

INTO THE DEEP



30<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE  
EUROPEAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

MADEIRA · 2016

14<sup>TH</sup> TO 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, FUNCHAL

**INTO THE DEEP:  
RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION  
ON OCEANIC MARINE MAMMALS**

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME





Sperm whale

photo: Luís Freitas©Museu da Baleia da Madeira

**Abstract book of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society** - version 2.1, updated 08-03-2016

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**European Cetacean Society** - [www.europeancetaceansociety.eu](http://www.europeancetaceansociety.eu)

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Madeira Whale Museum - an institution of Machico Municipality.

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# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## SATURDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016

### **WORKSHOPS**

For the location of the workshop rooms please see map and directions on pages 9–12 or use the conference mobile application (ECS2016APP) for live orientation (this only works if you are connected to internet) or to consult offline the workshops's map. The buildings where the workshops will take place will be identified outside by conference roll ups/banners.

#### **ECS student workshop – Where the wild things are**

09:00 – 16:30 Venue: Catamaran of VMT-Madeira (**Room J**) at Funchal Marina and auditorium of *Centro de Estudos de História do Atlântico* (**Room H**)

#### **Development of a conservation status surveillance system for monk seals**

09:00 – 17:30 Venue: Auditorium Golden Gate (**Room C**)

#### **Conserving Europe's cetaceans through synergy-building between the relevant legislative frameworks**

09:30 – 17:40 Venue: Auditorium of the *Museu de Electricidade* (**Room A**)

#### **Remote insular marine habitats: how important are these regions for oceanic cetacean populations**

09:15 – 12:30 Venue: Auditorium of *Tribunal de Contas* (**Room B**)

#### **Platforms of opportunity as research vehicles: benefits and limitations**

14:15 – 17:30 Venue: Auditorium of *Tribunal de Contas* (**Room B**)

## SUNDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016

### WORKSHOPS

#### **Control Exposure Experiments - Scientific Advisory Committee workshop**

09:00 – 17:00 Venue: auditorium of *Centro de Estudos de História do Atlântico* (**Room G**)

#### **The Joint Cetacean Protocol: lessons learned and looking to the future**

09:30 – 17:00 Venue: auditorium InfoArt (**Room D**)

#### **Integrating abundance and distribution information into the process for the identification of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)**

09:00 – 17:30 Venue: Auditorium of *Tribunal de Contas* (**Room B**)

#### **Changing values, uses and practices regarding marine mammals: from the Iron Age to early modern and contemporary times**

09:30 – 17:30 Venue: Auditorium of *Espaço de Memórias João Carlos Abreu* (**Room H**)

#### **Marine Mammal Rescue**

09:30 – 17:00 Venue: Auditorium of *Conservatório - Escola de Artes – Eng. Luíz Peter Clode* (**Rooms I**)

#### **Developing tools to ensure high quality MMOs in the ACCOBAMS area**

09:00 – 17:30 Venue: Auditorium at *Casa-Museu Frederico de Freitas* (**Room F**)

#### **Threats to marine mammals in the Mediterranean Sea: how do they cope with human impact?**

09:00 – 16:30 Venue: Auditorium Golden Gate (**Room C**)

#### **What is new in cetacean pathology**

09:30 – 18:00 Venue: Auditorium of *Conservatório - Escola de Artes – Eng. Luíz Peter Clode* (**Rooms I**)

#### **4th workshop on communicating marine mammal science to the general public**

09:00 – 18:00 Venue: auditorium of *Madeira Whale Museum*, Caniçal

### REGISTRATION

15:00 – 19:00 – **Centro de Congressos da Madeira**

### ICEBREAKER

19:00 – 23:00 – **Icebreaker at the Madeira Whale Museum, Caniçal**

Buses will leave the *Centro de Congressos da Madeira* at 19:00 to transport the participants to the Madeira Whale Museum at Caniçal where the Icebreaker will take place. Transport to Funchal will be secured by the same buses starting to leave Caniçal at 22:00.

## MONDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016

### REGISTRATION

08:00 - 09:00 – Registration/help desk of the *Centro de Congressos da Madeira*

### OPENING

09:00 - 09:30 - Auditorium of the *Centro de Congressos da Madeira*

*Please note: Only presenting authors are listed below*

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

09:30 – 10:15 **Sperm whale societies of the Atlantic and Pacific: why so different?**  
Prof. Hal Whitehead

### ABUNDANCE AND DISTRIBUTION I

Chairperson: **Hal Whitehead**

10:15 – 10:30 Density dependent responses in Southern Right whales *Eubalaena australis* at Península Valdés, Argentina - **Enrique Crespo**

10:30 – 10:45 A generalized logistic regression model of the functional distribution of fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) in Catalonian coasts - **Daniel Patón**

10:45 – 11:00 Connecting the dots between Critical Habitats for beaked whales in the deep ocean - **Laura Feyrer**

11:00 - 11:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

### BEHAVIOUR

Chairperson: **Mario Acquarone**

11:45 – 12:00 Habitat use and activity patterns of landlocked Baltic Ringed seals - **Martin Silts**

12:00 – 12:15 Seeking companions: An analysis of cetacean mixed-species associations and co-occurrence in the eastern and central Pacific - **Mridula Srinivasan**

12:15 – 12:30 Sperm whales reduce foraging effort during exposure to 1-2 kHz sonar and killer whale sounds - **Saana Isojunno**

12:30 – 12:45 Humpback dolphins (*Sousa plumbea*) in south-eastern South African waters-where to from here - **Stephanie Ploen**

12:45 - 13:00 Next level fission fusion society: fin whales - **Christian Ramp**

13:00 - 14:15 **LUNCH BREAK**

### SHORT-TALKS

14:15 – 15:15 **ECOLOGY, BEHAVIOUR AND STRANDINGS**

Chairperson: **Mark Simmonds**

- Photo-identification as a tool to monitor the critically endangered Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus* in Greece - **Styliani Adamantopoulou**

- Behavioural observations on wild harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) using drones - an innovative approach to marine mammal monitoring and behavioural analysis - **Daniela Prömper**

- Stranded minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) cases on Cape Cod, MA, USA from 1999-2014, with a review of pathology findings including ship strikes, entanglements and brucellosis - **Misty Niemeyer**

- Finding food in the ocean: could cetaceans use chemical cues? - **Bertrand Bouchard**

- [Cytochrome P450 1A1](#) and 2B protein expression as biomarker for the first assessment of the ecotoxicological status of Cuvier's beaked (*Ziphius cavirostris*) in the NW Mediterranean Sea - **Matteo Baini**
- [Preliminary ecotoxicological](#) data on C type killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) from Terra Nova Bay (Antarctica): Molecular biomarkers and persistent organic contaminants - **Cristina Panti**
- [“Weather or not?”](#) An investigation into the effect of variations in oceanographic and meteorological conditions on cetacean strandings along the Irish coast - **Emer Keaveney**
- [Studying the vertical](#) distribution of small cetaceans and their prey in a tidal stream Demonstration Zone - **Gemma Veneruso**
- [Causes of death](#) of harbor porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) stranded on the northern French coastline (1995-2015) - **Thierry Jauniaux**

### **STRANDINGS AND ANATOMY**

Chairperson: **Antonio Fernández**

- [15:15 – 15:30](#) CSI of the sea - investigating UK strandings over the last 25 years - **Robert Deaville**
- [15:30 – 15:45](#) Localization and characterization of the brain structures of the stress system in toothed whales - **Simona Sacchini**
- [15:45 - 16:00](#) Rescue response to long-finned pilot whale mass stranding events in the United Kingdom - **Stephen Marsh**
- 16:00 - 16:30 [COFFEE BREAK](#)

### **ACOUSTIC AND HUMAN INTERACTIONS**

Chairperson: **Rui Prieto**

- [16:30 - 16:45](#) Signature whistles and group composition in resident bottlenose dolphins: can we link photo-id with emissions? - **Ana Rita Luís**
- [16:45 – 17:00](#) Responses of seals to mitigation signals revealed by at sea controlled exposure experiments - **Jonathan Gordon**
- [17:00 – 17:15](#) Conservation of killer whales in the Strait of Gibraltar requires ecosystem-based bluefin tuna fishery management - **Ruth Esteban**
- [17:15 – 17:30](#) Assessing the impact of underwater clearance of unexploded ordnance on harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Southern North Sea - **Alexander von Benda-Beckmann**
- [17:30 – 17:45](#) Ambient & vessel noise measurement and marine mammal monitoring in the Strait of Georgia, British-Columbia, Canada - **John Moloney**

### **POSTER SESSION 1 – odd numbers**

17:45 - 19:15 – Poster room at *Centro de Congressos da Madeira*

### **MADEIRA AT SUNSET**

19:00 - 20:45 – Sunset boat trip – see information about the event in [USEFUL INFORMATION](#)

19:30 – 20:30 – Madeira Wine Tasting – see information about the event in [USEFUL INFORMATION](#)

## **TUESDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

- [09:00 – 09:45](#) **The ecological importance of open waters and oceanic islands for baleen whales**  
Dra. Mónica Silva



