

## EDITORIAL

This newsletter contains a number of announcements of particular importance to ECS members.

First, there are details of the upcoming conference in Cork at the beginning of April of next year (these are also sent along with the requisite forms to all members as loose sheets; and are obtainable directly from the ECS website). Second, an alternative electronic method for disseminating the newsletter, which is being introduced, is described.

Other notable announcements include requests to renew ECS membership; an invitation for nominations to Council; notification of a subscription increase recommended by the Council; and announcement of various ECS publication initiatives - a membership list and an index to papers & articles in its newsletters and proceedings.

Results are presented of a questionnaire asking members what they would like to see in the newsletter. The fact that less than ten percent responded is frankly disappointing, and makes me wonder whether to cease producing it. Thanks anyway to those who did take the trouble to write.

Please, if there is anyone (preferably based in UK) willing to assist me with the editing of the newsletter, can they get in touch.

For those going to Maui for the SMM Biennial Conference, have a good time! - wish I could go.

Peter Evans

## ECS NEWS

### **14th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, 2-5 April 2000, Cork, Ireland**

#### **FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS**

The Fourteenth Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society will take place in Cork, Ireland on 2nd - 5th April 2000, hosted by University College Cork. The theme of the conference is

*'Cetaceans in the ecosystem: defining critical habitat'*

although, as usual, papers on all aspects of the biology of cetaceans and other marine mammals will be included in the programme. The theme is timely for a number of reasons, including (1) its conservation implications - there are many examples of proposals for protected

areas/sanctuaries etc that require scientific evaluation - determining which habitat variables are critical to cetaceans is an essential part of this; (2) it allows for both a taxa-led and a habitat-led approach; (3) it is an area where new research tools can play an important role e.g. TDR telemetry, GIS software, etc; (4) it requires a multi-disciplinary approach; (5) it requires innovative new theory and modelling to integrate a variety of datasets into a practical framework. Much relevant work on the question of critical habitats is underway in pinniped research and contributions in this regard will be welcomed.

The conference will be held at University College, Cork (U.C.C.) which is situated approximately 20 minutes walk from the city centre and is close to restaurants and hotels. Registration will take place from 16:00 - 20:00h on Sunday 2nd April and early on Monday 3rd 2000 at U.C.C. Conference sessions will be held between 0900 and 1930h on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 3rd - 5th April with breaks for meetings and the Society's AGM.

The morning session each day will open with an invited talk, followed by verbal presentations in a standard 15minute format. Posters will be on display throughout the meeting and time will be reserved for discussion with authors.

#### **Call For Papers**

Communications, in English, are invited as verbal or poster presentations. For both types of presentations, authors should submit an abstract **by e-mail** following the enclosed guidelines to: **Greg Donovan** (E-mail: gdonovan@ireland.com) to arrive **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY 1st DECEMBER 1999** (PLEASE NOTE that for those of you attending the SMM conference at MAUI that you will need to submit your abstract before you go!). **Failure to follow the guidelines may result in the rejection of the Abstract.** Faxed or posted submissions are not acceptable except in very exceptional circumstances and with the agreement of the Conference Organiser who must be notified **before 15 November 1999**. The time available for each verbal presentation will be 15 minutes, followed by five minutes for questions and discussion. Dedicated time will be given for posters.

A Scientific Committee chaired by Greg Donovan will review all abstracts in December (see the Abstract guidelines). Authors will be informed by e-mail on the acceptability of their material by early January 2000.

In addition to the Abstract, authors of both verbal and poster presentations should provide an Extended Summary (maximum three pages of text plus two pages of graphics), to be included in the Proceedings of the Conference. Guidelines for the preparation of the Summary will be sent to authors when they are informed of the acceptance of their presentation. To ensure rapid publication of the Proceedings, summaries must be forwarded to the Editor by 15th May 2000. Summaries arriving late may not be included in the Proceedings.

### **Student Awards**

As at previous conferences, there will be awards for the best student presentations: verbal and poster. Students (graduate and undergraduate) are encouraged to submit presentations for the award but to be eligible, students must be the first author of their paper. Further details are given with the Abstract submission documentation.

### **Workshops**

Workshops are planned for the ECS meeting on Sunday 2nd and Thursday 6th April 2000. Further information will be included with the second announcement in early December. There will be a nominal charge for workshop attendees.

### **Video Evening**

It is intended to have a video session during the conference. All those intending to show a video should complete the relevant sections of the Abstract submission form. The video evening will be organised by Simon Ingram who may request videos to be forwarded to him in advance of the meeting.

### **Student volunteers**

Throughout the conference help will be needed with organisation and logistics. Applications (to the Student member of the Council [S.Ingram@ucc.ie](mailto:S.Ingram@ucc.ie)) are invited from students who are willing to spend a few hours helping out at registration, looking after stands, sales etc. Students who are selected will have their registration fees waived. There will be a second announcement of this in the next Newsletter in early December.

### **Grants**

The Society offers limited financial support to students (and occasionally others), so long as they are the first AND presenting author of an accepted talk or poster, as a contribution towards expenses at the Conference. The amount granted will depend upon the number of students attending and the total funds available. Further details are given with the Abstract submission documentation.

### **Conference Booking and Fees**

Conference bookings and fees are outlined in the accompanying registration form. Early registration for the conference is advised and the closing date for early registration is 14th Jan 2000.

The conference banquet will be held in Kinsale - a small seaside town, 20 miles west of Cork. Transport will be arranged to bring people to and from Kinsale and following the dinner there will be a 'ceil' (informal traditional Irish music and set dancing). As usual, the banquet is optional and for those of you who just like dancing, it may be possible to join in the 'ceil', without attending the meal, space permitting.

### **Travel and Accommodation**

There are good air, sea and rail links between Cork and most European cities. Furthermore, there are connecting flights and good connections by rail from Belfast and Dublin and bus connections between Shannon and Cork. There are a number of ferry services operating from the UK and France. Irish Ferries will give a 20% discount for people travelling to the conference. Further details can be obtained from Alan Markey, Irish Ferries - phone: +353 1 855 2222. The second announcement will give details of accommodation options which will range from good quality youth hostels to medieval castles!!

### **Local Visits**

Located in the south of the country, Cork is Ireland's second city and capital of the ancient province of Munster. Cork is best known as a major international seaport. The city offers its visitors the opportunity to experience the magic of many places of historical and cultural interest, such as, Charles Fort, Kinsale, Cork City Gaol, Fitzgeralds Park and Museum, Blarney Castle, Blarney House and Gardens, Ballincollig Royal Gunpowder Mills and Fota Wildlife Park. Other visitor attractions located nearby include The Jameson Whiskey Heritage Centre in Midleton and The Queenstown Story in Cobh, as well as many other Castles and historical sites. The weather in April is mild (12-15°C) but very changeable, with frequent rain showers. Further information can be found on the Bord Fáilte website: <http://www.ireland.travel.ie/home/index.asp>.

### **Further Communication**

There will be a second announcement with the next newsletter, with workshop details, hotel bookings, etc. Authors of abstracts and students applying for grants will be contacted directly by the Conference Organisers.

Emer Rogan  
Conference Organiser  
Dept. of Zoology and Animal Ecology,  
University College, Cork, Ireland.  
Tel: + 353 21 904197; fax: +353 21 277922.  
e-mail: [E.Rogan@ucc.ie](mailto:E.Rogan@ucc.ie)

## Instructions for Submission of Abstracts for ECS Conference, Cork

*READ THIS, IT IS IMPORTANT AND DIFFERS  
FROM LAST YEAR'S INSTRUCTIONS!*

1. **Contact Surname:** Provide the surname for the first author only. Please note that an individual may be the first author on *one abstract only*, irrespective of whether it is a poster, oral or invited talk. *Only* the first author may present the paper.
2. **Contact e-mail:** Provide an e-mail address for correspondence about the Abstract
3. **Authors' names:** give the authors' names as follows: Senior author first, surname first. Use upper and lower case. Initials for first and middle names. Number the authors as follows: Guinness, A.J., (1) Murphy, M.K. (2) and Beamish, R.L. (3). Do not start a new line for each author.
4. **Authors' addresses:** give author addresses as follows: (1) 135 Station Rd, Impington, Cambridge CB4 9NP, UK (2) The Maltings, University College, Cork, Ireland (3) Ringstedgade 3, 4000 Roskilde, Denmark. NOTE: if more than one author is at the same address, put both numbers in parentheses before the address e.g. (1,3) 135 Station Rd, Impington, Cambridge CB4 9NP, UK
5. **Abstract title:** give the title of the abstract as follows: TITLE, ALL IN CAPITALS
6. **Abstract:** enter the Abstract as one continuous paragraph. Do not indent the first line of the paragraph. THE TEXT MUST NOT EXCEED 300 WORDS!
7. **Word count:** type the number of words in the Abstract here (excluding authors' details, addresses and title, i.e. only what is included in box 6)
8. **Presentation type:** delete all but one option. There is NO hierarchy between posters and verbal presentations. All Abstracts will be subject to anonymous review and selected on merit. The aim of the conference is to provide information in the most appropriate way to the maximum number of people. Some types of research and results are better communicated by a poster presentation and others by a verbal presentation. The form of presentation is not a reflection of the value of the research, merely its nature. If an author indicates either "POSTER PREFERRED" or "ORAL PREFERRED" and the Committee does not choose it for presentation in that format, it will be considered for presentation in the other format. If the author indicates "EITHER", if it is accepted by the Committee, it will be assigned as either a poster or oral presentation, whichever the Committee considers most appropriate.

