



**Marine litter: an emerging cause of concern for marine mammals**

**Date:** Sunday, April 30, 2017 from 9 to 14.

**Venue:** Kulturøen, Havnegade 6, 5500 Middelfart (**D** in the map)

**Organizers:**

Prof. Maria Cristina Fossi, Dr. Matteo Baini, Dr. Cristina Panti - University of Siena (Italy)

**Aim:**

The main aim of the workshop is to explore the emerging issue of the impact of marine litter on several marine mammal species. The workshop will be devoted to define the state of art on the impact of marine litter in marine mammals and to present the new data available on this topic ranging from entanglement to the ingestion of macro- and microplastics.

The main expected outputs are:

* To define harmonized protocols for the analysis of marine litter in stranded organisms
* To define new methods to evaluate the exposure to marine litter (in particular plastics) in free-ranging organisms
* To identify the most threated species by this kind pollution
* To identify hot spot areas for marine mammals
* To propose mitigation actions for future recommendation





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**Draft AGENDA**

**Welcome / Registration**: 9.00

***Opening: 9.20***

* (9.30-9.45) Introduction on monitoring and assessment of marine litter on marine mammals (M. Cristina Fossi)
* (9.45-10.00) State of art on impact of marine litter on cetaceans (Sarah Baulch)
* (10.00-10.15) Harmonized protocols for the analysis of marine litter in stranded organisms: a special focus on microplastics (Gema Hernandez-Milian - *TBC*)
* (10.15-10.30) Case studies in stranded organisms in the Netherlands (Elisa Bravo-Rebolledo)
* (10.30-10.45) Distribution of floating marine debris and its occurrence in marine mammals from German waters and finding in sperm whales accidentally entering in the North Sea in 2016 (Bianca Unger)
* (10.45-11.00) Marine litter ingestion in stranded sperm whales from the Mediterranean Sea (Matteo Baini)

***Coffee Break: 11.00-11.30***

* (11.30-11.45) New methods to evaluate the exposure to plastic litter in free-ranging cetaceans: plastic additives and biomarkers (Cristina Panti and Matteo Baini)
* (11.45-12.00) Experience of plastic and microplastics monitoring in Denmark (Kristian Syberg)
* (12.00-12.15) Experience from previous IWC Marine Debris workshops (Mark P. Simmonds)

*Panel discussion on (12.15-13.30):*

* Identification of the most threated species by marine litter in European waters
* To define harmonized protocols for the analysis of marine litter in stranded organisms
* Hot spot areas for marine mammals
* Knowledge gaps
* Mitigation actions and future recommendations

***Closing: 13.30***

