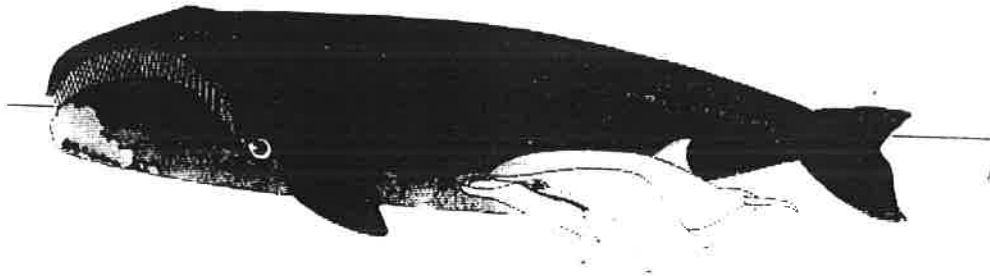


ECS Newsletter no. 18

THE
EUROPEAN CETACEAN
SOCIETY



Edited by
Peter Evans & Marjan Addink

Summer 1993

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EDITORIAL

This newsletter is slimmer than we would have liked owing to the lack of contributions from **you, the members!** This seems to be a perennial problem, and we would urge you that if you have any news to impart to other ECS members, you send it to us for inclusion in the next newsletter: new books on cetaceans published in your country, forthcoming meetings that you know about or recent ones attended which you could report on, research projects you are involved with, conservation issues, and indeed any thoughts related to cetaceans.

Those who did not manage to get to Inverness in February missed an excellent conference. Attendance was our largest ever, as was the number of contributions in the form of talks and poster displays. The evenings were packed with entertainments ranging from tenpin bowling to Scottish country dancing, with an impressive Irish improvisation from our IWC member! Very many thanks go to Paul Thompson and his band of willing helpers who made the conference so enjoyable and run so smoothly, even to the extent of arranging the local dolphins to perform for those conference delegates who went on the field excursion.

**PETER EVANS
MARJAN ADDINK**

ECS NEWS

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN CETACEAN SOCIETY: 1992

Membership of the European Cetacean Society at the start of the Inverness Conference, totalled 351 from 28 countries (21 European), with Italy (98), Germany (58), UK (57), Spain (24), the Netherlands (23), and Denmark (22) having the highest representation. Other member countries include Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Faroes, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Japan, Peru, USA and Vanuatu.

A very successful conference was held in San Remo, Italy between 20-22 February, on the theme *Marine Mammals and Fisheries*. Five invited speakers attended: Bill Perrin and Bob Brownell from the United States, John Hislop from Scotland, Antonio di Natale from Italy, and Alexey Birkun from the Ukraine. Drasko and Alan Serman from Croatia were invited to speak but were unable to attend for reasons beyond their control. The abstracts of that meeting were published as proceedings under the title *European Research on Cetaceans - 6*.

Following information presented at that meeting about the serious conservation status of cetaceans in the Black Sea, a statement of concern was prepared by the Council of the ECS, in conjunction with Dr Alexey Birkun, for sending to the relevant authorities of the countries bordering the region (*see this newsletter*).

On a more positive note, the European Commission, through the London based organisation Logica, selected the society as one of ten special interest groups out of four hundred, with a view to developing the use of electronic communication (E-mail) within the membership.

Three newsletters were produced during the year, reviewing recent research and news items in Europe and elsewhere in the world, conservation issues, cetacean meetings and publications, and with requests for biological

material. We are very grateful to Marjan Addink and Joke Bakker for their dedication in helping with the editing of the newsletter.

In order to facilitate closer cooperation between the ECS and the European Association for Aquatic Mammals (EAAM), an exchange of delegates at annual meetings was initiated, with exchange of information about the respective societies in each others' newsletters. Christina Lockyer represented the ECS at the 1992 annual meeting of the EAAM (see ECS newsletter no. 16).

Finally, the European Cetacean Society has continued to provide advice to government departments and non-governmental organisations in various countries, and specialist information for various public enquiries.

PETER EVANS
(ACTING SECRETARY)

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR
UP TO 16 FEB 1993**

CREDIT

Balance as of 19 Feb 92 £5,205.10

<u>Credit</u>	£
Membership & donations	2,686.11
Conference fees from San Remo	1,212.07
Sale of Proceedings	210.20
Transfer of Funds from Tethys In.	4,581.68
Conference Fees for Inverness	125.00
Interest	189.79

Total Income	9,004.85
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<u>Debit</u>	£
Secretarial expenses at SMRU	477.50
Council members' expenses	494.86
Publications (Proc., Newsletters)	4,768.50
Postage, envelopes, etc	1,170.00
Conference costs	519.52
	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	7,430.38

Balance as of 16 February 1993 £6,779.57

PHILIP HAMMOND
(TREASURER)

**REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING, INVERNESS, 21 FEB 1993**

The Seventh Annual General Meeting of the European Cetacean Society was held on Sunday afternoon of 21st February, and attended by 105 persons.