If you wish to submit a VIDEO, then the Abstract should briefly describe the content of the video and its running time.

9-12. **Keywords:** please classify the subject matter of your abstract to help the Committee assign it to reviewers and sessions. You may choose up to four categories from the following - please type them (exactly as below) in order of relevance (if four are not required, leave the entry blank but do not delete the row. The categories are: Acoustics, Behaviour, Conservation / Management, Critical habitat, Ecology, Feeding, Genetics / Evolution, Life History (reproduction), Medicine / Disease, Natural History, Physiology / Anatomy, Stock Identity / Distribution, Surveys / Abundance, New Techniques, and Other.

13. **Student award eligibility:** if you are eligible for a student award, please delete the inappropriate category. Applicants *must* send a photocopy of their validated student ID card to Roland Lick along with their membership/registration form(s). If the student is the first author of a multi-authored paper, the other authors or a supervisor must sign a declaration form stating that "we the undersigned, affirm that the work presented in this abstract is primarily that of the first (student) author" and also send this to Roland Lick.

14. **Grant request:** Limited funds are available to provide grants towards travel/subsistence costs for students (and occasionally others). If you wish to be considered please delete as appropriate. If you are earning a salary you are not eligible. The grants are intended for cases of real hardship. Please think carefully before applying for a grant.

15. **File name:** Your abstract MUST be submitted by e-mail as an attached 'rtf' file using the abstract.rtf file. Please choose as a filename for the attachment the surname of the author or the first eight letters of the surname e.g. GUINNESS.rtf) and type it here. An example of a completed form is given at the end of this file.

**PLEASE NOTE: Failure to follow these guidelines carefully or to meet deadlines will have to result in rejection of the abstract. if you have any problems or questions regarding the technicalities of submission contact Greg Donovan well in advance of the deadline at e-mail address: gdonovan@ireland.com.**

## **-B- POLICY ON REVIEW OF THE ABSTRACT**

The decision of the Scientific Committee based on the comments of the anonymous reviewers will be final. They have an unenviable and difficult job and it is inevitable that someone will feel hard done by. Please accept that it is impossible to please everybody. The Committee and the reviewers will have put in an enormous amount of time and will have done the best possible within the finite confines of the time and space available at the conference centre.

There will be a single set of criteria for judging abstracts. Any data or models that add to our knowledge of marine mammals may be submitted. Research presented must be significant, previously unpublished and new to an ECS conference. Updates of a previous paper will receive low priority. Successful abstracts will contain:

- (1) A clear statement of hypotheses being tested or the specific objectives of the study
- (2) A brief description of methods
- (3) A clear statement of main results
- (4) A concise conclusion

Please note that abstracts of the form "will be discussed" will be rejected. In the past, authors have sometimes submitted generic abstracts as "placeholders" whilst completing their research. However, with increased competition for time and space, this is no longer acceptable. Abstracts will be judged solely on their contents. The results of such research may be more appropriate for some of the Workshops. Workshop co-ordinators should be contacted directly.

First priority when reviewing abstracts will be given to those that:

- (1) Test an important theory
- (2) Test a clearly articulated hypothesis
- (3) Use the experimental or comparative method
- (4) Are interdisciplinary
- (5) Report a significant new discovery or model
- (6) Introduce new methodology, or
- (7) Produce data on a poorly-known species.

Lower priority will be accorded to Abstracts that describe a process, range extension, population trend or other result without placing them in some larger context (evolution, the environment, management etc.). Again such papers may be more appropriate for some of the Workshops preceding the conference. Workshop co-ordinators should be contacted directly.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Do not submit an Abstract that is merely a progress report or information on a long-term programme (for example a strandings network) or a public awareness programme. These will automatically be rejected. However, we recognise the value of such information being made available to the people attending the meeting and a separate notice board will be available. Details of how to apply to place

information on that notice board will be given in the second announcement.

### **EXAMPLE OF A COMPLETED FORM:**

1. Contact surname: DONOVAN
2. Contact e-mail: gdonovan@ireland.com
3. Authors' names: Donovan, G.P. (1), Rogan, E. (2)
4. Authors' addresses: (1) International Whaling Commission, The Red House, 135 Station Rd, Impington, Cambridge CB4 9NP, UK (2) Dept. of Zoology and Animal Ecology, University College, Cork, Ireland.

### **5. Abstract title: CETACEANS IN THE ECOSYSTEM: DEFINING CRITICAL HABITAT**

6. Abstract: This is merely to illustrate the style to be followed. It includes an extract from the First Announcement. The theme is timely for a number of reasons, including (1) its conservation implications - there are many examples of proposals for protected areas/sanctuaries etc that require scientific evaluation - determining which habitat variables are critical to cetaceans is an essential part of this; (2) it allows for both a taxa-led and a habitat-led approach; (3) it is an area where new research tools can play an important role e.g. TDR telemetry, GIS software, etc; (4) it requires a multi-disciplinary approach; (5) it requires innovative new theory and modelling to integrate a variety of datasets into a practical framework. Much relevant work on the question of critical habitats is underway in pinniped research and contributions in this regard will be welcomed.

7. Word count: 139.

8. Presentation type: ORAL PREFERRED

9. Keyword 1: Critical habitat

10. Keyword 2: Conservation / Management

11. Keyword 3: New Techniques

12. Keyword 4: (left blank)

13. Student Award: NO

14. Grant request: NO

15. File name: DONOVAN.rtf

Greg Donovan

## ECS Membership Subscriptions

We have mentioned previously our desire to build up cash assets of the Society at least beyond half the cost of an annual conference.

We propose new rates for European members of 45 DM for students, 75 DM for full members, and 150 DM for institutions (Institutions can send up to two persons of their choice to the conference at member rates). Although our intention was to bring these into effect from the start of the year 2000, our constitution requires for this to be approved at an Annual General Meeting of the Society.

We therefore will put this proposal to the membership at the Cork conference in April 2000, and subject to approval, introduce the new rates from the start of 2001.

In the meantime, any member who anticipates not being able to attend the Society's AGM but wishes to make his or her view known, please do so either by e-mail or by post to the ECS Chairman by 1st March 2000.

Postage costs for the Society have also continued to increase, and with a greater number of members joining from outside Europe, this has imposed a further financial burden on the Society. Most other societies posting out volumes to its members make a surcharge to help cover long distance postage costs. We propose to do the same so that for those members living outside Europe we will introduce a small charge to cover extra costs of postage. Unlike membership fees, this postage charge will come into effect from January 1st 2000.

ECS Council

## Renewing ECS Membership

Remember, if you have not paid your ECS membership fee for 1999, you will not receive the Proceedings from the Valencia Conference or any other Society publications.

To pay this year's subscription, please send DM 60 (for **full** and **institutional** members), or DM 35 (for **student** members) in German Marks by Eurocheque or any other cheque drawn to a German bank, payable to the European Cetacean Society. Do not send cash. Membership fees can also be paid by credit card or transferred directly to the following ECS-account:

Dr. Roland Lick, ECS, Postbank Hamburg (FRG), Account-No. 789584-205, Bank Code 200 100 20 (state your Name and calendar year for membership fee)

There is a membership form which we would be grateful for you to complete. It records address

details as well as telephone, fax and e-mail, research interests, etc. Please contact me for a copy.

Roland Lick  
(e-mail: rlick2059@aol.com)

## Changes to ECS Constitution

Article IX of the ECS Constitution deals with the finances. Below, the ECS Council proposes some changes. The Article currently reads as follows:

"The finances of the Society shall be audited by an accredited accounting firm at least once every five years."

