INTRODUCTION
Solitary dolphins have been reported worldwide and the number of occurrences seems to be increasing (Frohoff et al., 2006). These reports concern several species of odontocetes, such as the killer whale (Orcinus orca), the beluga (Delphinapterus leucas) and other small delphinids, but the most reported species is the bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) (Wilke et al., 2005; Frohoff et al., 2006). In late July 2011 a juvenile bottlenose dolphin of unknown gender was first reported by local fishers in the Alvor estuary, Portugal. It was seen daily in the area until the end of September of the same year. The present work reports this occurrence.

RESULTS
Most of the time the dolphin was seen swimming around the entrance of the estuary with a mean dive time of 2 minutes. It displayed, in general, a very shy behaviour avoiding humans and boats, unlike most of the reported cases. More activity was observed, such as aerial behaviours, whenever the animal was at least 500 m away from the estuary mouth seawards. The tidal state didn’t seem to influence its activities.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION
Although this juvenile seemed to be on the first stage described by Wilke and colleagues (2005), avoiding humans, this event posed a great opportunity for cooperation and awareness with the local community, namely fishers that usually have daily and long-term contact with these marine animals. It was also a good occasion to improve their understanding on the importance of preserving these species, since the dolphins are frequently pointed by fishers to be responsible for impacting negatively various fisheries. Furthermore, tourists were as well a target for environmental education outreach as the dolphin was easily spotted from land during the summer season.

Acknowledgments
This study could not have been possible without the help of the local community that provided valuable information and the Sociedade Portuguesa de Vida Selvagem (Portuguese Society of Wildlife) that gave the alert to the presence of the dolphin.