 (0.7150)	-0.0301 (0.6752)	-0.0238 (0.5872)	-0.0102 (0.5328)	-0.0158 (0.5219)	-0.0451 (0.8698)	0.0022 (0.4025)	-0.0558 (0.8900)	-0.0638 (0.9470)	-0.0383 (0.7888)
Tres Marias (21) vs. eastern (32)	0.0009 (0.4107)	-0.0116 (0.7084)	-0.0109 (0.6474)	-0.0217 (0.9462)	-0.0088 (0.5169)	0.0019 (0.3119)	-0.0124 (0.7654)	-0.0182 (0.8772)	-0.0150 (0.8116)	-0.0062 (0.5291)	-0.0135 (0.8454)	-0.0117 (0.6898)	-0.0031 (0.4447)	-0.0206 (0.8894)	-0.0185 (0.7898)	-0.0049 (0.4887)	-0.0105 (0.6442)
Tres Marias (21) vs. whitebelly (27)	0.0024 (0.1934)	0.0263 (0.0807)	0.0421 (0.0643)	0.0111 (0.1979)	0.0086 (0.2423)	0.0175 (0.2421)	0.0323 (0.0519)	0.0406 (0.0362)	-0.0005 (0.3907)	0.0311 (0.0765)	0.0413 (0.0168)	0.0359 (0.0636)	0.0243 (0.1087)	0.0676 (0.0052)	0.0859 (0.0789)	0.0485 (0.0448)	0.0124 (0.1807)
Hawaii (15) vs. whitebelly (27)	0.0456 (0.0001)	0.1964 (0.0002)	0.0236 (0.1667)	0.3590 (0.0002)	0.2560 (0.0002)	-0.0127 (0.6582)	0.1964 (0.0002)	0.1885 (0.0006)	0.0154 (0.1363)	0.1031 (0.0004)	0.0771 (0.0036)	0.0818 (0.0026)	0.3302 (0.0002)	0.4467 (0.0002)	0.1324 (0.0002)	-0.0137 (0.2197)	0.1858 (0.0002)
Hawaii (15) vs. eastern (53)	0.0449 (0.0001)	0.1849 (0.0002)	0.0428 (0.0605)	0.3293 (0.0002)	0.2268 (0.0002)	-0.0002 (0.4031)	0.2061 (0.0002)	0.2104 (0.0002)	0.0338 (0.0625)	0.1182 (0.0026)	0.2050 (0.0002)	0.1406 (0.0012)	0.3090 (0.0002)	0.3283 (0.0002)	0.1339 (0.0025)	0.0170 (0.1643)	0.1494 (0.0007)
Hawaii (15) vs. Central Amer. (9)	0.0636 (0.0219)	0.3284 (0.0002)	-0.0083 (0.4045)	0.5265 (0.0002)	0.3328 (0.0004)	0.1600 (0.0631)	0.3983 (0.0002)	0.4280 (0.0002)	0.1415 (0.0034)	0.2474 (0.0002)	0.2464 (0.0002)	0.3091 (0.0002)	0.4352 (0.0004)	0.3863 (0.0002)	0.2728 (0.0002)	0.1597 (0.0701)	0.2854 (0.0004)
Hawaii (15) vs. Tres Marias (21)	0.0487 (0.0004)	0.2260 (0.0002)	0.0796 (0.0478)	0.3900 (0.0002)	0.2552 (0.0002)	0.0339 (0.2507)	0.2576 (0.0002)	0.2351 (0.0002)	0.0703 (0.0272)	0.1398 (0.0004)	0.1533 (0.0002)	0.1958 (0.0002)	0.3454 (0.0002)	0.3608 (0.0002)	0.1667 (0.0004)	0.0630 (0.0669)	0.1828 (0.0002)

14 *Table 3.* Pairwise divergence estimates (F_{ST}) for spinner and spotted dolphin subspecies, respectively,
 15 using all nuclear SNPs, and using only neutral SNPs. Light gray backgrounds for $p < 0.05$; Medium
 16 gray for $p < 0.01$; darker gray backgrounds for $p < 0.001$.
