



**33<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the European Cetacean Society**

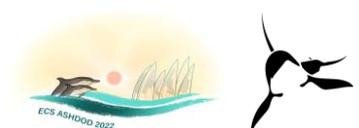
**Marine mammal research and  
conservation effort -  
Are we on the right path?**



**5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Ashdod, Israel**

# Collaborators

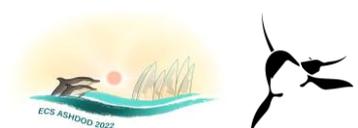


# Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

Central European Time (GMT+1)

## Workshops

- 14:00-17:00 Communicate your findings to the general public for early-career scientists
- 09:00-13:00 Long Term Ecological data series in cetaceans: essential but challenging!
- 09:00-13:00 Delphis workshop
- 09:00-13:00 Introduction to GIS - student workshop
- 13:00-20:00 Arts as a tool for communicating marine mammal science to the general public 8.2



**Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Central European Time (GMT+1)

09:00-09:30 **OPENING CEREMONY**

Chairperson: [Aviad Scheinin](#)

09:30-10:15 Opening keynote lecture:

**Marine mammals' conservation in the Eastern Mediterranean - Are we on the right path?**

Dr. Mia Roditi-Elasar

10:15-10:30 **Are we on the right path? A plea for mindful conservation**

Fabian Ritter

### **Conservation status of single species' populations**

10:30-10:45 **Forty years of killer whale research in Iceland: the importance of long-term studies**

Filipa Samarra

10:45-11:00 **Challenges and perspectives in the conservation of the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*) in the northern South China Sea**

Agathe Serres

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

### **Threats I - contamination & climate change**

Chairperson: [Frank Zanderink](#)

11:30-11:45 **Xenobiotic exposure and environmental stress associated cellular and molecular alterations in the skin of the Mediterranean fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*).**

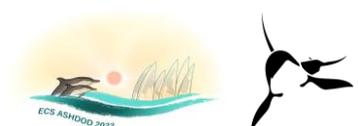
Anna Laura Mancina

11:45-12:00 **First ecotoxicological insights from the critically endangered population of Mediterranean monk seals, *Monachus monachus*, from Madeira Archipelago (NE Atlantic)**

Ashlie McIvor

12:00v-12:15 **You are what you eat: contaminant variability in New Zealand killer whales (*Orcinus orca*)**

Karen Stockin



## Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

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### Threats I - contamination & climate change (Continued)

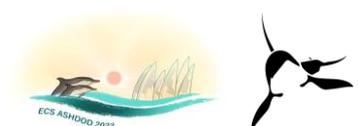
Chairperson: [Frank Zanderink](#)

- 12:15-12:30    **The Plastic Busters MPAs project: new methodology to detect the impact of microplastics and related plastic additives in cetaceans of the SPAMI Pelagos Sanctuary**  
Maria Cristina Fossi
- 12:30-12:45    **On the rise: climate change will cause New Zealand indicator species to seek higher latitudes**  
Katharina J Peters
- 12:45-13:00    **Clash on the high-seas: the rise and fall of deep-diving cetaceans in an oceanic environment**  
Marc Fernandez
- 13:00-14:00    Lunch break
- 14:00-14:30    **Poster session: 001-027**

### 14:30-15:25    **Short talks - Threats II**

Chairperson: [Danny Morick](#)

- **Stay behind, not high above - underwater noise levels of three drones measured at various horizontal and verticals distances**  
Amelie Laute
- **Toxicological assessment of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)**  
Lorenzo Minoia
- **Estimating the population size of *Tursiops truncatus* using signature whistles in a hotspot of summer tourism**  
Margalida Cerdà
- **Assessment of bycatch level for the Black Sea harbour porpoise in the light of new data on population abundance**  
Dimitar Popov
- **SARS-CoV-2 in marine mammals: survey results on the potential viral susceptibility in cetaceans stranded along the Italian coastline**  
Tania Audino



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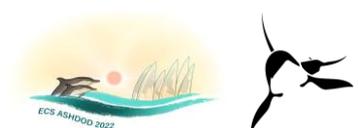
### 14:30-15:25 **Short talks - Threats II (Continued)**

Chairperson: [Danny Morick](#)