We propose a change to:

"The finances of the Society shall be open for inspection by members annually at the AGM, where a statement of accounts shall be presented and approved by the membership. The statement shall be published in the Annual Proceedings of the Society."

The changes are proposed because firstly the Society has never had an audit by an accredited accounting firm; the reason being that the cost is prohibitive and would seriously erode the financial reserves that the Society has worked hard to accumulate, if not wipe them out in earlier years. The other factor is that within the European Union, it is usually not now legally required that such an audit is undertaken for Societies such as ours.

As a final comment, the Society has always presented financial statements at each AGM, and been available to answer specific questions about the accounts, as well as publishing the financial report in the Annual Proceedings. Members appear to have been satisfied with this procedure, and therefore we suggest that we continue this practice and change the Constitution to reflect what we are actually doing.

Christina Lockyer

## Changes to ECS Council

Three changes to the Council of the European Cetacean Society will arise at the next AGM in Cork, April 2000. Beatrice Jann is resigning as Secretary; Anne Collet is resigning as Council member; and Simon Ingram, the Student Member, having served his two-year term, is due to retire.

Council proposes Nick Tregenza (already on Council) to serve as Secretary. The student membership votes at the next AGM for a Student Member to take the place of Simon (nominations should be put forward to the ECS Council by the start of the Conference). This leaves one spare place on Council to be filled. Council's nominee is Vincent Rodoux. Members are invited to send their nominations by 1st December.

ECS Council

### Results of Questionnaire on ECS Newsletter

In the previous newsletter, and through a message kindly sent by Jan-Willem Broekema on <ecs-all>, the society has been canvassing views on the role of the newsletter.

Five questions were asked:

- Do YOU read the newsletter?
- What do you LIKE about the newsletter?
- What DON'T you like about it?
- Should more money be put into the newsletter to make it a rather more glossy production with pictures and articles (like the American Cetacean Society's "Whalewatcher")?
- Should all material contained in the newsletter be reported instead by e-mail?

Well, we received a total of 25 responses (perhaps the other 325 members don't read either the newsletter or ecs-all!).

Of those who did reply, five said they were unable to comment because they were not receiving the newsletter! This is a long-standing problem that we have faced in which, for a variety of reasons, people who believe they are members do not receive the Society's material. It seems to be caused by: a) persons not being up to date with paying their subscriptions (often because they normally pay when attending the annual conference, and then they miss a conference and forget to renew); b) members who give a temporary mailing address from which they move mid-year, so that materials we send out never reach them; and c) handwritten address details are not clear and become transcribed incorrectly on the mailing list database.

Anyway, back to a summary of views of those who did respond.

In answer to the first question, eighteen out of twenty persons said they always read the newsletter, one said they sometimes did, and one did not.

Aspects that readers mentioned that they liked included the fact that it is small and compact, informative, informal, and easy to read; it reviews recent news and research including regional issues; it lists contact details for people from various European countries; it has no unnecessary graphics; and it contains news and reviews of recent book publications.

Aspects that readers mentioned that they disliked included some opinion articles, abstracts for recent papers already reproduced on MARMAM, and lack of contact details for some contributors. On the other hand, one suggested that contact addresses with lists of officers given at the back of each newsletter issue should either appear at lower frequency, say once a year, or occupy less space by being reproduced in a smaller font size. Another person wanted to see contributions from a wider range of people (**Editorial note: I agree! How about it then!!**). And two persons requested that it appeared at a higher frequency.

The third question asked whether the newsletter should be a more glossy production. Nineteen out of twenty did not want to see this, and some of these expressed this view very forcefully.

The final question asked whether all material should instead be communicated to member by electronic means. Seventeen out of twenty did not want this to occur, and the following reasons were given: some members are not on e-mail; some have unreliable e-mail systems which could lead to the newsletter never reaching them because their server was down at the time; there were fears that formatting would be lost particularly if graphics were included, and/or that the attachment could occupy a lot of memory and take a long time to download; some expressed the view that a paper copy received by post was more likely to be read and less likely to get mislaid than an e-mail message.

Finally, thanks very much to those who did take the trouble to respond.

ECS Council

## **IMPORTANT CHANGE- PLEASE ALL MEMBERS READ THIS**

### **Format of ECS Newsletter**

Although the results of the questionnaire reported above indicate that several members would not like to see the newsletter distributed entirely in electronic format, there are obviously several advantages to this approach: people receive information more quickly, and the costs of production and distribution are reduced.

After some extensive discussion about ways to distribute the newsletter electronically in a manner that should be accessible to the greatest number of people, the following approach is proposed:

- All paid-up members will receive this issue of the newsletter by post;
- The newsletter will also be distributed electronically as an attachment using Portable Document Format;
- Members are asked to inform me whether they are happy in future to receive the newsletter only by electronic means;
- Those persons who are prepared to receive an electronic version only will not receive a paper copy, thus saving the Society money.

In order to read the PDF file, it is necessary that members should have Adobe Acrobat Reader. The Reader is free, available for all major operating systems (Windows, Macintosh, Unix), and retains its original layout so that a print-out should be exactly the same as a hard copy.

Adobe Acrobat (version 4) can be downloaded for free from the Adobe Web Site:

<http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/main.htm>  
!

or for those at a university, from their university server.

REMEMBER, YOU WILL ONLY RECEIVE AN ELECTRONIC VERSION IF YOU ARE A PAID-UP MEMBER OF THE ECS. FOR DETAILS OF HOW TO JOIN, SEE BELOW.

Peter Evans

### **ECS Publications Index**

After almost fifteen years, the European Cetacean Society, through its newsletters and proceedings, has assembled a large number of articles, abstracts, and short papers relating to marine mammals in Europe and further afield.

We now propose to produce an Index to our Publications, using a suite of key words, so that people can more readily locate past articles, etc. We hope this will be ready in time for dissemination at the Annual Conference in Cork.

If you have any specific thoughts on key words you would like used in the Index, please let me know. At present, we are thinking of using a mixture of subject areas and taxonomy (four key words per Proceedings article) as links.

Peter Evans

### **Student Matters**

Well it's already time to start thinking about preparing work to present at the next ECS conference! I'm sure most of you will now be aware that the next conference is to be held in Cork next April, and as usual we look forward to a significant student contribution to presentations and attendance.

During the Valencia student meeting, several people suggested having a student workshop in Cork. Many of you attended the workshop in Monaco who's theme was "Pursuing a career in marine mammal science", and it was suggested that we focused the next workshop on advising and helping students to plan, conduct, write up and present their research projects. Since these topics would benefit a wider audience than just student members, we plan to arrange a workshop dealing with these themes which will be open to all attendees.

I am keen to hear any suggestions or comments regarding the planning of this workshop which may be incorporated into our plans. I would like to remind students that the mailing list <ecs-news> is specifically for the use of students to discuss issues, and details on how to subscribe are contained in this newsletter. To encourage the use of <ecs-news>, I will provide a monthly bulletin covering relevant student issues and will distribute the report of the Monaco student workshop to all subscribers. Volunteers from several countries are researching those organisations that provide funding for students to attend conferences, and these may help students to attend Cork. Unfortunately such opportunities are limited but those we find will be available via e-mail from me at: <s.ingram@ucc.ie>.

In the meantime, good luck with those abstracts!

Simon Ingram

## **ECS Membership List**

Many members have frequently requested a list of addresses and other contact details of all those who are members of the Society. We therefore propose to provide this both in printed form and electronically, in time for the Cork Conference.

To make the list as useful as possible, we would like to include research interests of members. This was something that was previously recorded on membership forms but had been omitted in recent years. We propose to re-introduce this, so please send us those details using the following key words:

Acoustics, Anatomy & Morphology, Behaviour, Cognition, Conservation & Management, Diet, Distribution, Ecology, Evolution, Fisheries Interactions, Life History, Medicine, Molecular Ecology, Parasitology, Pathology, Physiology, Population Dynamics, Reproduction, Strandings & Sightings, Systematics, and Toxicology.

Other details we would like to include are: postal address, telephone, fax, e-mail, and website (if applicable), along with whether in future you would like to receive the newsletter only by electronic means (PDF format).

We hope that ALL members will contribute to this list. If you do not want any contact details included, please let us know by 1st Jan 2000.

ECS Council

## **EUROPEAN NEWS**

### **The "Spanish Cetacean Society" has been created**

The "Spanish Cetacean Society" (SEC) was created during the 13th Annual Conference of the ECS held in April 1999 in Valencia by several Spanish NGO's (CEMMA, CREMA, ESPARTE, ALNITAK, SECAC, AMBAR, etc.) and scientists interested in the conservation of marine mammals from different Spanish regions (Andalusia, Canary Islands, Galicia, etc).

