## The Marine Mammal Nexus – How can we as marine mammal scientists can make a better contribution towards addressing global environmental problems?

**Workshop aim:** Identify opportunities for positive action for marine mammal scientists; develop tools to overcome barriers to change; increase communication between scientists, the general public and policy makers.

Start 9.00 (Registration from 8.45)

Welcome / organization: **Hanna Nuuttila**

Introductory talk: **Mark Simmonds**

Contributions from colleagues including **Graham Pierce** (Professor at the University of Aberdeen) and **Andrew Wright** (Associate Professor at George Mason University, Virginia).

Discussions on

* Science and politics – role of the scientist in today’s world? How have we failed as communicators?
* Inertia and apathy? Why marine mammal scientists should care?
* Current critical environmental issues in marine environment?
* How can we use marine mammals to aid action and inspire change?
* What are the barriers and challenges to action?
* Ethics of research/funding (e.g. how to maintain independence)

11.00 Coffee Break

Structured Group Discussions: participants into groups by topic - marine litter / climate change

* Biggest perceived challenges to marine mammal science / marine mammal conservation?
* Breakdown of barriers / overcoming challenges
* What is the key ingredient that would assist in overcoming the problem?
* How can we overcome these (personally and/or professionally)?
* Steps to positive science communication and constructive journalism

Presentation of group discussions

Setting theme for the afternoon: what next?

13.00 Lunch

Review of outcomes from the morning

Inspiring change – practical solutions: Further group work if necessary

Development of a work programme to address issues

* At a personal level
* At an institutional level
* Crafting a ‘call to action’

Conclusions and plans for outputs and publication. 17.00 Close (latest)