

SUNDAY 8TH APRIL

8:00		Registration
8:30	Opening of the Conference - The Chair of the ECS, the Chair of the Organizing Committee, the Chair of the Scientific Committee	
9:30	Opening Talk	Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara - Marine Mammal Science and Conservation in the Mediterranean: The Line is Traced, Let's Walk It
10:00		Chair: Mario Acquarone Margherita Zanardelli Sergi Pérez-Jorge - Environmental drivers of the large-scale movements of baleen whales in the mid-Atlantic Ocean.
10:15	Habitat & Distribution	Arianna Azzellino - Time matters. Why we should consider more the temporal resolution of our studies.
10:30		Karin Hartman - Home range and overlap patterns of stable male Risso's dolphin (<i>Grampus griseus</i>) pods over time, linked to age class and behaviour: adults rule over wide areas to socialize.
10:45		Filipe Alves - Biogeographical patterns of short-finned pilot whales in the Northeast Atlantic: in the search of an optimal habitat.
11:00		Coffee break
11:30		Chair: Tilen Genov / Arianna Azzellino Alexandre Gannier - Describing favourable habitats of western Mediterranean teuthophageous species.
11:45	Habitat & Distribution	James Waggitt - Ecologically informed and dynamic distribution maps for cetacean communities in the north-eastern Atlantic Ocean.
12:00		Auriane Virgili - Would habitat models for deep-diving cetaceans be improved if prey distributions were included?
12:15		Pauline Couet - A simultaneous estimation of female and calves survival and breeding probability using multievent capture-recapture data.
12:30	Density & Abundance	Silvia Bonizzoni - Predicting dolphin distribution within an Important Marine Mammal Area (IMMA) in Greece to support spatial management planning.
12:45		Simone Panigada - The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative – when a dream comes true.
13:00		Lunch break/poster viewing/student AGM
14:30		Chair: Douglas Nowacek / Christina Fossi Lorenzo Fiori - Assessing the effects of humpback whale-based tourism in Vava'u, Kingdom of Tonga: Behavioral responses of whales to vessels and in-water tourism activities.
14:45		Charlotte Lambert - A story of size and depth: predator-prey interactions in the Bay of Biscay
15:00	Behaviour & Ecology	Ewa Krzyszczyk - Dolphin-Shark Interactions: Responses to Predation Risk and Non-Lethal Attacks
15:15		Aylin Akkaya Bas - Marine traffic alters the behavioural budget of bottlenose dolphins in the Istanbul Strait, Turkey
15:30		Valeria Senigaglia - Long-term effects of food provisioning on the reproductive success of free-ranging bottlenose dolphin population
15:45		Janet Mann - Sex Bias, Social Preferences and Social Learning in Bottlenose Dolphin Tool-Use
16:00		Poster session with coffee
16:45	Keynote Presentation	Chair: Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara Spyros Kotomatas Co-Management: A Strategic Approach in the Conservation of Marine Mammals or an Act of Desperation?
17:45		Chair: Lars Bejder / Daniela Silvia Pace Antonella Arcangeli - Whales in a rubbish sea - a regional cooperative project to help monitoring litter impact on cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea
17:50		Kristina Steinmetz - Enhancing pinniped management and conservation via stakeholder engagement and non-invasive genetic sampling
17:55		Bianca Unger - Possible conflict areas between harbour porpoises and floating debris in the German North and Baltic Seas
18:00	Management & Conservation	Anaïs Janc - How do fishing practices influence sperm whale (<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>) depredation on demersal longline fisheries?
18:05		de Francesco Maria Carla - Towards the identification of 'Units for Conservation' for bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Delphinidae, Cetacea) in European waters.
18:10		Jonas Teilmann - Fishermen help scientists reveal far reaching movements of minke whales from coastal North Sea to deep Atlantic habitats
18:15		Maja Nimak-Wood - Marine mammal observer data - unexpectedly finding missing pieces of puzzles and helping scientists build a bigger picture about blue whales in the Indian Ocean
18:20		Francesca Santoro - special presentation UNESCO, Protecting Marine Mammals in Crowded waters
18:20:00		Poster Session
21		Video Night