The SEC, recently registered officially as an association by the Spanish Government, is open to scientists, students and, in general, people interested in the study and conservation of cetaceans. This society has the support of several research centres as well as the environment authorities of the Spanish Government.

The main goals of the SEC are to study, conserve and promote public awareness about cetaceans, other marine species and their habitats. The SEC intends, on the one hand, to co-ordinate the activities of the different organisations included in this society, being a means of support and

encouragement for them and their researchers in Spain. On the other hand, the society will provide assistance to regional and national authorities in issues related to the conservation of the marine environment.

Despite its early life, the SEC has already become a relevant organisation, having produced technical reports for the Spanish Government concerning aspects such as a cataloguing of endangered species, an analysis of the current situation of whale watching activities in Spain, etc. In July 1999, the Environment Ministry of Spain appointed the SEC the custodian of a national database of strandings and sightings of cetaceans in order to standardise the methodology used by all groups involved in these activities. In addition, this will facilitate the exchange of information among researchers.

Any person interested in receiving further information, please contact the SEC at the following postal address:

Calle Nalon 16 , 28240 Hoyo de Manzanares, Madrid, Spain (e-mail: <gic-uam@lander.es>)

Toni Raga  
National Contact Person

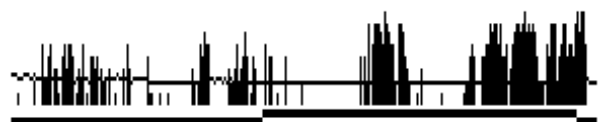
## **RECENT RESEARCH**

### **UNITED KINGDOM**

#### **The 'POD' – automated click logging**

Experience is beginning to accumulate of 'the POD', a self-contained signal processing system that logs the clicks made by porpoises. The drive to produce the POD came from studies of porpoise bycatch by gill nets in the Celtic Sea and the host of unanswered questions around that – Do the porpoise detect the nets? Do porpoises often travel or feed in 'sonar silence'? What is the distribution of porpoises through the year? How do porpoises respond to pingers?

Development of the POD was carried out through the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, a local conservation charity in the southwest of the UK, with support from the European Commission and the Body Shop. The resulting device is a prototype for something neater, but it has proved capable of being kicked around on the deck of fishing boat and still turning in accurate logs of when it was immersed and how many porpoise clicks it identified in every successive 10 seconds during those immersions, plus some data on ambient noise levels.





*Graphical output of POD data, showing two hours of click counts, logged every 10 seconds.*

The POD doesn't store sounds, except in a special 'debugging' mode. It stores a log of the number of clicks detected in successive logging periods of 1 or more seconds. Detection is achieved via a continuous spectrum analyser with comparison of energy ratios in different frequency bands. If the ratios meet the criteria set through the software then a click timer is triggered. If the spectral characteristics continues for some duration that is also under the user's control, then the system decides it has just heard a click.

Much work on clicks is focussed on capturing perfect click traces to define the character of a click and the use the animal makes of its sonar. The POD's task is very different as it has to take the whole cacophony of underwater sound and distinguish true porpoise clicks from all impostors. Clicks with high frequency components come from many sources – cavitating propellers, shrimps, moving sediments, bursting bubbles, ship's sonars, etc.

Tests of the POD in northern Mexico, in the Sea of Cortez, exposed it to huge numbers of shrimp clicks. These are much broader band than porpoise clicks, but among those huge numbers some narrow band high frequency clicks occur. This isn't altogether surprising as refraction and diffraction of sounds can generate narrower band sounds than the original sound, just as a bird's feather can generate colours from a white light source. However it turns out that this population of false clicks has a much lower mean duration than true clicks and can be easily distinguished by this.

PODs have now been used in several trials and studies. Tara Cox in the USA has shown a sharp fall in porpoise echo-location in the vicinity of pingers, demonstrating that pingers do not work just as 'alerting' devices. Mick Baines in west Wales has shown patterns of porpoise activity correlated with tidal regimes, darkness and feeding bottlenose dolphins. Deployments from fishing boats appear to indicate that entanglement is an unusual outcome of porpoises encountering gillnets, but more work on the range of the POD is needed. The data also showed that mostly porpoises were visiting the sea bed, but sometimes they were not doing so. The Sea Mammal Research Unit is undertaking an assessment of whether POD data has predictive value in relation to porpoise bycatch. In all these projects there is, of course, no need to capture and instrument any porpoises and the data can be highly location-specific – it could, for example, distinguish activity at the end of a fishing net from that in the middle. But you do have to get it back!

PODs currently run for 2 to 3 weeks, and a 3 month version is nearly ready. They detect clicks in 3 frequency bands – this was included to give collateral data on click sources, but it turns out that some other cetaceans are detected well by this system – in the Hudson Bay the sea canaries really sang – belugas showed a great range of click types detected at once, unlike anything we've seen just yet, and accompanied by amazing levels of high frequency sounds. In Hong Kong the POD has detected finless porpoises, and in the Shetland Islands it has been successfully towed. More information, software and some data samples are available on the following web page:

<http://www.chelonia.demon.co.uk>

Nick Tregenza  
(e-mail: [nick@chelonia.demon.co.uk](mailto:nick@chelonia.demon.co.uk))

### **Amazon River Dolphins**

River dolphins are probably some of the least known species of cetaceans, and they are for sure the most threatened group of dolphins in the world. They inhabit the Third World countries of Asia and South America, where conflicts between humans and dolphins for space and food are particularly evident.

Although fragmentary information on the number of dolphins is available in some geographic areas, very little is known about the ecology and behaviour of these species. For this reason, the Omacha Foundation with the support of Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, the Colombian Government (Colciencias) and the University of Aberdeen, undertook an evaluation of the habitat use of the freshwater dolphin *Inia geoffrensis* in the Amazon and Orinoco basins in Colombia. This study was carried out simultaneously in both areas from May 1996 to July 1998. Over 1,800 boat surveys and 3,476 hours of effort were conducted simultaneously in the study areas. Group size, composition by age, distance from the shore and type of shore were considered over different seasonal periods (low, high and transitional water levels). Photo-identification was used to record some daily and seasonal movements as well as residence patterns.

The average group size found in the Amazon was 3 individuals with ranges from 1 to 21 dolphins, and, in the Orinoco, group size averaged 4 to 7 individuals with ranges from 1 to 35.

The preliminary results showed that there is an important seasonal variation in the use of the habitat, based mainly upon habitat availability and prey movements. During low water levels, dolphins spent most of their time in the main river and in the confluence of tributaries, and when the water rises, they move into the lakes, small tributaries and the flooded forest, apparently in searching for prey.

Most of the feeding behaviour (66%) occurred in the lakes and confluences, 69% of travelling was in the main river, 80 % of mating occurred in low waters close to sandbanks in the main rivers in both study areas, and 56% of parental care occurred in special nursery areas in lakes in the Amazon river, while in the Orinoco, parental care most often occurred in the main river. Some residence patterns were observed in lakes and in some stretches of rivers in the study areas.

In general, floating meadows were the type of habitat with the highest importance in the Amazon during high water and high to low water periods, coinciding with the peaks of fish aggregation reported for this type of vegetation in the region. This association suggest a clear connection between dolphin habitat use and prey availability.

By contrast, in the Orinoco study area, flooded forest and beaches were more important in terms of dolphin presence. This habitat is particularly important during the high water period in both study areas, possibly because fish dispersed into this new available area in search of food. However, detection of dolphins inside the flooded forest was difficult most of the time.

Differences in the association of dolphins with specific types of shore between the Amazon and Orinoco appear to be linked to characteristics of the areas. In the Orinoco, for example, not such extensive patches of floating meadows were reported as in the Amazon. Similarly, rocks were only present in the Orinoco study area.

Dolphins were seen in all months of the year but consistent seasonal fluctuations in the number, behaviour, and habitat use were all recorded.

Differences in the habitat use of dolphins between the Amazon and Orinoco appear to be constrained by the availability of suitable habitat. The geology, vegetation, and even the quality of the water are quite different between these two areas. We suggest that the isolation of this species into two very different basins might influence a divergence in the behaviour and habitat use relevant to speciation processes in *Inia*.

We recommend that further research should be undertaken at confluences and lakes as priority areas for dolphins, in order to better understand their movements.

Both environmental factors as well as prey movement, currents, productivity, and human activities have to be considered carefully.