1. Annual Report The above report was presented.

2. Financial Report The above report was presented.

3. Changes to Council Alex Aguilar retired from Council, having served four years as its Chairman. He was thanked for his sterling efforts and dedication which have so helped the society. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara was elected to take his place as Chairman. The place of Alex on Council was taken by Finn Larsen (Denmark).

4. Reports of the North Sea and Mediterranean Working Groups Carl Kinze and Alex Aguilar reported briefly on the activities of the North Sea and Mediterranean Working Groups, respectively, both newly formed groups which met earlier during the conference to set future agendas.

5. Reports - Other Organisations Christina Lockyer reviewed ASCOBANS, the first regional agreement under the CMS Bonn Convention, concerned with the conservation

of small cetaceans in the Baltic and North Seas. Ratification of this new agreement is expected later this year.

A parallel initiative for the Mediterranean and Black Seas has been in preparation over the last two years, and is now near to signing.

6. Future ECS Conferences It was decided at the San Remo Conference that the location of annual conferences should be decided two years in advance. An announcement was made that Montpellier would be the venue for February 1994 (with J.M. Bompar & G. Oliver as Conference Organisers), and that Lugano, Switzerland would be the venue for February 1995 (with Beatrice Jann as organiser). The *Tursiops* workshop, originally planned for Inverness, and organised by Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciarra, will now be held at the Montpellier Conference. The Pathology Working Group also propose a workshop on ways to identify causes of mortality in cetaceans. The theme for the 1994 conference will be "Tourism, Disturbance, and the Role of Protected Areas for Cetaceans". A possible theme for the 1995 conference would be "Acoustics".

7. Sale of Merchandise The idea of producing merchandise such as T-shirts (as initiated at the Inverness meeting) was discussed with a view to raising funds for the Society.

8. Proposed Resolution A request was made by Greenpeace that the Society adopt a resolution urging European governments to follow closely the proposals put forward in new Regional Agreements (see below). After some small changes to the wording, the members at the meeting voted unanimously in support of it.

9. CCS Internship The Center for Coastal Studies made an offer to the Society to nominate one male and one female student for possible acceptance on a summer internship in Massachusetts, USA. Council nominated Meike Scheidat and Thomas Lütkebohle (*in the event, the Center was unable to take either of these*).

10. Student Awards Student prizes were awarded for "best talk" to Frank Ugarte (killer whales, Lofoten Islands) and Ben Wilson (bottle-nosed dolphins, NE Scotland); and for "best poster" to Jonas Tielmann (age determination in narwhals) and Paula Moreno (drift experiments of harbour porpoise carcasses). The Council congratulated the winners, and commented on the continued improvement in the standard of presentations. A sum of money for travel grants was divided equally amongst 15 students (eligible by having presented a paper or poster and sent the abstract before the required deadline).

11. Any Other Business The Treasurer raised the matter of subscriptions and the need for them to be increased in due course, if the Society was to build up a firm financial base and be able to offer the membership a wider range of benefits (e.g. fellowships, internships, a travel bursary, assistance to members from Eastern Europe). The recommendation was that there be a general increase in 1994. Some discussion took place over whether it was more acceptable to have two smaller increases closely following one another, or a single more substantial increase. The majority (58 persons) voted for subscriptions to rise to £25 for full members and £15 for student members. Greg Donovan asked if the Treasurer could prepare for next year's AGM a more detailed breakdown of what an increased subscription could be spent on.

Related to how funds from membership fees should be distributed, was the type of publications that the Society should be producing. As the number of contributions to Annual Conferences continued to increase steadily, the size of its Proceedings has also increased. Considerable discussion centred on three possible options: (1) The Proceedings remain as they are at present; (2) The Proceedings become much slimmer, and contain half page abstracts as presented prior to the Conference; and (3) The Proceedings become a formal refereed publication. It was decided that the full membership should be balloted on this subject (see below). Additional questions that arose included whether production of the proceedings should be paid

for out of the annual subscription fees, or be paid for out of the conference fees.

The Meeting closed with the Conference Organiser, Paul Thompson, and his helpers, being thanked very much for making the weekend such an enjoyable event.