MONDAY 9TH APRIL

Chair: Spyros Kotomatas / Michaela Podestà

8:45		Karen Stockin - Wildly irresponsible or responsible for the wild? An urgent call for welfare science at whale mass strandings
9:00		Alejandra Vergara-Pena - Can codes of conduct limit impacts of vessel traffic upon bottlenose dolphins?
9:15	Management & Conservation	Ludovic Hoarau - Is there hope for sustainable whale watching and swim-with whales in Reunion Island, Indian Ocean? Recreational and professional regulations during the last humpback whale (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>) breeding season
9:30		Michael James Tetley - The growing Important Marine Mammal Area (IMMA) Network: an update on the global process for informing the management practices of place-based marine conservation
9:45	Genetics/Evolution	Guido Parra - Low genetic diversity, limited gene flow and widespread genetic bottleneck effects in a threatened dolphin species, the Australian humpback dolphin
10:00		Tjibbe Stelwagen - Genetic evidences of population decline in the harbour porpoise from Iberia waters over the last 30 years
		Chair: Aviad Scheinin / Anita Gilles
10:15		Clare Embling - Oceanographic drivers of sperm whale distributions off the west coast of Scotland
10:20	Habitat & Distribution	Thibaut Bouveroux - Modelling fine-scale distribution and density of harbour porpoises in the Southern Bight of the North Sea inferred from platform-of-opportunity data
10:25		Nadya C. Ramirez Martinez - Modelling cetacean habitat use in Norwegian waters
10:30		Elisa Remonato - Where are the Risso's dolphins (<i>Grampus griseus</i>) of the North Western Mediterranean Sea? Study of Movements Within and Outside the Pelagos Sanctuary.
10:35		Clàudia Auladell Quintana - Beaked whale distribution and habitat use from acoustic surveys in the North-East Atlantic.
10:40		coffee break
		Chair: Vienna Eleuteri
11:10	Keynote Presentation	Christina Fossi: Multiple Anthropogenic Stress in Cetaceans of the Pelagos Sanctuary: Current Knowledge and Future Research
		Chair: Joan Gonzalvo / Léa David
12:10		Mark Simmonds - Animal Sentience as a Key Issue in Marine Mammal Science and Policy in Europe.
12:25	Management & Conservation	Arne Bjørge - Is the use of acoustic alarms on gillnets the quick fix for fisheries with high bycatch rate of harbour porpoises?
12:40		Cecilia Passadore - Ecogeographic and anthropogenic drivers of dolphin distribution: informing future spatial conservation planning in a marine protected area.
12:55		Lars Bejder - Low energy expenditure and resting behaviour of humpback whale mother-calf pairs highlights conservation importance of sheltered breeding areas
13:10		Lunch break/Vaquita special event
		Chair: Giancarlo Lariano / Rebecca Boys
14:40	Density & Abundance	Nino Pierantonio - Occurrence and abundance of delphinids in the Northern Aegean Sea from aerial surveys
14:45		Roma Banga - Through the sealing: Grey seal pup numbers increase in North Wales
14:50	New Techniques	Bénédicte Madon - Tech4Whales: Towards Real-time, High Resolution Navigational Software for Whale Avoidance
14:55	Acoustic & Noise	Pablo Chevallard - Kinematic and acoustic analysis of herring-eating killer whale feeding behaviour during different prey life-stages
15:00		Rosie Williams - Long-Term Temporal and Spatial Patterns of Polychlorinated Biphenyls in UK Harbour Porpoises (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>)
15:05		Olga Novillo - Presence of microplastics in the digestive tract of stranded cetaceans from the Western Mediterranean.
15:10		Steffen De Vreese - Preliminary findings on the morphology of the peripheral nervous system of the external ear canal in odontocetes
15:15	Health & Medicine	Eyal Bigal - Toxoplasmosis and Herpesvirus in common bottlenose dolphins (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>); a first report from the Eastern Mediterranean Sea
15:20		Begüm Uzun - Genetic investigation on the population structure of the harbour porpoises living in Turkish waters by double digest restriction associated DNA (ddRAD) sequencing
15:25		Tilen Genov - Severe injuries as a conservation concern: evaluating the population-level effects of cryptic events on a coastal dolphin population
15:30		Fredrik Christiansen - Global comparison of right whale body condition reveals poor nutritional condition of the North Atlantic right whale
15:45		Iben Stokholm - Origin and spread of phocine distemper virus in 1988 and 2002
16:00		Carla Grattarola - The Western Mediterranean basin like a pathogens soup? A source of growing concern for cetacean species inhabiting the Pelagos Sanctuary
16:15		Poster session with coffee
		Chair: Enrico Pirota / Caterina Lanfredi
17:30	New Techniques	Yann Planque - Harbour and grey seals' foraging ecology in the Eastern English Channel highlight potential competitive trophic interactions.
17:45		Oliver O'Cadhla - From basis to Basins: Ireland's ObSERVE Programme as an Effective Strategic Partnership
18:00		Simon Berrow - ObSERVE-ACOUSTIC: strategic partnerships between government departments and research providers deliver a large scale, offshore, multi-annual acoustic survey off Western Ireland
18:15		Poster session

