

Program of the 2016 ECS student workshop – Where the wild things are

Saturday March 12th 09:00-17:00

Participation fee €10,- (will be collected upon arrival at the marina)

Location: We will be meeting at 09:00 at VMT Madeira (whalewatching operator), offices at Marina do Funchal, Shop 9. From there the participants will be taken to the boat in the new area of the Marina where the boat (catamaran) is docked (East of Funchal Pier).

(<https://www.google.nl/maps/place/Marina+Funchal/@32.644845,-16.9132235,17z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0xebfa2e33296bb437>)

For this years' student workshop we will go out on a boat trip with one of the whale watching operators (VMT Madeira) of Funchal. This trip will be weather dependent and cetacean sightings are not guaranteed. As in any activity of this kind, flexibility of the participants will be expected because the time schedule of this workshop might differ from what is suggested below. For instance, if we find animals towards the end of the trip we might get back to port a bit later. Organizers will do their best to provide participants the best possible experience.

We assume the experience level of the group on boat based marine mammal surveys is very heterogeneous. Therefore we will have a flexible workshop where the experts will provide information based on what you guys want to know and learn. Please, fill in the questionnaire to indicate your experience prior to the workshop. Also be ready with questions and specific things you would like to know during the workshop. The experts will speak from their own experience which is one way of doing it, but there will be opportunities to ask for and discuss other ways of conducting boat based research that could be equally good.

To be able to gain a more enriching experience, you are advised to bring to the boat your own camera, binoculars and other equipment you might like to test or get familiar with. No lunch will be provided onboard so participants will have to bring their own snacks and lunch. There may not be time or any opportunity to buy anything during the workshop. If you have your own photo ID material you can bring it on your own laptop for the afternoon session but this is not mandatory.

Program outline:

09:00 Meet up at the whalewatching operator's office (VMT Madeira) at Marina Funchal, shop 9 at the marina Funchal – be on time! We will leave if you are not there!

09:10-09:40 Introduction presentation on Madeiran whaling history, local wildlife and research on cetaceans conducted in Madeira by Luis Freitas (Madeira whale museum)

09:40-10:00 Boat safety instructions and operation to leave the port

10:00-14:00 Boat trip

You will be divided into groups of 10 and circulate between the following subjects (about 30-45 minutes per subject). Additionally there will be enough free time to relax on the boat and just scan the sea surface to look for cetaceans, sea turtles or any other local wildlife. The subjects are:

- Photo ID and camera skills (2 groups) by Tilen Genov (Morigenos) and Joan Gonzalvo (Tethys Research Institute)
- Species identification and line transect distance sampling (1 group) by Mick Baines and Maren Reichelt (SeaWatch Foundation)
- Data collection (1 group) by Sanne Bakkers and Naomi Tuhuteru (Stichting Rugvin)
- Whale watching tour guidelines and animal approach (1 group) by Whalewatching operator and Madeira Whale Museum collaborators

For the last part of the workshop we will walk from the marina to the workshop room at the Auditorium of "Centro de Estudos de História do Atlântico (CEHA)". Located in Rua dos Ferreiros nº 165, Funchal. (<https://www.google.nl/maps/place/Centro+De+Estudos+Historia+Do+Atlantico/@32.6511249,-16.9104013,18z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x1ca205c6b9118164>)

15:00-15:20 Presentation on hard to identify species by Mick Baines and Maren Reichelt

15:20-16:30 Presentation on Photo ID processing and discussion by Joan Gonzalvo and Tilen Genov

If you like you can bring your own photo ID material and your laptop. The presentation will be plenary but there will be room for specific questions and assistance if needed.

There will be NO wifi at the auditorium!

If weather conditions force us to cancel the boat trip we will switch to a shorter version of the workshop at the auditorium in Funchal, located at the Auditorium of "Centro de Estudos de História do Atlântico (CEHA)". Located in Rua dos Ferreiros nº 165, Funchal.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 12th!

Inger van den Bosch
ECS student representative