PETER EVANS

WHAT KIND OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS DO YOU WANT?

As noted above, there was a lot of discussion at this year's Annual General Meeting over what sort of publication the Society should be producing as Proceedings of its Annual Conferences. Some people felt that at present it did not serve as a legitimate citable publication since the contributions were not peer reviewed and generally did not contain the amount of material that a scientific paper would do. On the other hand, they were too long to be merely a book of abstracts.

There are various options, and three in particular that we considered were as follows:

- (1) The Proceedings remained as they are at present (maybe with some stricter control over the length of each contribution);
- (2) The Proceedings contained only short half-page abstracts, essentially as presented prior to the Conference;
- (3) The Proceedings became a formal publication that was peer reviewed (perhaps, with longer contributions, and others rejected).

There are many things to bear in mind before following one of these routes. For example, the last requires the resources (and notably time) for papers to be fully reviewed and edited. At present, the process of editing and production (to final copy) already occupies approximately six person-weeks (much of which is provided voluntarily).

Before we conduct a formal ballot amongst the membership, it would be useful if members aired their views through the Newsletter so that everyone can weigh up the various arguments in a more informed way. Please send your comments to us by October in time for publication in the autumn issue of the Newsletter.

PETER EVANS

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

The European Cetacean Society is by now, in 1993, more than five times as large as it was at its conception in 1987. For all those new members we would like to give you a short description of the Society's history.

During a meeting at Bremerhaven, Germany, of marine mammalogists studying the harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*, it was suggested that the needs of European cetologists might best be served by the formation of a society devoted to the study and conservation of cetaceans in European waters. Of course, we had the European Association of Aquatic Mammals and Greenpeace, but neither had scientific study as their main target.

To assess the feasibility and found such a society, a meeting was held at the North Sea Museum, Hirtshals, Denmark, on a bitterly cold weekend between 26th and 28th January 1987. The meeting was attended by 80 cetologists, students of biology and others concerned with the study and protection of cetaceans from ten European countries. By now the Society boasts over 400 members from more than 25 countries, including Eastern Europe and scientists from other continents. The primary aims are to promote and co-ordinate the scientific study and conservation of cetaceans, and to gather and disseminate information to members and to the public at large.

Also, a logo competition was announced. The logo is to be used in letterheads and other official paper, as well as on advertising materials such as stickers and buttons. The winning logo depicts a baleen and a toothed whale, swimming side by side. Both are not

recognizable species so as to prevent any preferences. You will find the logo for example on each year's ECS Proceedings.

JAN WILLEM BROEKEMA

CHEAP AND FAST COMMUNICATION

The Computer Working Group aims, among other things, at the exchange of information (cetacean data, library information, etc) between members in such a manner that the computer system used does not matter. This has always been very cumbersome and difficult, due to the lack of co-operation between national network providers. Since 1992, however, things have changed for the better. In an EC funded programme (termed COSINE), the national networks have joined their systems so that anyone can send and receive mail and data through the international network.

The European Cetacean Group can now provide help to its members to access the network. The Computer Working Group will change its name from Computer WORKING Group to Computer SUPPORT Group, to better describe its true nature. The CSG will try to help you to get things going.

The European Cetacean Society has its own mailbox, where any requests can be sent. All questions regarding the ECS and/or the Computer Support Group and/or electronic mail will be handled here.

The ECS also has a mailing LIST. You may put yourself onto that list and any (electronic) mail sent to that list will also reach you. Conversely, if you send a message to that list, all ECS-members with a mailbox will receive your message. There are now 50 members on the list. There are also special lists, for example for members of the Council, and for pathological researchers (or should one say researchers of pathology).

For those of you who already have access to electronic mail:

The central address for the ECS is: ECS-HELPDESK@MAILBASE.AC.UK. As noted above,

you can also reach the Computer Support Group at this address.

The central mailing list for members is: ECS-ALL@MAILBASE.AC.UK. You can join this list, receive and send mail to other members. You may also find the mail addresses of other members at this list.

The other lists are ECS-PATHOLOGY, ECS-BOARD and ECS-BRAER. You may join other lists than ECS-ALL, but you must ask ECS-HELPDESK to do that for you. You can join ECS-ALL by sending a mail message:

TO: MAILBASE@MAILBASE.AC.UK

SUBJ:

TEXT:

JOIN ECS-ALL JOHN BROWN (but then your own name).

You will get sufficient information to get started from there. Members in the UK should remember that they should use the address UK.AC.MAILBASE instead of MAILBASE.AC.UK.