- **The application of area/time thresholds to manage noise impacts in UK harbour porpoise SACs**  
Ophélie Humphrey
- **Is haul-out behaviour of harbour seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) influenced by tourist activities?**  
Emilie Stepien
- **The inner Ionian Sea archipelago: a stronghold for the Mediterranean monk seal in urgent need of conservation action.**  
Joan Gonzalvo
- **Determining which regions of European waters exhibit the highest risk for harbour porpoise from marine pollutants**  
Matthew Saunders
- **Heavy metal concentrations in Grey Seals from the Southern Baltic Sea during population recovery**  
Léon Rostock
- **Combining onsite conservation efforts and research: a team dedicated to promoting best dolphin-watching practices while studying its impacts on spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*) in Reunion Island, Western Indian Ocean**  
Anne Emmanuelle Landes

### 15:25-15:40 **Short talks - Miscellaneous**

- **Is the Red Sea northern Gulf of Eilat a hotspot for solitary-social dolphins? Case studies of 5 individuals over the last three decades**  
Oz Goffman
- **Legislative feasibility of unoccupied aerial vehicle usage for environmental surveys in the ACCOBAMS region**  
Ori Galili
- **First documented alive stranding of a *Steno bredanensis* in Salamina Island, Aegean Sea, Greece**  
Anastasia Komnenou



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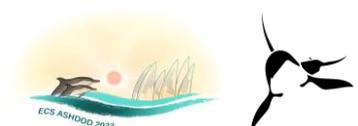
### Threats III - Bycatch

Chairperson: [Daphna Feingold](#)

- 15:40-15:55    **Mapping risk of bycatch for cetacean species regularly occurring in North-west Europe**  
Peter Evans
- 15:55-16:10    **Testing deterrent devices to reduce depredation and bycatch of cetaceans in Southern Portuguese coastal fisheries**  
Ana Marçalo
- 16:10-16:25    **Multi-tiers diagnostic framework for cetacean-fishery interaction assessment on stranded cetaceans.**  
Guido Pietroluongo
- 16:25-16:55    Coffee break

### Threats IV - Miscellaneous

- 16:55-17:10    **The anthropause in Sarasota Bay, Florida: comparing the marine soundscape before and during the COVID-19 lockdown**  
Emma Longden
- 17:10-17:25    **Ship strikes of fin whales in the north-east Atlantic: identifying hotspots and simulating mitigation measures**  
James Robbins
- 17:25-17:40    **A real-time forecasting system to mitigate the risk of collision between whales and commercial vessels**  
Marine Randon
- 17:40-17:55    **Cultural tipping points in whaling and fishing nations amid social and environmental change**  
Russell Fielding



## Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

Central European Time (GMT+1)

Chairperson: [Mia Roditi-Elasar](#)

09:00-09:45 keynote lecture:  
**The need to use research knowledge of marine mammals on international level to achieve protection**  
Professor Ursula Siebert

### Distribution & habitat modelling I

09:45-10:00 **Beluga whales and narwhals in the Franz Josef Land archipelago waters (Russia)**  
Olga V. Shpak

10:00-10:15 **The importance of long-term monitoring of cetaceans in the data deficient regions of the Mediterranean Sea**  
Aylin Akkaya

10:15-10:30 **Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) in the Ligurian sea: preliminary study on acoustics demonstrates their regular occurrence in Autumn**  
Laura Pintore

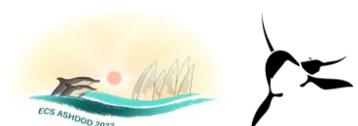
10:30-10:45 **Spring summer southwards migration of fin whales in the Mediterranean**  
Blanca Feliu

10:45-11:15 Coffee break

### 11:15-12:10 Short talks - Distribution & habitat modelling II

Chairperson: [Mario Acquarone](#)

- **Ecology and ranging movements of Risso's dolphins in coastal waters of western British Isles**  
Diksha Mandlik
- **Fantastic sperm whales and where to find them: habitat preference of sperm whales in the Azores**  
Inês Coelho
- **Endangered common dolphins of the Istanbul Strait: fine scale distributions and encounter rates**  
Tim Awbery
- **Distribution of cetaceans based on a citizen science approach in the Cyclades region, Greece**  
Kimon Koemtzopoulos



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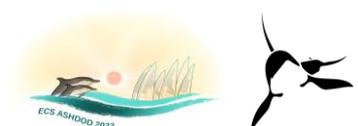
11:15-12:10 **Short talks - Distribution & habitat modelling II (Continued)**