## ECOLOGY

Chairperson: **Mónica Silva**

- [09:45 – 10:00](#) Niche diversification in deep-diving sperm, pilot and beaked whales - **Natacha Aguilar de Soto**
- 10:00 – 10:15 Ecological insights from long-term trends in cetacean stomach contents – **Andrew Brownlow**
- [10:15 – 10:30](#) The effect of changing environmental conditions on the distribution of fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) in the Northeast Atlantic - **Anna Schleimer**
- [10:30 – 10:45](#) Stable isotope analysis reveals inter-specific and individual variation in migration strategies and wintering habitats in NE Atlantic blue, fin and sei whales - **Rui Prieto**
- [10:45 – 11:00](#) Results from chemical marker analyses question some of the currently accepted conservation units for Atlantic whale populations - **Morgana Vighi**
- 11:00 – 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

## HUMAN INTERACTIONS

Chairperson: **Luís Freitas**

- [11:30 – 11:45](#) Use of AIS data for characterization of passenger vessel traffic in the Pelagos Sanctuary and assessment of impact risk - **Alessandro Bisson**
- [11:45 – 12:00](#) Assessing the ecological risk of anthropogenic noise pollution from maritime traffic on the Cuvier's beaked whale in the Genoa Canyon - **Frazer Coomber**
- [12:00 – 12:15](#) Dolphin depredation of bottom-set fishing nets in the Gulf of Corinth, Mediterranean Sea - **Silvia Bonizzoni**
- [12:15 – 12:30](#) The PlasticPelagos Project: microplastics, convergence areas and fin whales in the Pelagos Sanctuary (northwestern Mediterranean Sea) - **Maria Cristina Fossi**
- [12:30 – 12:45](#) Common dolphins, *Delphinus delphis*, and the Portuguese sardine purse-seine fishery: Interactions, feeding ecology and mitigation - **Ana Marçalo**
- [12:45 – 13:00](#) Predicting the effects of human developments on individual dolphins to understand potential long-term population consequences - **Enrico Pirotta**
- 13:00 – 14:15 **LUNCH** (short student AGM meeting in the conference room at 13:00)

## SHORT-TALKS

14:15 – 15:15 **ECOLOGY, ABUNDANCE, GENETIC AND ANATOMY**

Chairperson: **Alexandros Frantzis**

- [A genetic perspective](#) of one of the smallest conservation units of bottlenose dolphin in Europe – the Sado population (Portugal) - **Inês Carvalho**
- [Risso's dolphin](#) (*Grampus griseus*) absolute abundance estimates using photographic mark-recapture methods in the northwestern part of the Pelagos Sanctuary, Mediterranean Sea - **Sabina Airoidi**
- [Skull shapes](#) of the Lissodelphininae: open ocean to nearshore - **Anders Galatius**
- [Cetaceans distribution](#) in the Macaronesia: from Portugal to Cape Verde - **Ana Mafalda Correia**
- [Deep sea predators](#) in Irish waters and their trophic relevance - **Gema Hernandez-Milian**
- [Autonomous photo trap](#) systems: new tool for the monk seal conservation in Madeira - **Rosa Pires**
- Using radiocarbon to study Southern hemisphere humpback whale feeding ecology and migration - **Pascale Eisenmann**
- [Genomic insights](#) into the origin, spread and pathogenicity of Influenza A virus in marine mammals - **Linnea Worsøe Købke**

## MODELLING

Chairperson: **Sophie Laran**

[15:15 – 15:30](#) Data degradation: an approach to simulating rare species distribution models - **Auriane Virgili**

[15:30 – 15:45](#) Using environmental envelopes to assess existing cetacean data collections and help prioritize survey effort at the basin scale - **Laura Mannocci**

[15:45 - 16:00](#) Estimating proportion of occupied area in single - visit surveys of marine mammals - **Matthieu Authier**

16:00 - 16:30 COFFEE BREAK

## ABUNDANCE AND DISTRIBUTION II

Chairperson: **Phil Hammond**

[16:30 - 16:45](#) Distribution, abundance and habitat use of bottlenose dolphin in the Madeira archipelago - **Luís Freitas**

[16:45 – 17:00](#) Mediterranean Monk seal distribution in the Saharan coast (Mauritania/Morocco) - **Pablo Fernández de Larrinoa**

[17:00 – 17:15](#) Using seismic data to study fin whales in offshore waters off southwest Portugal - **Andreia Pereira**

[17:15 – 17:30](#) Model based humpback, fin whale and krill distribution – results of a snapshot study from the west Antarctic Peninsula - **Helena Herr**