For further information, please contact:

ECS COMPUTER SUPPORT GROUP

JAN WILLEM BROEKEMA
BRIKKENWAAL 20,
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NETHERLANDS

ECS RESOLUTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS IN EUROPEAN WATERS

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held at Inverness in February, a resolution was tabled and after a few minor alterations, adopted by the Society. It states the following:

"In the light of the new Agreements for the conservation of small cetaceans in the Baltic and North Seas under the Bonn Convention, and for the Mediterranean and Black Seas, this meeting calls on the Governments of European States to draw up, as a matter of urgency, an Action Plan that sets out a clear programme for the implementation of:

(a) conservation measures to address the real and known threats to cetaceans in European waters, most notably toxic contaminants, fisheries interactions, habitat degradation and disturbance;

and

(b) a long term programme of research on the status of cetaceans in European waters, the threats faced by cetaceans and their conservation needs."

We shall be writing to the Environment Ministers of each European country presenting this resolution, but in the meantime, any publicity you can give for the resolution would be much appreciated.

ECS COUNCIL

ECS STATEMENT OF CONCERN ***The Future of Black Sea Dolphins***

Following information about the serious threats facing small cetaceans in the Black Sea, presented at ECS Conferences in San Remo and Inverness, we have prepared a statement of concern for circulation to Environment Ministries of governments from countries bordering the Black Sea. It states the following:

"BACKGROUND The Black Sea contains important local populations of the harbour porpoise, bottle-nosed dolphin and common dolphin. They are currently facing a number of very serious threats which unless they are addressed as a matter of urgency will lead to marked population declines and possibly local extinction.

Direct kills Although commercial hunting has been outlawed since 1966 in the USSR, Bulgaria and Romania, and since 1983 in Turkey, illegal killing continues with evidence of large numbers having died in this way particularly in Turkey.

Live Capture for Dolphinaria There are six in the Black Sea - two in Ukraine and one each in Russia, Georgia, Bulgaria and Romania. In some cases more than 15 marine mammals may be placed in a single pool.

Standards of care are unsatisfactory with inadequate water preparation and circulation, and archaic housing facilities. Many animals die, mainly from septicaemia or pneumonia, and to replace those, somewhere between 25 and 50 dolphins are taken each year from the wild. This exploitation of the wild population has increased in recent years particularly since some animals are now also exported (for example to Israel and other countries).

Mechanical Injuries The large volume of marine traffic now using the Black Sea poses a threat through direct injury and disturbance. Four per cent of stranded animals examined in 1989-91 had traumas (wounds, skeletal fractures, and haematomas), whilst 17 per cent had gastric lesions similar to stress-induced ulcerations.

Accidental mortality in fishing gear Information on the level of accidental mortality in fishing gear is very difficult to obtain, but when fourteen Turkish fishing boats were arrested in Soviet territorial waters in spring 1992, 194 dead dolphins were found in their drift nets. Given the level of fishing activity by several Black Sea countries, it is likely that total catches are very large.

Lack of Food Resources Sharp declines in the abundance of various fish species have been observed in the Black Sea. This is thought to have resulted in acute interspecific competition for food, and may render animals more susceptible to disease, parasitic infection, and mobilisation of toxic levels of pollutants.

Water Pollution High levels of organochlorines (averaging 100 ppm total DDT in porpoises) have been detected in the blubber of stranded animals. Levels of heavy metals or radioactive residues have not been examined. Faecal pollution of coastal waters is a widespread problem and is almost certainly the cause for the large numbers of marine mammals found with microbial infections. Sixty species of micro-organisms including various bacteria, have been detected in the respiratory tracts of bottle-nosed dolphins and harbour porpoises.

Disease The most frequent pathological disorders observed in stranded and by-caught dolphins are: pneumonia and sinusitis caused by nematode infection: gastritis caused by trematode infection, skin, intestinal, liver and lymph node disorders caused by cestode infections. Lung infections by nematodes (complicated with bacterial and possibly viral superinfection) have been identified as the main "natural" cause of death for wild dolphins in the Black Sea. One hundred per cent of harbour porpoises, 67 per cent of bottle-nosed dolphins, and 49 per cent of common dolphins, examined in 1989-91, had destructive lesions in their lungs.

In spring 1990, unprecedented numbers of dolphins were found dead on the Turkish, Crimean, Taman (Russian) and Bulgarian coasts. Eighty two per cent of these were harbour porpoises, mainly immatures. The probable initial cause of the epizootic was a virus infection and it was estimated that several thousand animals died as a result.