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Spinner dolphins		All 51 SNPs	42 Neutral SNPs
Taxon 1 n:female/male/unk	Taxon 2 n:female/male/unk	F_{ST} (p-value)	F_{ST} (p-value)
Central American 7:3/3/1	eastern 28:15/7/6	-0.0023 (0.4485)	-0.0066 (0.5148)
Central American 7:3/3/1	whitebelly 21:12/9/0	0.0148 (0.2607)	0.0082 (0.3216)
eastern 28:15/7/6	whitebelly 21:12/9/0	0.0297 (0.0059)	0.0282 (0.0099)
Spotted dolphins		All 36 SNPs	25 Neutral SNPs
Offshore 13:6/6/1	Coastal 12:5/7/0	0.1711 (0.001)	0.1493 (0.0005)

0 **Table 4:** Pairwise divergence estimates for subspecies and stocks of spotted dolphins using concatenated mitogenome data (F_{ST} , Φ_{ST} and χ^2) and
 1 partitioned mitogenomic data (Φ_{ST} only). n_H listed below each gene name is the number of haplotypes for that gene. Light gray backgrounds for
 2 $p < 0.05$; medium gray for $p < 0.01$; darker gray backgrounds for $p < 0.001$ (p-values in parentheses). “NA” indicates comparisons where Φ_{ST} could not
 3 be estimated because all individuals in both strata share the same haplotype. “*” are where one stratum was $n < 5$.

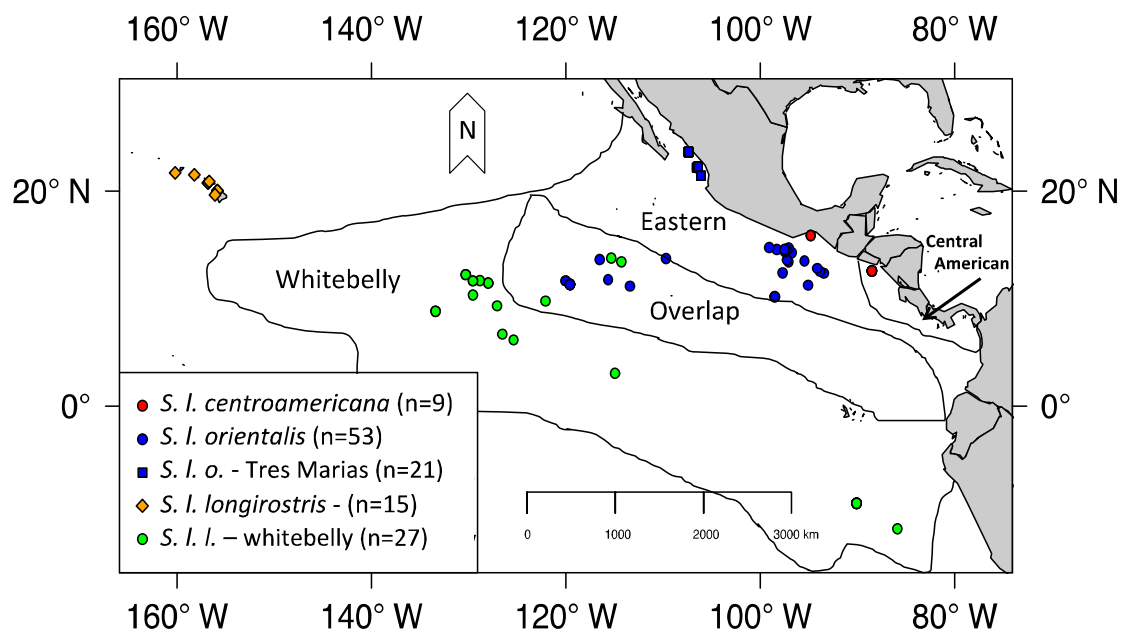
Taxon 1 (n) vs. Taxon 2 (n)	Concatenated mitogenome		Partitioned mitogenome Φ_{ST} (p-value)														
	F_{ST} (p-value)	Φ_{ST} (p-value)	12S $n_H=6$	16S $n_H=7$	ATP6 $n_H=20$	ATP8 $n_H=5$	COI $n_H=21$	COII $n_H=13$	COIII $n_H=11$	CYTB $n_H=20$	CR $n_H=20$	ND1 $n_H=15$	ND2 $n_H=17$	ND3 $n_H=10$	ND4 $n_H=23$	ND4L $n_H=2$	ND5 $n_H=29$
Coastal (24) vs. Offshore (52)	0.0125 (0.0402)	-0.0091 (0.4961)	0.0089 (0.2553)	-0.0316 (0.9932)	-0.0149 (0.6788)	-0.0169 (0.7536)	0.0018 (0.3265)	-0.0133 (0.6182)	-0.0243 (0.8890)	-0.0143 (0.6067)	-0.0122 (0.7336)	-0.0099 (0.5357)	-0.0198 (0.7610)	-0.0222 (0.9006)	-0.0042 (0.4085)	0.0041 (0.3023)	-0.0056 (0.4217)