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## WEB SITES OF POTENTIAL INTEREST TO ECS MEMBERS

A wide range of web sites now exist which contain information of interest to people working on marine mammals. The list below will not be comprehensive, but we hope will be a starter. If you know of a website that should be on this list but isn't, please let the editor know and he will place a supplementary list in a subsequent issue. This list has been compiled by Giovanni Bearzi, Anne Collet, Peter Evans, Simon Ingram, and Heather Ward.

We should emphasise that by presenting this list, we are making no value judgments about individual websites. They are selected solely on the basis that they contain some information on marine mammals. They represent a very heterogeneous group of sites, and it is up to the reader to decide which he or she is interested in.

@Phocoena - <http://phocoena.org/>

African Marine Mammals -  
<http://elfi.com/csiafrica.html>

Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums -  
<http://www-biology.ucsc.edu/alliance/>

Alphabetical Listing of Online Information -  
[http://www.rtis.com/nat/user/elsberry/marspec/ms\\_blem.html](http://www.rtis.com/nat/user/elsberry/marspec/ms_blem.html)

American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. -  
<http://aazk.epower.net/>

American Association of Zoo Veterinarians -  
<http://www.worldzoo.org/AAZV/>

American Cetacean Society -  
<http://www.acsonline.org/>

American Society of International Law Wildlife  
Interest Group Overview -  
<http://www.eelink.net/~asilwildlife/cet.html>

AZA - Related Information Resources -  
<http://www.aza.org/members/zoolinks/>

Biscay Dolphin Research Programme -  
<http://www.biscay-dolphin.org.uk/>

Breach Marine Protection -  
<http://members.aol.com/breachenv/home2.htm>

British Marine Life Study Society -  
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/BMLSS/homepage.htm>

CampaignWhale -  
<http://www.campaign-whale.clara.net/>

Center for Bioacoustics, University of Pavia -  
<http://ipv512.unipv.it/webcib/cib.html#surf>

Center for Sound Communication (CSC) -  
<http://www.ou.dk/Nat/biology/neuro/CSC-eng.html>

Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins  
- <http://crmm.univ-lr.fr/>

Centre For Whale Research -  
<http://www.whaleresearch.com/>

Centre for Coastal Studies (CCS) -  
<http://www.coastalstudies.org/>

Ceta-Research and "Rhythm-Based  
Communication" -  
<http://www.oceancontact.com/research/>

Cetacea - <http://www.cetacea.org/>

Cetacean Behavior Laboratory -  
<http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/CBL/CBLHome.html>

Cetacean Research Technology Links -  
<http://www.cetaceanresearch.com/links.html>

Cetacean Society International (CSI) -  
<http://elfnet1a.elfi.com/csihome.html>

Coastal Ecosystems Research Foundation -  
<http://cerf.bc.ca/index.asp>

Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of  
Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) -  
<http://www.wcmc.org.uk/CITES/english/index.html>

Cornish Biological Records Unit -  
<http://www.ex.ac.uk/~cnfrench/ics/cbru/cbruhome.htm>

Dolfinarium Harderwijk - <http://www.dolfinarium.nl/>

Dolphin Institute -  
<http://www.dolphin-institute.com/default.html>

Dolphin Research Institute, Australia -  
<http://www.dolphinresearch.org.au/>

DolphinProject - <http://www.dolphinproject.org>

Dolphins of the Cres-Losinj Archipelago -  
<http://www.island-losinj.com/dolphins/index.htm>

Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) -  
<http://www.eia-international.org>

Environmental Organisation WebDirectory -  
<http://www.webdirectory.com>

Espaço Talassa - Whale Watching Azores -  
<http://www.ciberacores.pt/talassa/>

European Association for Aquatic Mammals -  
<http://www.eaam.org/>

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria - EAZA  
- <http://www.eaza.net/index.html>

European Cetacean Organisation -  
<http://www3.mistral.co.uk/doug/>

European Cetacean Society (ECS) -  
<http://web.inter.NL.net/users/J.W.Broekema/ecs>

European Cetacean Society (ECS), Italy -  
<http://www.tethys.org/ecs/>

Fondazione Cetacea per la difesa dei Mammiferi  
marini e lo studio del loro ambiente - Riccione -  
Italia - <http://www.fondazionecetacea.org/>

Gene Buck's Congressional Summaries -  
[http://www.lsu.edu/guests/sglegal/public\\_html/summaries.html](http://www.lsu.edu/guests/sglegal/public_html/summaries.html)

Greenpeace - <http://www.greenpeace.org>

Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust -  
<http://www.gn.apc.org/whales/>

Humane Society of the United States -  
<http://www.hsus.org>

IMMA Website - <http://www.imma.org/>

Institute of Marine Sciences -  
<http://natsci.ucsc.edu/ims/>

International Association for Aquatic Animal  
Medicine - <http://www.iaaam.org/>

International Dolphin Watch - <http://www.idw.org/>

International Marine Animal Trainers Association -  
<http://www.imata.org/>

International Marine Mammal Association (IMMA) -  
<http://www.imma.org/>

International Whaling Commission -  
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/iwcoffice/>

JoJo Dolphin Project - <http://www.jojo.tc/index.htm>

Laboratory of Biomarkers, University of Siena -  
<http://space.tin.it/scienza/marfossi/>

Louisiana Marine Mammal Stranding network -  
<http://www.geocities.com/WallStreet/Floor/9831/>

Marine Conservation Society -  
<http://www.mcsuk.mcmail.com>

Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response  
Program -

[http://www.nmfs.gov/prot\\_res/overview/mmhealth.html](http://www.nmfs.gov/prot_res/overview/mmhealth.html)

Marine Mammal links -  
<http://ompl.marine.usf.edu/mmsg/marinemammallinks.htm>

Marine Mammal Research Program -  
<http://www.tamug.tamu.edu/mmrp/>

Marine Mammal Stranding Center -  
<http://www.mmsc.org/>

Marine Species Alphabetical Listing -  
[http://www.rtis.com/nat/user/elsberry/marspec/ms\\_blem.html](http://www.rtis.com/nat/user/elsberry/marspec/ms_blem.html)

MARMAM (e-mail discussion list) -  
<http://is.dal.ca/~whitelab/marmam.htm>

MMPA Bulletin -  
<http://kingfish.ssp.nmfs.gov/tmcintyr/mammals/bulletin.html>

Monachus Guardian -  
<http://www.monachus.org/01mguard.htm>

Mote Marine Laboratory -  
<http://www.marinelab.sarasota.fl.us/>  
National Marine Mammal Laboratory -  
<http://nmml01.afsc.noaa.gov/>

National Seal Sanctuary -  
<http://www.sealsanctuary.co.uk/>

NetVet - Marine Mammal -  
<http://www.zi.biologie.uni-muenchen.de/~st2042/marine.html>

NOAA Fisheries - <http://www.nmfs.gov/>

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission -  
<http://www.nammco.no/Default.htm>

Ocean Alliance - <http://www.oceanalliance.org>

Ocean Conservation Society -  
<http://www.oceanconservation.org/>

OceanFutures (Free Willy Keiko Foundation & Jean-Michel Cousteau) -  
<http://www.oceanfutures.org>

Oceanic Resource Foundation - <http://www.orf.org>

OrcaLab - <http://www.orcalab.org>

Oregon Coast Aquarium -  
<http://www.aquarium.org/>

Oregon Coast Aquarium: Keiko -  
<http://www.aquarium.org/keikohome.htm>

Pacific Cetacean Group -  
<http://infomanage.com/PCG/>

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) - <http://www.rspca.org.uk>

Sarasota Dolphin Research Program -  
<http://www.mote.org/~rwells/>

Sea Mammal Research Unit -  
<http://smub.st-and.ac.uk/>

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society -  
<http://www.seashepherd.org/>

Sea Watch Foundation -  
<http://www.josmarian.ch/josmarian/seawatch/>

Sea World - <http://www.seaworld.com/>

SeaWorld - <http://www.seaworld.org>

Silent Oceans Project -  
<http://www.silent-oceans.org/>

SMM Strategies for Pursuing a Career in Marine Mammal Science -  
<http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~smm/strat.htm>

Society for Marine Mammalogy -  
<http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~smm/>

Society for Marine Mammalogy: Student Chapter -  
<http://www.whoi.edu/SSMM/>

Song of the Whale -  
<http://www.easynet.co.uk/ifaw/pic.htm>

Taxonomy Browser -  
<http://www3.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Taxonomy/tax.html>