Chairperson: [Mario Acquarone](#)

- **Occurrence of long-finned pilot whales and killer whales in Icelandic coastal waters and their interspecific interactions**  
Anna Selbmann
- **Environmental drivers of harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) Distribution in the Irish Sea**  
Leonie Lepple
- **Temporal patterns of Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*) groups off Pico Island**  
Arianna Fornaroli
- **Azorean waters as a migratory corridor for baleen whales**  
Rui Peres dos Santos
- **Sperm whales in Macaronesia: Unveiling site fidelity and residency patterns in an insular oceanic system**  
Rita Ferreira
- **Spatiotemporal distribution and habitat requirements of teutophagous cetacean species around S o Miguel (Azores): Can opportunistic data be used to study the overlap of ecological niches?**  
Marc Ruiz-i-Sagal s
- **Geographical movements, site fidelity and connectivity of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) within and outside herring (*Clupea harengus*) grounds in Icelandic coastal waters.**  
Tatiana Marchon

### Distribution & habitat modelling III

- 12:10-12:25 **Distribution and association of the Antillean manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) with habitat characteristics in Brazil**  
Emma Deeks
- 12:25-12:40 **Connectivity patterns of cetaceans in the oceanic islands system of Macaronesia inferred from photo-ID and biotelemetry: how much do we know?**  
Filipe Alves
- 12:40-12:55 **Cuvier's beaked whale and sperm whale presence in the southern Adriatic Sea**  
Alexandra Constaratas



## Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

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### Distribution & habitat modelling III (Continued)

12:55-13:10 **Spatio-temporal patterns in acoustic biodiversity and distribution of marine mammals in Fram Strait, based on passive acoustic monitoring**  
Linnea Pankoke

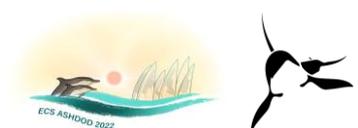
13:10-14:10 Lunch break

14:10-14:40 **Poster session: 028-054**

14:40-15:45 **Short Talks - Biology I (feeding, genetics, abundance, social, anatomy, physiology)**

Chairperson: [Jonas Teilmann](#)

- **Mediterranean monk seal, a sign of hope: increased birth numbers and enlarged terrestrial habitat**  
Aliko Panou
- **Fatty acids composition in blubber tissue of two odontocete species (*Tursiops truncatus* and *Globicephala macrorhynchus*) in NE Atlantic**  
Annalisa Sambolino
- **Each patch tells a story: population estimates, distribution, and fisheries dependence from the Mediterranean bottlenose dolphin population in the northwestern Catalan waters**  
Carla A. Chicote
- **Histomorphological stratification of blubber of three dolphin species from the KwaZulu-Natal coast, South Africa**  
Stephanie Plön
- **AnimalAudiograms.org a new public tool for hearing physiology data**  
Michael Dähne
- **Abundance of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Hellenic Trench and Ionian Basin: results from aerial surveys in spring 2021**  
Simone Panigada
- **Investigation of fine-scale population structure and genetic diversity of the Atlantic white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*) across the eastern North Atlantic**  
Marc-Alexander Gose



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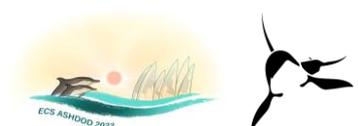
14:40-15:45 **Short Talks - Biology I (feeding, genetics, abundance, social, anatomy, physiology) (Continued)**

Chairperson: [Jonas Teilmann](#)

- **Multi-species feeding association dynamics driven by a large generalist predator**  
Julia Gostischa
- **Insights into the respiratory and gastrointestinal microbiome of odontocetes stranded along the Tyrrhenian coastline**  
Caterina Raso
- **First observations of a mouth-breathing bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)**  
Jeroen Hofs
- **Improvement of knowledge on the Mediterranean monk seal sub-population in the central Ionian Sea, Greece, using photo-identification**  
Luigi Bundone
- **Connectivity patterns of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the north-east Mediterranean: implications for local conservation**  
Andre Moura