TUESDAY 10TH APRIL

8:45		Chair: Gianni Pavan / Masha Stroobant Edda Elísabet Magnúsdóttir - The importance of a subarctic feeding ground for humpback whale song transmission to subtropical breeding grounds in the North Atlantic Ocean
9:00	Acoustic & Noise	Ida Marie Kragh - Signal type determines the scope for amplitude adjustment to noise in bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) whistle communication
9:15		Laela Sayigh - Acoustic cues associated with cetacean mass stranding events
9:30		Clare Owen - Migratory convergence allows simultaneous cultural convergence and transmission of humpback whale song across the South Pacific
9:45	Behaviour & Ecology	Chair: Dimitar Popov / Karen Stockin Eva Prendergast - Boat traffic negatively influences diet rhythmic behaviour in harbour porpoise in Skjálfandi Bay, Iceland
9:50		Kaja Wierucka - Visual cues do not enhance sea lion pups' response to multimodal maternal cues
9:55		Rachel Davies - Seasonality in North Sea Marine Mammals using longitudinal ECMC partner data, 2006-2016
10:00		Kayleigh Jones - Sexual segregation in Antarctic fur seal pups, <i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>
10:05	Evolution & Development	Alberto Collareta - Tracing the origins of the modern Mediterranean baleen whale fauna: hints from the fossil record
10:10	New Techniques	Alexander Schubert - A comparison of high-resolution digital aerial surveys and passive acoustic monitoring
10:15		Aviad Scheinin - Delphis – a Modern Technology and Open Standards for Coastal Cetacean Surveying Application
10:20		William Kay - From brick to bullet: Using Computational Fluid Dynamics to design bio-logging tags with minimal drag
10:25		Felix Matthies - A simple method to obtain reliable estimations of dolphins group size
10:30		Coffee break
11:00	New Techniques	Chair: Sandro Mazzariol / Auriane Virgili Giancarlo Lauriano - Satellite tagging of C-type killer whales in the Antarctic: insights toward the Ross Sea Region conservation objectives.
11:15		Rebecca M Boys - Multi-state open robust design models for dealing with incomplete sampling and imperfect detection: an example with sperm whales and opportunistic photo-id data
11:30		Enrico Pirotta - Assessing the population consequences of disturbance on migratory baleen whales via a dynamic state variable model of female lifetime reproductive success
11:45		Thomas Folegot - How much does it cost to the maritime economy to reduce collisions' risks for large whales in the Pelagos sanctuary?
12:00	Strandings	Chair: Bruno Cozzi / Yara Bernaldo de Quirós Brian Sharp - Considering Rescue Attempts of Stranded Live Large Whales
12:15		Raquel Puig - Retrospective study of foreign body-associated pathology in stranded cetaceans, Canary Islands (2000-2015)
12:30		Sandro Mazzariol - Multidisciplinary studies on a sperm whales' mass stranding
12:45		Stephen Marsh - 30 years of Marine Mammal Rescue in the United Kingdom
13:00		Lunch break / Poster Viewing
14:30	Keynote Presentation	Chair: Simone Panigada Douglas Nowacek - Important Components for Achieving Marine Conservation Successes - Why Does the Lorax Strategy Rarely Succeed?
15:30		Workshop reports
16:00		Coffee break
16:30		AGM
17:30		AWARD CEREMONY
19:30		DINNER PARTY & DANCE