Tethys Research Institute - <http://www.tethys.org>

Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network -  
<http://www.tmmsn.org/>

The Dolphin Circle -  
<http://fp.premier1.net/iamdavid/>

The Dolphin Society -  
<http://www.eisa.net.au/~dolphins/>

The Fund for Animals - <http://www.fund.org/>

The Institute For Cetacean Research (ICR) -  
<http://www.whalesci.org/index.html>

The International Fund For Animal Welfare (IFAW) -  
<http://www.ifaw.org>

The International Whaling Commission -  
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/iwcoffice/>

The International Wildlife Coalition (IWC) -  
<http://www.iwc.org>

The Oceania Project -  
<http://www.oceania.org.au/index.html>

The Orca Foundation -  
<http://www.e-cafe.com/orca/>

The Sierra Club - <http://www.sierraclub.org>

The World Society for the Protection of Animals  
(WSPA) - <http://www.wspa.org.uk>

The World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) -  
<http://www.panda.org>

The Chinese White Dolphin - Doomed to  
Extinction:  
<http://www.webdivers.co.uk/dolphin/index.html>

The Dolphins -  
<http://www.spiritweb.org/Spirit/dolphins.html>

The Marine Mammal Center -  
<http://www.tmmc.org/>

Tokitae Foundation/Free Lolita -  
<http://www.freelolita.net>

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare  
(UFAW) - <http://www.ufaw3.dircon.co.uk/>

University of California hypertext book on whaling  
and fishing -  
<http://darwin.bio.uci.edu/~sustain/bio65/lec04/b65lec04.htm#Types%20of%20whale>

Vancouver Aquarium -  
<http://www.vancouver-aquarium.org/index2.htm>

Virtual Dolphin Project -  
<http://www.virtualdolphin.org/>

Watery World of Whales -  
<http://whales.magna.com.au/>

West Coast Anti-Whaling Society -  
<http://www.anti-whaling.com>

Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) -  
<http://www.wdcs.org>

Whale Conservation Institute -  
<http://www.whale.org/>

Whale Research Expeditions eco-tourism -  
<http://www.whaleresearch.com.au/>

Whale Watch Kaikoura - New Zealand's Whale  
Watching Experience -  
<http://www.whalewatch.co.nz/>

Whale Watcher Expert System -  
<http://vvv.com/ai/demos/whale.html>

Whale-watching workshop abstracts -  
<http://office.geog.uvic.ca/dept/whale/abstract.html>

Whale-Watching-Web -  
<http://www.physics.helsinki.fi/whale/>

WhaleClub - <http://www.whaleclub.com>

WhaleNet - <http://whale.wheelock.edu/>

Whales in the Wild (WWF) -  
<http://www.panda.org/research/w-whales/page1.htm>

World Whale Police -  
<http://www.worldwhalepolice.org/>

Zeeshondencreche Pieterburen -  
<http://www.zeeshondencreche.nl/english/index.htm>

ZooCheck Canada - <http://www.zoocheck.com>

Zoos and Aquariums of AZA - <http://www.aza.org/>

### **Review of some Web Sites Providing Information on Marine Mammals**

In this and future issues, we plan to review in a little more detail many of the above web sites, starting arbitrarily with the following:

*American Cetacean Society*  
<http://www.acsonline.org/>

The American Cetacean Society is the oldest whale conservation group in the world. Founded in 1967, it is a non-profit, volunteer membership organization with regional U.S. chapters and members in 41 countries. ACS works to protect whales, dolphins, porpoises, and their habitats through education, conservation and research. The site provides information on ACS activities and on its journal, *Whalewatcher*. Some ACS Chapters offer grants to support cetacean research by biologists and graduate students. Many links.

*American Society of Mammalogists*  
<http://asm.wku.edu/>

The ASM is a group dedicated to promoting interest in mammals throughout the world through research, education, and communication among scientists and the general public. The ASM accomplishes this through annual meetings, international conferences, committee activities, research and educational awards, and publication of scientific and non-technical materials, including the *Journal of Mammalogy*. The site includes job opportunities and a search engine for mammologist e-mail search.

*Atlantic Dolphin Research Cooperative*  
<http://members.aol.com/adrcnet/index.html>

The Atlantic Dolphin Research Cooperative began with several researchers at the 9th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals in Chicago (1991), compiling a list of people involved

with local studies of bottlenose dolphins along the Atlantic coast north of Florida.

*Center for Bioacoustics, University of Pavia*

<http://ipv512.unipv.it/webcib/cib.html>

(in Italian and English) The web site of the Interdisciplinary Center for Bioacoustics and Environmental Research, University of Pavia, Italy. It includes information on the Center's cetacean sound archives, and features cetacean sounds and spectrograms.

*Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins*

<http://crmm.univ-lr.fr/>

(in French and English) The Marine Mammal Research Center, based in La Rochelle, France, is a research laboratory conducting scientific studies on marine mammals and managing marine mammal collections. This very good, comprehensive site provides information on marine mammals from the French coasts and provides guidelines for dealing with stranded animals. It features an extensive scientific library, electronic reading room, and information for internships at the Centre.

*Cetacean Behavior Laboratory*

<http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/CBL/CBLHome.html>

The Cetacean Behavior Laboratory carries out field research on the behavioural ecology and population dynamics of bottlenose dolphins along the Southern California / Northern Baja coastline. The site features CBL current projects, publication list with abstracts, and information about internships at the lab.

*Cetacean Society International*

<http://elfnet1a.elfi.com/csihome.html>

The site takes an activist side against military LFA sonar operations and features a petition to prevent its use. It also takes sides against the keeping of cetaceans in captivity. Several links to related sites.

*Cetacean Research Technology*

<http://www.cetaceanresearch.com>

Cetacean Research Technology is a commercial company producing hydrophones, analysis tools, suction cups and other tools targeted to marine mammal research professionals.

*Congressional Summaries*

[http://www.lsu.edu/guests/sglegal/public\\_html/summaries.html](http://www.lsu.edu/guests/sglegal/public_html/summaries.html)

Congressional Research Service (CRS) weekly fishery and marine mammal summaries. A selection of fisheries and marine mammal public policy issues with potential public policy implications for the U.S. Congress. Objective, non-partisan, unbiased public policy analysis.

*Dolphins of the Cres-Losinj Archipelago*

<http://www.island-losinj.com/dolphins/index.htm>

A simple guide to the bottlenose dolphin community studied since 1986 in the Croatian

waters of the northern Adriatic Sea. It includes a code of conduct for approaching dolphins in the wild.

*European Association for Aquatic Mammals*

<http://www.eaam.org/>

The European Association for Aquatic Mammals is an organisation of people interested in marine mammals in human care, in a zoological environment or in the wild, and includes people dealing with the welfare of marine mammals through research, medical care, training, education, conservation, management and related activities. The site features a position statement on the release of long-term captive cetaceans, EAAM standards for establishments housing bottlenose dolphins, and information regarding EAAM scientific journal, *Aquatic Mammals*.

*European Cetacean Society*

<http://web.inter.nl.net/users/J.W.Broekema/ecs/>

The European Cetacean Society is the largest European association of whale and dolphin scientists. It includes approximately 500 members from >30 countries (non-European countries include USA, Canada, China, Peru, Algeria, South Africa, Japan). It organizes annual meetings that have a large attendance, with several days of spoken and poster presentations, workshops, and various displays on the state-of-the-art in whale and dolphin research. The European Cetacean Society publishes a newsletter, conference proceedings entitled *European Research on Cetaceans*, and special issues.

*European Cetacean Society, Italy*

<http://www.tethys.org/ecs/>

(in Italian) The newly-born site for Italian ECS members.

*Fondazione Cetacea*

<http://www.fondazionecetacea.org/>

(in Italian) The Fondazione Cetacea is a non-profit organization dealing with the study and conservation of cetaceans and, more generally, with marine conservation. Since 1988 it has been involved in research, conservation and environmental education thanks to the contribution of biologists, veterinarians and volunteers. The Fondazione manages the research and education activities of the Delphinarium located in Riccione and, since 1993, of the Delphinarium of Cattolica.

*International Whaling Commission*

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/iwcoffice/>

The IWC keeps under review and revises as necessary the measures laid down in the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, which govern the conduct of whaling throughout the world. These measures provide for the complete protection of certain species; designate specified areas as whale sanctuaries; set limits on the numbers and size of whales which may be taken; prescribe open and closed seasons and areas for whaling; and prohibit the capture of

suckling calves and female whales accompanied by calves. The site provides information about IWC history and purpose, members, activities, publications, and on the IWC Journal of Cetacean Research and Management.