Northeastern (25) vs. western-southern (17)	0.0045 (0.2099)	-0.0076 (0.4111)	-0.0014 (0.3779)	0.0079 (0.2841)	-0.0156 (0.5332)	0.0057 (0.2691)	-0.0194 (0.6164)	0.0003 (0.3637)	-0.0193 (0.5067)	-0.0211 (0.5423)	-0.0091 (0.5552)	0.0086 (0.2585)	-0.0021 (0.3473)	-0.0068 (0.4139)	0.0039 (0.3077)	-0.0038 (0.3771)	-0.0187 (0.5574)
Coastal (24) vs. northeastern (25)	0.0302 (0.0002)	-0.0082 (0.4405)	0.0032 (0.3375)	-0.0326 (0.8096)	-0.0204 (0.7070)	-0.0061 (0.4689)	-0.0007 (0.3651)	-0.0060 (0.4325)	-0.0271 (0.7540)	-0.0201 (0.6148)	-0.0041 (0.4653)	0.0031 (0.3041)	-0.0119 (0.4797)	-0.0105 (0.4947)	0.0055 (0.2923)	0.0016 (0.3249)	-0.0125 (0.5309)
Coastal (24) vs. western-southern (17)	0.0144 (0.0884)	-0.0342 (0.8102)	-0.0186 (0.5621)	-0.0356 (0.6598)	-0.0297 (0.7402)	0.0081 (0.3153)	-0.0313 (0.8118)	-0.0355 (0.8624)	-0.0449 (0.8950)	-0.0385 (0.8666)	-0.0024 (0.8060)	-0.0392 (0.9142)	-0.0335 (0.7224)	-0.0393 (0.9112)	-0.0311 (0.7582)	-0.0360 (0.7624)	-0.0285 (0.6812)
Offshore southern (9) vs. offshore western (8)	0.0771 (0.2249)	0.1666 (0.0668)	-0.1717 (0.0781)	0.2129 (0.0618)	0.1167 (0.1039)	0.1117 (0.0801)	0.1229 (0.0743)	0.1361 (0.0939)	0.1816 (0.0767)	-0.0471 (0.4611)	0.0683 (0.1177)	0.1767 (0.0575)	0.1771 (0.0743)	0.1155 (0.1183)	0.2148 (0.0394)	0.1382 (0.1231)	0.1895 (0.0529)
Northeastern (25) vs. offshore western (8)	0.0027 (0.4291)	0.1135 (0.0517)	0.0853 (0.0945)	0.1848 (0.0352)	0.0728 (0.1223)	0.1128 (0.0252)	0.0575 (0.1397)	0.1164 (0.0504)	0.1117 (0.0749)	0.0064 (0.3259)	0.0348 (0.1635)	0.1525 (0.0372)	0.1179 (0.0775)	0.1142 (0.0697)	0.1497 (0.0394)	0.1309 (0.0689)	0.0894 (0.0957)
Northeastern (25) vs. offshore southern (9)	0.0073 (0.3755)	-0.0400 (0.7446)	-0.0242 (0.5728)	-0.0537 (0.8008)	-0.0468 (0.8162)	-0.0691 (0.9552)	-0.0291 (0.6287)	-0.0387 (0.7512)	-0.0491 (0.7828)	-0.0509 (0.8168)	-0.0300 (0.7886)	-0.0379 (0.7394)	-0.0392 (0.7150)	-0.0551 (0.9540)	-0.0238 (0.5626)	-0.0694 (0.9756)	-0.0327 (0.6092)