[17:30 – 17:45](#) The First REMMOA Program: A tropical tour of marine mammal biodiversity across three oceans - **Sophie Laran**

[17:45 – 18:00](#) Observatory of the Mediterranean monk seal population of the Cabo Blanco Peninsula (Mauritania/Morocco). An important conservation tool - **Mercedes Muñoz Cañas**

## FOR INFO

18:00 – 18:30

- Ship Strikes: How to Mitigate a Problem with Many Unknowns – **Fabian Ritter**
- Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs): why do we need them? – **Micheal Tetley**
- Years of new learning from cetaceans in arctic norway - before the increased human presence – **Russel Baker and Mario Acquarone**

## POSTER SESSION 2 - even numbers

18:30 - 20:00 - Poster room at *Centro de Congressos da Madeira*

## VIDEO NIGHT

21:15 23:00 Video Night at *Centro de Congressos da Madeira*

23:00 - onwards - **Students party**

## WEDNESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

09:00 – 09:45 **Oasis in a desert sea: island-associated populations of open-ocean odontocetes in the Hawaiian archipelago** - Dr. Robin Baird

## CONSERVATION AND ENERGETICS

Chairperson: **Robin Baird**

[09:45 - 10:00](#) The science and policy drivers leading to a mitigation zone for beaked whales along the Irish shelf edge - **Simon Berrow**

[10:00 – 10:15](#) An evaluation of EU Habitats Directive criteria for a mobile cetacean in a small country - **Tina Centrih**

[10:15 – 10:30](#) A critical assessment of research trajectories concerning climate change, with recommendations for future engagement - **Mark Simmonds**

[10:30 – 10:45](#) Using management strategy evaluation to test the performance of a potential biological removal tier system - **Paula Moreno**

[10:45 - 11:00](#) The benefit of being big: body rotations and acceleration over a 3000:1 mass range in cetaceans - **Lucia Martina Martin Lopez**

11:00 - 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

## GENETICS

Chairperson: **Inês Carvalho**

[11:30 - 11:45](#) Reconstructing the post-glacial colonization of the northern extreme of the range of a top marine predator, the bottlenose dolphin - **Milaja Nykanen**

[11:45 – 12:00](#) History of population fragmentation and collapse in the endangered Yangtze finless porpoise revealed by population genetics - **Yacine Ben Chehida**

## SHORT-TALKS

12:00 – 13:00 **CONSERVATION, HUMAN INTERACTIONS, ACOUSTICS AND HISTORY**

Chairperson: **Cristina Brito**

- [Harmonization](#) of general and local approaches to effective conservation of critically endangered population of Baltic harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in Polish waters - **Iwona Pawliczka**
- [Computing ship](#) strike and near miss along main shipping lanes; results of a direct observation study in the Mediterranean Sea undertaken from 2007 to 2015 - **Antonella Arcangeli**
- [A new equation](#) to calculate the allometric inter-pulse interval to body length relationship in Mediterranean male sperm whales - **Nino Pierantonio**
- [Risk assessment](#) of port activities on cetaceans, a framework to analyse and reduce the impacts: case study on the Guiana dolphin in southern Brazil - **Tara Van Belleghem**
- [Fishing's phantom](#) menace: the impact of lost and discarded fishing gear on European cetaceans & pinnipeds - **Elizabeth Hogan**
- [Estimates of grey seal](#) predation mortality on three principal commercial demersal species in a mixed fishery and the implications for stock assessments - **Vanessa Trijoulet**
- [Sperm whale codas](#) can encode individuality as well as clan identity - **Cláudia Oliveira**
- [Social and biological](#) implications of medieval European whaling - **Youri van den Hurk**
- [Spatio-temporal variation](#) in click production rates of beaked whales: implications for passive acoustic density estimation - **Victoria Warren**

13:00 - 14:15 **LUNCH BREAK**

14:15 - 15:30 Workshop reports

15:30 - 16:45 **Annual General Meeting**

16:45 - 17:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

17:15 - 18:15 **Awards & Closing**

- Student awards

- Video award

- Mandy McMath Conservation Award

**CONFERENCE DINNER**

20:00 – 22:00 – Hotel Pestana Casino Park

**DANCING**

22:00 – 01:00 – Hotel Pestana Casino Park

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**THURSDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016**

**WORKSHOPS**

**Marine mammals pathology: update of the necropsy protocol on dissection techniques and tissue sampling – Part II**

10:00 – 17:30 Venue: Auditorium of Portugal Telecom (**Room E**)

**WHALE-WATCHING**

09:30 - 12:30 - **Whale-watching trip** - see information about the event in **USEFUL INFORMATION**