*Laboratory of Biomarkers, University of Siena*

<http://space.tin.it/scienza/marfossi/>

(in Italian and English) Research and publications made by the foremost Italian laboratory focusing on marine mammal contamination by persistent xenobiotics. Very innovative, conservation-oriented research approach and methodology.

*Marine Mammal Research Program*

<http://www.tamug.tamu.edu/mmrp/>

The site of the famous Texas A&M University at Galveston Marine Mammal Research Program. Description, personnel, projects, and publication list. One of the places that made the history of cetacean research.

*Marine Species Alphabetical Listing*

[http://www.rtis.com/nat/user/elsberry/marspec/ms\\_blem.html](http://www.rtis.com/nat/user/elsberry/marspec/ms_blem.html)

Extensive alphabetical listing of online information about marine species, as compiled by Wesley R. Elsberry. Lots of links.

*MARMAM (e-mail discussion list)*

<http://is.dal.ca/~whitelab/marmam.htm>

MARMAM is an edited e-mail discussion list which focuses on marine mammal research and conservation. The list was established in August 1993 and as of November 1998 there were over 3,400 subscribers from 60 different countries. Anyone may subscribe to the list. Here you can find out how to subscribe, unsubscribe, submit a message etc.

*Mote Marine Laboratory*

<http://www.marinelab.sarasota.fl.us/>

Not only cetaceans at Mote. The Mote Aquarium, together with the laboratory's educational programs, is intended to help make the marine world more understandable and accessible to the public. It includes pages on cetacean rehabilitation programmes, bottlenose dolphin "Gulliver" impressive travels etc. (see at: <http://www.mote.org/~mkmetz/buster.phtml>)

*NOAA Fisheries*

<http://www.nmfs.gov/>

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or "NOAA Fisheries" is a part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NMFS administers NOAA's programs which support the domestic and international conservation and management of living marine resources. NMFS provides services and products to support domestic and international fisheries management operations, fisheries development, trade and industry assistance activities, enforcement, protected species and habitat conservation operations, and the scientific and technical aspects of NOAA's marine fisheries program.

*Pacific Cetacean Group*

<http://infomanage.com/PCG/>

The Pacific Cetacean Group is an independent California based non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the knowledge of marine mammals and promoting the conservation of their marine habitats through scientific research and education.

*Sarasota Dolphin Research Program*

<http://www.mote.org/~rwells/>

The Sarasota Dolphin Research Program conducts high-quality scientific research and provides training and educational opportunities. It focuses on the biology, behaviour, ecology, health, and population dynamics of coastal bottlenose dolphins. Volunteer opportunities included.

*Sea Mammal Research Unit*

<http://smub.st-and.ac.uk/>

The Sea Mammal Research Unit is a University Unit of the Natural Environment Research Council, located at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. The site provides extensive scientific information on issues such as population monitoring, individual variation, marine mammal conservation, advances in research methods, etc. It also includes a list of SMRU publications.

*SMM Strategies for Pursuing a Career in Marine Mammal Science*

<http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~smm/strat.htm>

The field of marine mammal science has a growing appeal. Yet, many students do not clearly understand what the field involves. This site addresses questions commonly asked by people seeking a career in marine mammal science in the United States (but this suggestion are helpful in many other countries) and provides suggestions on how to plan education and work experience. The best place to look if one wants to start a career in this field.

*Society for Marine Mammalogy*

<http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~smm/>

The home page of Society for Marine Mammalogy contains a list of current officers, constitution and bylaws, information about *Marine Mammal Science* - the journal, a membership application form, recent issues of the SMM Newsletter, and Presidential letters.

*Tethys Research Institute*

<http://www.tethys.org>

The Tethys Research Institute is a non-profit NGO focusing on marine animals and particularly on cetaceans inhabiting the Mediterranean Sea. The site provides comprehensive information on the work done by Tethys over the last 13 years. It features extensive literature lists, downloadable software, photo albums, volunteer programmes and news about the newly-born Ligurian Sea Cetacean Sanctuary.

*Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network*  
<http://www.tmmsn.org/>

The Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, founded in 1980, is a nonprofit volunteer-based organization dedicated to the understanding and conservation of marine mammals. The Network rescues and rehabilitates marine mammals that strand along the Texas Coast, providing food, medical treatment and 24-hour-a-day observation. The site provides information on TMMSN research, education, rescue, rehabilitation and release activities.

*Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society*  
<http://www.wdcs.org/>

The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society is the world's most active charity dedicated to the conservation and welfare of cetaceans. This elegant site features conservation, research and education projects and campaigns, plus some opinions about how to deal with cetaceans.

*WhaleNet*  
<http://whale.wheelock.edu/>

(in 5 languages) A vast educational web site, focusing on whales and marine research. WhaleNet is an interactive education project sponsored by Wheelock College in Boston, Massachusetts with support from the National Science Foundation. Impressive index of links.

*Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*  
<http://www.whoi.edu/>

The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is the largest independent American oceanographic research institution. It is dedicated to the study of all aspects of marine science and engineering and to the education of marine scientists and engineers.

Giovanni Bearzi

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **New Publication from ECS on Marine Mammal Biology**

In recent years, the European Cetacean Society has organised two week-long courses in Marine Mammal Biology for students (September 1996 & September 1998), hosted by the University of Valencia, Spain.

Arising from the courses, a book will shortly be published, aimed particularly at students with the title **Marine Mammals: Biology and Conservation**. It is edited by Peter Evans & Toni Raga, and published by Kluwer Academic/ Plenum Press.

The book contains sixteen chapters on various major disciplines. Subjects covered include evolution & genetics, life histories, ecology, physiology, behaviour, medicine (diseases,

parasitology), survey methodology, and all the main conservation issues (pollution, fisheries interactions, sound disturbance). It has an ecological and conservation emphasis since these are subject areas calling for the most attention in a modern world, but other areas like evolution, physiology and medicine are also given in-depth treatment. It is written at the level of the undergraduate or above, although its style should appeal to anyone with a serious interest in marine mammal science.

The contents include:

### **a) LIFE HISTORY & ECOLOGY**

1. Life History Strategies of Cetaceans and Pinnipeds by *Peter G.H. Evans & Ian Stirling*
2. How Persistent are Marine Mammal Habitats in an Ocean of Variability? by *Arne Bjørge*
3. Ecological Aspects of Reproduction of Marine Mammals by *Christina Lockyer*

### **b) BEHAVIOUR**

4. Behavioural Ecology of Cetaceans by *James R. Heimlich-Boran, Peter G.H. Evans and Martin J. Rosen*
5. New Perspectives on the Behavioural Ecology of Pinnipedia by *Humberto Luis Cappozzo*
6. Sound and Cetaceans by *Jonathan Gordon and Peter Tyack*

### **c) SURVEYS AND STUDY TECHNIQUES**

7. Applications of Molecular Data in Cetacean Taxonomy and Population Genetics with Special Emphasis on Defining Species Boundaries by *Michel Milinkovitch, Rick LeDuc, Ralph Tiedemann, and Andy Dizon*
8. The Assessment of Marine Mammal Population Size and Status by *Philip S. Hammond*
9. Acoustic Techniques for Studying Cetaceans by *Jonathan Gordon and Peter Tyack*

### **d) PARASITES & PATHOGENS**

10. Living together: the Parasites of Marine Mammals by *F. Javier Aznar, Juan A. Balbuena, Mercedes Fernández & J. Antonio Raga*
11. Marine Mammal Health: Holding the Balance in an Ever-changing Sea by *Joseph R. Geraci and Valerie Lounsbury*
12. Marine Mammal Mass Mortalities by *Mariano Domingo, Seamus Kennedy, and Marie-Françoise Van Bresse*



## **e) CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT**

13. Organohalogen Contaminants in Marine Mammals by *Ailsa J. Hall*

14. Environmentalists, Fishermen, Cetaceans and Fish: Is there a Balance and can Science help to find it? by *Martin A. Hall & Gregory P. Donovan*

15. Interactions between Aquatic Mammals and Humans in the context of Ecosystem Management by *Enrique A. Crespo and Martin A. Hall*

16. Cetaceans and Humans: Influences of Noise by *Bernd WYrsig and Peter G.H. Evans*

Peter Evans & Toni Raga

### **Other Marine Mammal Texts Published in 1999**

#### **1. Biology of Marine Mammals**

Edited by J. E. Reynolds, and S.A. Rommel.  
Hardcover, 600 pages, (Sept 1999) Smithsonian Institution Press; ISBN: 1560983752; Dimensions (in inches): 1.58 x 11.33 x 8.87. Approx. \$75. Special discount for members of the Society for Marine Mammalogy (\$60.0)

Contents (extracted from Natural History Book Services): Takes an integrated approach to the biology of marine carnivores, cetaceans, and sirenians by comparing them with one another and also with terrestrial mammals, providing a framework for biological and ecological concepts. Describes functional morphology, sensory systems, energetics, reproduction, communication and cognition, behaviour, distribution, population biology, feeding ecology, and physiological adaptations.