Coastal (24) vs. offshore southern (9)	0.0255 (0.0762)	-0.0130 (0.4065)	-0.0323 (0.5874)	-0.0277 (0.4713)	-0.0279 (0.5721)	-0.0147 (0.4071)	-0.0122 (0.4423)	-0.0079 (0.3971)	-0.0227 (0.4611)	-0.0579 (0.8690)	-0.0418 (0.8558)	-0.0012 (0.3477)	-0.0419 (0.6714)	-0.0309 (0.5854)	0.0051 (0.3209)	-0.0160 (0.4301)	-0.0030 (0.3453)
Coastal (24) vs. offshore western (8)	0.0049 (0.4321)	0.0749 (0.1331)	0.1368 (0.0559)	0.1366 (0.0855)	0.0594 (0.1583)	0.1363 (0.0167)	0.0751 (0.1281)	0.0406 (0.1953)	0.0769 (0.1535)	-0.0089 (0.3361)	0.0488 (0.1359)	0.0609 (0.1541)	0.0901 (0.1101)	-0.0372 (0.2059)	0.1067 (0.0881)	0.0239 (0.2425)	0.0841 (0.1269)
Hawaii (5) vs. Coastal (24)	0.1430 (0.0026)	0.2773 (0.0208)	0.4166 (0.0019)	0.2176 (0.0572)	0.2767 (0.0174)	-0.0502 (0.5687)	0.4032 (0.0028)	0.1687 (0.0762)	0.2175 (0.0585)	-0.2859 (0.0254)	0.2037* (0.0326)	0.3643 (0.0049)	0.1575* (0.0947)	0.3085 (0.0042)	0.2660 (0.0252)	0.2811 (0.0202)	0.2541 (0.0244)
Hawaii (5) vs. Offshore (47)	0.1181 (0.0006)	0.1582 (0.0389)	0.1806 (0.0422)	-0.1282 (0.1107)	0.1882 (0.0352)	-0.0459 (0.6156)	-0.2138 (0.0124)	-0.0818 (0.1323)	0.1361 (0.0632)	-0.0849 (0.1481)	0.1485* (0.0475)	0.2598 (0.0082)	0.1146* (0.1449)	0.2609 (0.0054)	0.1239 (0.0593)	0.1689 (0.0545)	0.1303 (0.0517)
Hawaii (5) vs. northeastern (25)	0.0576 (0.2709)	0.1308 (0.0645)	0.1153 (0.0962)	0.0809 (0.1793)	0.1584 (0.0353)	-0.0198 (0.4695)	-0.1981 (0.0206)	0.0638 (0.1739)	0.1099 (0.1123)	0.1478 (0.0714)	0.1372* (0.0567)	0.2499 (0.0102)	0.0869* (0.1279)	0.2751 (0.0051)	0.0984 (0.1029)	0.1446 (0.0843)	0.0951 (0.1355)
Hawaii (5) vs. western-southern (17)	0.2474 (0.0702)	0.2273 (0.0238)	0.2942 (0.0284)	0.2139 (0.0774)	0.2670 (0.0297)	-0.0542 (0.8308)	0.2583 (0.0244)	0.1353 (0.1133)	-0.1992 (0.0547)	0.2259 (0.0286)	0.1704* (0.0547)	0.3089 (0.0196)	0.1793*((0.1473)	0.2751 (0.0234)	0.1925 (0.0356)	0.2673 (0.0342)	0.2062 (0.0366)
Hawaii (5) vs. offshore western (8)	0.4958 (0.0732)	0.4932 (0.0179)	0.4558 (0.0318)	0.5298 (0.0168)	0.4984 (0.0148)	0.0285 (0.3925)	0.4640 (0.0119)	0.4572 (0.0364)	0.5036 (0.0352)	0.0013 (0.4061)	0.3598* (0.0771)	0.5523 (0.0039)	0.4484* (0.0328)	0.4915 (0.0033)	0.5093 (0.0114)	0.1309 (0.0689)	.0924 (0.1393)
