STUDYING THE DEEP FROM ABOVE

An aerial photogrammetric study of sperm whales at Kaikoura

Questions:

- Do previous acoustic measurements of sperm whales match with absolute measurements made from drones?
- What is the size structure of this population like?

How?

- By flying a drone above the whales we can determine their size very accurately, as well as other parameters such as condition (fatness)

- We can use this information to quantify the size structure of the population and estimate growth rates

- We will also measure the whales acoustically, based on the pulse-structure of their echolocation clicks, to compare with our absolute

Sperm whales have the largest brain of any animal on earth, and can dive to over 2000 meters deep!

This research is important to validate previous acoustic measurements and understand more about the size structure of the sperm whales found in Kaikoura

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