#### **2. Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals**

by J. R. Twiss, and R.R. Reeves.  
Hardcover, 496 pages (Sept 1999). Smithsonian Institution Press; ISBN: 1560987782; Dimensions (in inches): 1.26 x 11.27 x 8.75. Approx \$60.

Contents (extracted from the Society for Marine Mammalogy): Emphasising the diverse issues surrounding the conservation of marine mammals, thirty-one marine biologists and conservationists provide insight into a complex mix of scientific, social, economic, and political considerations. Review of the history of conservation of marine mammals, nationally and internationally, and discuss its future implications based on specific efforts directed at single species.

### 3. Marine Mammals: Evolutionary Biology

by Annalisa Berta, and J. L. Summich.

Hardcover - 460 pages (Sept 1999). Academic Press; ISBN: 0120932253. Approx \$60. Special discount for members of the Society for Marine Mammalogy (\$48.00).

Contents (extracted from Natural History Book Services) Comprehensive text devoted to the systematics, evolution, morphology, ecology, physiology, and behaviour of marine mammals. Chapters on the evolutionary history of the principle lineages, major organ systems, diving physiology, diet, sound production and echolocation, reproductive behaviour and conservation biology.

### CETACEAN JOB OPPORTUNITY

Recently, the job of **Database Manager** was advertised via ecs-all and MARMAM. Now, applications are invited for the post of **Programme Manager**. Both jobs are with the marine environmental research charity, Sea Watch Foundation (UK Cetacean Monitoring Unit), based in Oxford, England. It is planned for this post to take effect as soon as possible. It will run for a probationary period of six months, and then, subject to satisfactory progress, continue indefinitely.

Sea Watch was established to achieve better conservation of whales and dolphins in the seas around Britain and Ireland by involving the public in scientific monitoring of populations and the threats they face, and by the regular production of material to educate, inform and lobby for better environmental protection. It has a network of around 2,000 volunteer observers drawn from all walks of life; a national computer database of c. 43,000 sightings and 36,000 effort records (mainly cetaceans, but also seals, sharks and sea turtles); and a membership support group of about 200 persons.

From the sightings database, distribution maps are generated to identify important geographic areas for particular cetacean species, monitor seasonal and longer term trends in abundance, and ecological relationships, for better conservation management. It undertakes conservation research projects and surveys, which may be commissioned by a variety of bodies ranging from national and local government agencies, environmental NGO's, and industry. It works in conjunction with a number of whalewatching operators to run "Sea Watch Surveys", to encourage sensitive behaviour around whales and dolphins, and promote the collection of useful scientific information.

It produces a wide variety of publications including a newsletter, reports, and educational materials; maintains a marine photo & video library, various

species photo-ID catalogues, and is developing an interactive website.

### Skills/Qualifications

The post holder should have at least a university degree in a biological subject, and preferably postgraduate experience in cetacean field study. A reasonable amount of computing experience is required, preferably of both Apple and PC systems. Good working knowledge of several of the following software programs is highly desirable: Word, Excel, Filemaker Pro, Access, Quark Xpress, Adobe Photoshop, and Powerpoint; and preferably also Cricket Graph, and at least one statistical package such as Statview or SPSS.

The person should have the following qualities:

- a strong interest, and preferably some field experience, in cetaceans;
- good interpersonal skills, to assist in the training & supervision of volunteers of a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and levels of experience;
- initiative in developing contacts with Sea Watch's regional groups and its network of observers;
- ability and enthusiasm for giving public lectures; and
- flexibility in times of working (which might include evenings & weekends, e.g. for participation in research cruises, meetings, etc).

### Job Description

To oversee the sightings observer network and regional groups established around the UK, for the systematic monitoring of cetaceans and the conservation problems they face. To represent Sea Watch in a variety of capacities. Duties include:

1. Visits and liaison with coastal communities for regional group development throughout UK, with the aim of training observers to conduct systematic recording of cetaceans, and monitoring of potential conservation threats.
2. Recruitment of new observers, and feedback of information and advice to existing ones.
3. Close liaison with the Director, DataBase Manager & volunteers on work programmes and project initiatives including participation in the production of grant proposals.

4. Regular liaison with the public and media. This includes encouraging and maintaining support group membership, and responding to general enquiries, often through factsheets, and these will need regularly updating and developing.

5. Managing filing systems and handling routine correspondence.

6. Participation in the production of newsletters, reports & educational material, with particular emphasis on graphics and desktop publishing design.

7. Maintenance of photo-ID catalogues and a marine photo library, supervising students and other volunteers where appropriate

8. Attending meetings and giving public lectures on behalf of Sea Watch.

9. Participation in cetacean field projects.

Salary ranges from £12,000-15,000 per annum depending on qualifications & experience.

If you are interested in the above post, please send by 1st November, a covering letter outlining suitability, and include a curriculum vitae, and two academic references, to:

Dr. Peter G.H. Evans, Sea Watch Foundation,  
11 Jersey Road, Oxford OX4 4RT  
(e-mail: [peter.evans@zoology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:peter.evans@zoology.ox.ac.uk))

## OFFER OF HELP

### Whale Research in the South Pacific

An organisation has been set up to help contribute to the worldwide research being carried out on cetaceans, specifically upon the humpback whale.

By making this a semi commercial venture and supplying a large research vessel, we will be able to carry on continual research over a long period of time. It also makes it a self funding project.

In addition to our activities in Tonga, "Whale Research Expeditions" offers the following:

1. Information, data and photographs will be made freely available to any interested party via the internet.

2. Researchers can make specific requests to be included in our own activities.

3. An ongoing "free on board" (FOB) position will be made available for two weeks at a time (longer by special arrangement) to persons interested in whales (e.g. marine biologists, students, oceanographers and marine photographers, etc)

Each application will be assessed and, if selected, placed on an availability list. FOBs will be responsible for their own travelling expenses.

Please look at our web site:  
<[www.whaleresearch.com.au](http://www.whaleresearch.com.au)>

Presently I am interested in establishing links with other web sites and having this project listed in eco-tourism directories. Would you be interested in helping?

Grant Batkin  
(e-mail: [captain@whaleresearch.com.au](mailto:captain@whaleresearch.com.au))

## REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

### Medic from Siberia seeking to participate in cetacean research project

I would be extremely grateful if anyone looking for a volunteer to assist them in their research would consider me. I come from Novosibirsk, the capital of Siberia where I have lived all my life. Although my main interests are in zoology, particularly behaviour, I had no opportunities to study this subject at university here. I therefore studied medicine, where I obtained a broad training in theoretical subjects such as histology, physiology, and biochemistry, and eventually gained a position in the Department of Pathomorphology at the Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine.

I worked in the Institute for four years, studying the mucosal tracts of internal organs as biomarkers of the environment. My thesis was on the morphogenesis of chronic gastritis using light and electron microscopy. Some of this involved biopsies from skin, stomach, intestine and the urinary tract, and the results have been published in various joint publications in scientific journals.

Several times I have had the opportunity to visit a dolphin research station on the Black Sea, belonging to the Severtsov Institute for Problems of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences. Here I was invited as a worker to care for the animals housed there, but my financial situation forced me to return to medicine, and for the last six years I have been working as a histologist in the State Research Center for Virology and Biotechnology. Please can someone allow me to help them with their research. I am unmarried, and aged 38.

Vladimir Omigov  
(e-mail: [orit@online.sinor.ru](mailto:orit@online.sinor.ru))

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(An open list to which cetacean-related  
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ECS-pathology@mailbase.ac.uk  
(A list for members with a special interest in the  
pathology and anatomy of cetaceans.)  
ECS-news@mailbase.ac.uk  
(A list open to students attending the 1998  
Conference.)

ECS-board@mailbase.ac.uk (Closed list)  
(For all messages to the ECS-board members.  
You may send, but cannot receive messages  
unless you are a board-member.)

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(To reach ECS Computer Support Group.)

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To: mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk  
Subj:  
Text: join ecs-all firstname.....lastname stop

The ECS Home Page can be reached at:  
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