Hawaii (5) vs. offshore southern (9)	0.1509 (0.2207)	0.1274 (0.1167)	0.3012 (0.0268)	0.0306 (0.2757)	0.1750 (0.0718)	0.0443 (0.1961)	0.2126 (0.0202)	0.0036 (0.4437)	0.0161 (0.3045)	0.1384 (0.0872)	-0.1260* (0.0865)	0.2138 (0.0178)	0.0039* (0.2641)	-0.0551 (0.0206)	0.0808 (0.1389)	0.1382 (0.1231)	0.5038 (0.0198)

24 *Table 5.* Summary table of pairwise comparisons using mtDNA and nuDNA data sets (sample
 25 sizes in parentheses). In the mtDNA column, a “□” denotes significance of whole mtDNA based
 26 on at least one measure (see Tables 2-4), ‘ns’ = non-significant, “~” = indicating possible
 27 structure with *P*-value between 0.05 and 0.1. “# Genes” is the number of significant mtDNA
 28 genes (“~” + # for nearly significant genes). For the nuDNA column, a “□” denotes significance
 29 and ‘NA’ denotes not tested (Leslie & Morin 2016; *Escorza-Treviño *et al.* 2005).

Spinner dolphins	Taxon 1 (n _{mt} /n _{nuc})	Taxon 2 (n _{mt} /n _{nuc})	mtDNA		nuDNA
			Whole	# Genes	
Test of endemic subspecies	Central American (9/9)	eastern (53/36)	□	0	□
Testing whitebelly intergrade	Central American (9/7)	whitebelly (27/15)	~	7; ~1	□
Testing whitebelly intergrade	eastern (54/36)	whitebelly (27/15)	~	8; ~1	□
Alternative stock hypotheses	Tres Marias (21/12)	Central American (9/9)	~	0	□
“”	Tres Marias (21/12)	Eastern (32/36)	ns	0	□
“”	Tres Marias (21/12)	Whitebelly (27/12)	~	4; ~5	□
“”	Hawaii (15/0)	Whitebelly (27/0)	□	11	NA
“”	Hawaii (15/0)	Eastern (32/0)	□	11; ~1	NA
“”	Hawaii (15/0)	Central American (9/0)	□	12; ~1	NA
“”	Hawaii (15/0)	Tres Marias (21/0)	□	13; ~1	NA

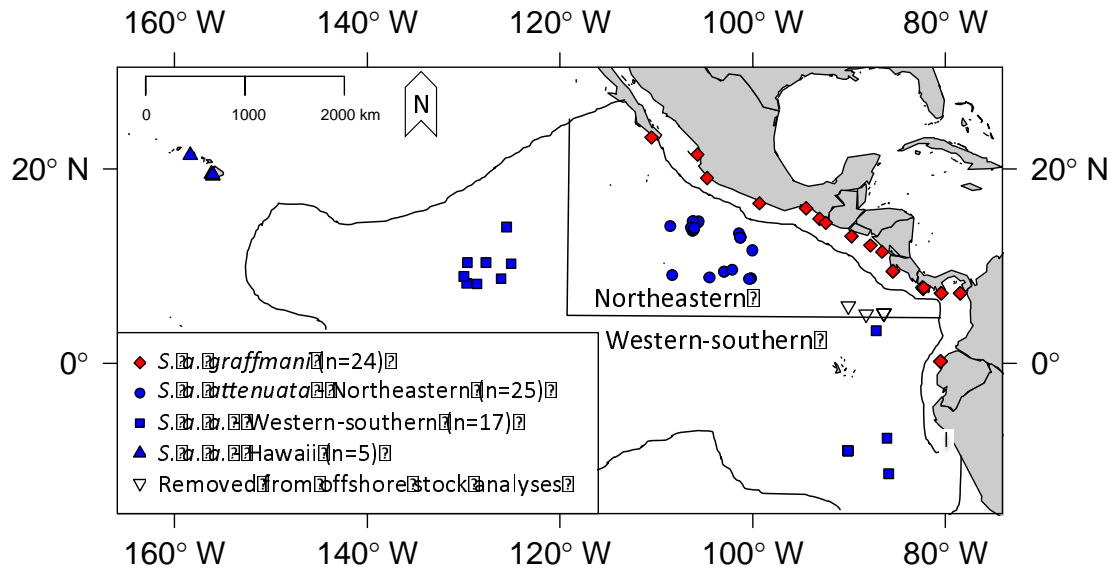
Spotted dolphins	Taxon 1 (n _{mt} /n _{nuc})	Taxon 2 (n _{mt} /n _{nuc})	mtDNA		nuDNA
			Whole	# Genes	
Testing subspecies	Offshore (52/13)	Coastal (24/27)	□	0	□*
Testing existing stocks	Offshore NE (25/15)	Off. western-southern (17/16)	ns	0	□
