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Identifying critical areas and habitat prefere *Tursiops truncatus*

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ABSTRACT: We present the findings of a 2-yr study of habitat use by bottle the west coast of Ireland. Data were collected during repeated, stand predefined 150 km^2 area of the outer estuary. Areas found to exceed a uni and delimited using the 50% contour derived from harmonic mean transfor preferential use of areas of the estuary with the greatest benthic slo environmental heterogeneity on habitat use by this species. Additionall sightings of uniquely marked dolphins which provided distribution data frequently sighted dolphins overlapped, a degree of partitioning was found The methods presented here could be applied at a range of spatial scales a areas within a population¹s range is a priority when planning any conservati

KEY WORDS: Bottlenose dolphins · Habitat use · Critical areas · Conservatio

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