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Episode 12 with Earthwatch scientist Dr. Lenin E. Oviedo Correa!

40% of the global human population live within 100 km (~60 miles) of the marine coastline. We have long been drawn to that magical place where the land—our habitat—meets the sea, the habitat and home to more species than we can ever know. Most of those are small—some requiring microscopes to see, but many are not. In fact, many of the largest creatures to ever roam or swim on earth are frequently observed just offshore. Dr. Lenin Oviedo is interested in those “megafaunal species”, including whales and

dolphins, and sharks and rays, and how they are able to share the coastal waters in which they live with us and all of the impacts we impose on those fruitful, nearshore waters. Dr. Oviedo has been the Principal Investigator for the Marine Mammals and Predators in Costa Rica project that we've supported since 2013, and is launching a similar project based in La Paz and Magdalena Bays in Baja, Mexico, starting next year.





RESOURCE LIST

- Oviedo Lenin. 2007. Dolphin sympatric ecology in a tropical fjord: habitat partitioning by bathymetry and topography as a strategy to coexist. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association*. U.K. 87: 1327–1335.
- Oviedo, Lenin et al. 2008. “The song of the southeast pacific humpback whale (*Megaptera*

novaeangliae) off Las Perlas Archipelago, Panama: preliminary characterization." *Aquatic Mammals*. 34: 458-463

- Oviedo, Lenin and Mauricio Solis. 2008. "Underwater topography determines critical breeding habitat for humpback whales near Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica: implications for Marine Protected Areas." *Revista de Biología Tropical*. 56(2): 591-602
- Márquez-Artavia, Amaru et al. 2012. "The utilization and distribution of humpback whales in Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica" IWC/SC/64/O15. Paper presented at the 64th International Whaling Commission Meeting in Panama, 2012.



Dr. Lenin E. Oviedo Correa

Research Associate & Associate Head of the Tropical Marine Mammals Ecology Lab, Centro de Investigación de Cetáceos Costa Rica (CEIC)

Dr. Lenin Enrique Oviedo Correa has 20 years of experience on marine biodiversity and habitat analyses projects in his home country of Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Africa. His research focuses on habitat assessments through the behavior and trophic and spatial ecology of small odontocetes (toothed whales, including dolphins). Through his research, he aims to determine the behavior ecology of dolphins that live in the same area in the tropics and encounter each other frequently, which includes the groups in Golfo Dulce. Lenin is currently a chief scientific advisor and research associate with Centro de Investigacion de Cetaceos de Costa Rica (CEIC).



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Featured Expedition



MARINE MAMMALS AND PREDATORS IN COSTA RICA

Climb aboard a motorboat and sail a tropical “inner sea” in search of endangered dolphins and whales in Costa Rica.

North America: Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica

Lead Scientist: Lenin E. Oviedo Correa, Ph.D.

Duration: 9 days (avg. \$272 a day)

[Expedition Details](#)

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Earthwatch depends on donations—above and beyond what we raise from volunteers who participate on our expeditions—in order to deliver our global conservation mission. In fact, volunteer

contributions provide only half of the total resources Earthwatch needs to sustain over 40 field research expeditions, a wide variety of educational programs, corporate sustainability trainings, and more each year.

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