Testing existing stocks	Offshore NE (25/15)	Coastal (24/27)	□	0	□
Testing existing stocks	Offshore WS (17/16)	Coastal (24/27)	~	0	□
Alternative stock hypotheses	Offshore southern (9/0)	Offshore western (8/0)	~	1; ~9	NA
“”	Offshore NE (25/0)	Offshore western (8/0)	~	4; ~7	NA
“”	Offshore NE (25/0)	Offshore southern (9/0)	ns	0	NA
“”	Offshore southern (9/0)	Coastal (24/0)	~	0	NA
“”	Offshore western (8/0)	Coastal (24/0)	ns	1; ~3	NA
“”	Hawaii (5/0)	Coastal (24/0)	□	10; ~4	NA
“”	Hawaii (5/0)	Offshore (52/0)	□	6; ~4	NA
“”	Hawaii (5/0)	Offshore NE (25/0)	~	4; ~4	NA
“”	Hawaii (5/0)	Offshore WS (17/0)	□	9; ~3	NA
“”	Hawaii (5/0)	Offshore western (8/0)	□	10; ~2	NA
“”	Hawaii (5/0)	Offshore southern(9/0)	ns	5; ~3	NA

30 *Figure 1. Sampling localities and range map for spinner dolphins within the ETP.*
31 Subspecies and stock boundaries based on Perrin *et al.* 1985. Red dots indicate Central
32 American spinners. Blue symbols indicate eastern spinners - boxes are the proposed Tres
33 Marias form. Green dots indicate whitebelly spinners, a proposed intergrade between the
34
35



36

37 *Figure 2.* Sampling localities for spotted dolphins with ETP subspecies and stock
38 boundaries based on Perrin *et al.* 1985. Coastal spotted dolphins (*S. a. graffmani*) are in
39 red and offshore (*S. a. attenuata*) are in blue. Blue circles indicate sampling locations for
40 the northeastern stock of offshore spotted dolphins. Blue triangles indicate samples from
41 Hawaii. Inverted triangles indicate southern offshore samples that were removed from
42 analyses of offshore stocks because they were collected between 4°N and 6°N; these
43 samples were included in subspecies-level analyses. Animals that represent the western
44 substock were the group of blue squares west of 120°W and animals representing the
45 southern sub-stock were the group of blue squares taken from south of the 5°N stock
46 boundary. Samples sizes for mtDNA analyses presented in the legend.



47