

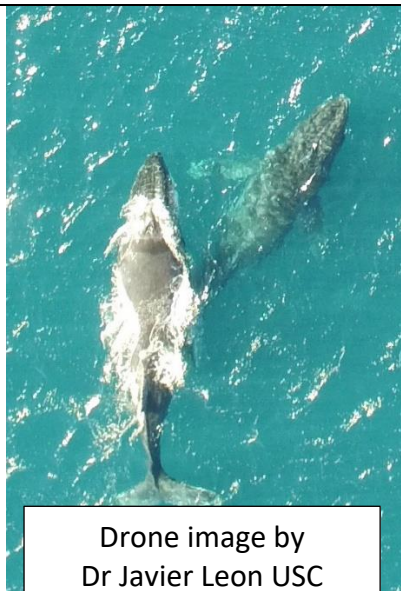


FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

March 22, 2019

Using Drones to Monitor Local Whale Populations



Drone image by
Dr Javier Leon USC

Guest speaker at Noosa Parks Association's Friday Environment Forum this week will be **Emily Gregory**, a graduate of marine science honours at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

"I am passionate about understanding the ecological interactions that occur within our marine environments and deciphering this vital information to understand our inextricable connection to the ocean" she writes.

Although Australia's humpback whale numbers have rebounded since our historical whaling practices, with increasing environmental variability and the rapid growth of their population, it is unknown to us how these whales will respond.

My talk will explore the current use of drones in cetacean research and our novel approach here on the Sunshine Coast,

using consumer-grade drone imagery to assess Australia's east-coast humpback whales.

"Ultimately, we aim to provide a protocol for using consumer-grade drones effectively for long-term monitoring of surface-active marine mammals allowing us to gain valuable insights into the body condition of individual animals and at the population-level, start to understand their responses to changing oceanic environments" she says.

To learn more about this innovative approach to marine mammal research, join the audience at the Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive, Noosaville. The forum commences at 10.30am and coffee will be on offer from 10am. All welcome.

Learn about our local birds and
insects

Meet Valda and the
Interpretive Birding Group in
the car park at 8.30am.



Emily Gregory utilises drone imagery to
conduct local marine mammal research.