## Biology II

- 15:45-16:00 **Abundance and trends of cetaceans across the Italian seas between 2009 and 2021: a contribution towards MSFD criteria**  
Giancarlo Lauriano
- 16:00-16:15 **Cracking code: using metabarcoding to analyse the diet of seals (*Phoca vitulina*; *Halichoerus grypus*) from the southern North Sea.**  
Eileen Heße
- 16:15-16:30 **Seasonal variation and temporal stability in the social network of Icelandic herring-eating killer whales**  
Eilidh O'Brien
- 16:30-16:45 **First evidence of grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) predation on a harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) in the German Baltic Sea**  
Linda Westphal
- 16:45-17:15 Coffee break



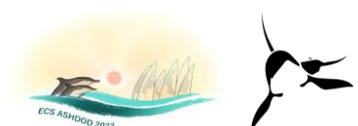
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### Biology III

Chairperson: [Dan Kerem](#)

- 17:15-17:30 **On the verge of extinction: what can be done to save the common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) in Israel?**  
Yaly Mevorach
- 17:30-17:45 **First comprehensive density and abundance estimates of cetaceans in the Black Sea through aerial surveys**  
Romulus Marian Paiu
- 17:45-18:00 **No local cuisines for humpback whales: a population comparison in the Southern Hemisphere**  
Jasmin Groß
- 18:00-18:15 **The Pitcairn Islands in the southern Pacific Ocean established as a breeding and calving grounds for the humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)**  
Terence Dawson
- 18:15-18:30 **Validation of quantitative fatty acid signature analysis for estimating the diet composition of free-ranging killer whales**  
Anaïs Remili



## Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

Central European Time (GMT+1)

Chairperson: [Joan Gonzalvo](#)

09:00-09:45     keynote lecture:  
                  **Marine mammal conservation physiology: do we model the right things at the desk and measure the right things at sea?**  
                  Professor Peter T. Madsen

### New Techniques I

09:45-10:00     **Development of a mass spectrometry method capable of detecting and quantifying a panel of steroid hormones in right whale blow**  
                  Andrew John Wright

10:00-10:15     **A tool to improve management under climate change scenarios: using expert knowledge to estimate cetaceans thermal suitability in the future**  
                  Andreia Sousa

10:15-10:30     **Accommodating species misidentification errors in drone-based abundance surveys**  
                  Eyal Bigal

10:30-10:45     **Simultaneous drone and tag data suggest that bubble-nets are tools used by solitary foraging humpback whales to improve foraging efficiency**  
                  Andy Szabo

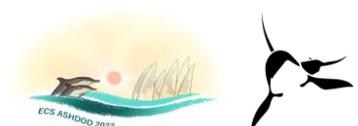
10:45-11:00     **Is the 'Dinner Bell' causing erroneous data in seal-fish predation studies? A harbour seal/brown trout case**  
                  Jonas Teilmann

11:00-11:30     Coffee break

### 11:30-12:00     **Short Talks - New Techniques II**

Chairperson: [Eyal Bigal](#)

- **Sperm whale habitat use in Irish offshore waters using an innovative Bayesian modelling framework**  
Cynthia Barile
- **Anatomical network as a tool for studies of evolution of marine mammal skeleton**  
Pavel Gol'din



## Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

Central European Time (GMT+1)

11:30-12:00 **Short Talks - New Techniques II (Continued)**

Chairperson: [Eyal Bigal](#)

- **Assessing the feasibility and suitability of using a commercially available autonomous acoustic recorder, the SoundTrap 300HF, to conduct passive acoustic monitoring for cetaceans and noise from an underwater glider**  
Morgane Pommier
- **Characterization of extracellular vesicle from two cetaceans cell lines**  
Cinzia Centelleghé
- **An aerial perspective on pod organization in common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*): calves as a risk-related variable?**  
Anne Grundlehner
- **Scar diminishment on dolphins vary with natural salinities: Implications for reliability of photo-identification**  
Dara Orbach

### New Techniques III

12:00-12:15 **Drivers of change in social networks of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in Cardigan Bay, Wales**  
Sophie Thomson

12:15-12:30 **Using expert opinion to highlight how we can achieve effective and ethical management at cetacean stranding events**  
Rebecca M Boys

12:30-12:45 **Sei whale acoustic occurrence in the Gulf of Corcovado (Chile) detected through convolutional neural networks**  
Florence Erbs

12:45-13:00 **Short-term versus long-term strategies for studying rare cetaceans: lessons from a long-term study of Hawaiian odontocetes**  
Robin Baird

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-14:30 **poster session: 055-082**

14:30-18:00 **Workshop presentations, award ceremony, AGM**