ECS RESOLUTION

There are no reliable population estimates for small cetaceans in the Black Sea. Three species, common dolphin, bottle-nosed dolphin, and harbour porpoise, have endemic races in the region, and since the major epidemic which struck in 1990, and various other serious pressures facing these species (as outlined in the accompanying document), the future for Black Sea dolphins is very bleak indeed. There is a very real possibility of their full disappearance over the next decade or two unless urgent action is taken.

In view of serious concern about the status of these populations, we recommend the following actions be implemented:

1. Sign and fully implement the Convention on the Protection of Wild Fauna and Flora and Natural Habitats in Europe (otherwise known as the Berne Convention).
2. Participate in the United Nations Environmental Program's Global Action Plan for the Conservation, Management and Utilisation of Marine Mammals.

3. Work closely with other Black Sea countries towards a regional programme of research and monitoring.

4. Provide at least some funding to the relevant scientists and other authorities in your country to conduct the necessary population surveys and monitoring of threats facing Black Sea cetaceans.

5. Encourage countries bordering the Black Sea to ratify the Agreement for the Conservation of the Mediterranean and Black Sea, which is being prepared by the Bonn Convention.

6. Ratify the Convention for International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), regulating movements of animals and plants presently under threat.

In many cases, some major improvements to the situation could be made at relatively little cost. These would not only benefit those species of marine mammals, but also benefit the human communities in the region, since the dolphin populations provide a ready measure of the general health of the Black Sea ecosystem.*

ECS COUNCIL

RECENT RESEARCH & LOCAL NEWS

This is to remind members of what they have not sent to us - despite repeated nagging!

FUTURE MEETINGS

TENTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON THE BIOLOGY OF MARINE MAMMALS

The Tenth Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals will take place from 12-15 November 1993 in Galveston, TX. It will be cosponsored by the Society for Marine Mammalogy and Texas A&M University, Galveston.

The meetings will take place at the Moody Civic Center in Galveston. Galveston is 45 miles south of Houston's Hobby Airport and 90 miles south of Intercontinental Airport. Galveston is an island on Texas's Gulf coast where temperatures, during November, should average in the mid 70s. However, that time of year is when we occasionally experience cold fronts so bring a sweater. Hotel rates will range from \$20 per night for some of the smaller motels to a maximum of \$95 per night (single, double or triple occupancy) at one of the finer hotels on the island. Rental cars are available or you may use Galveston Limousine Service to get to the island. The latter charges a one-way fee of \$15 (Hobby Airport) or \$20 (Intercontinental Airport) for transport to Galveston. We have negotiated a contract with American Airlines for air travel which gives the Society a free ticket for every 15 domestic flights or 20 international flights. These free tickets will allow us to assist students from third world countries to come to the meetings, so please use AA if you can and quote star no. S01 N3R7 (North America) or S02 N3R7 (international) (call 800-433-1790).

We have organised a programme which will allow for approximately 240 spoken papers and up to 400 posters. Oral presentations will be made in the standard fifteen minute format, in three concurrent sessions held in the afternoon of each day. Posters will be displayed for the duration of the conference with preset times during which authors will be present for discussion. In addition, there will be a total of six symposia held in the mornings. Tentative symposium topics are: marine mammal research permits and

problems; acoustics and low frequency sound; status of Steller's sea lions; interactions of immunology and toxicology; international marine mammal law; and male mating strategies. However, there is room to add more. If you would like to organise a symposium, please write to Dr. R. Davis, Program Chairperson, Department of Marine Biology, Texas A&M University at Galveston, P.O. Box 1675, Galveston, TX 77553 (Tel. 409-740-4528). There are also several satellite symposia being planned. These include marine mammal immunology (S. Evans/A. Hall), defining dolphin group size (K. Dudzinski), a photo-ID/software analysis workshop (A. Read), and marine mammal pathologies (D. Cowan). For more information about these, please contact the Program Chairperson.

Any individuals, organisations or companies who are interested in displaying materials or selling goods should contact the Conference Chairperson as soon as possible.

Papers at this year's meeting will be presented in either concurrent spoken or poster sessions. In the selection of papers for presentation, priority will be given to members of the Society for Marine Mammalogy. Presentations of an "update" nature should be avoided. Senior authorship for any individual will be limited to one presented paper (either spoken or poster). Multiple first author submissions by an individual will not be accepted. Abstracts for contributed papers will be due in mid-July. If you are not currently a member of the Society for Marine Mammalogy and would like to receive registration materials, please submit your name and address to the Conference Chairperson. If you would like to become a member of the Society, please contact the Membership Chairperson. Renewals or new memberships must be received by 1st September 1993 for member registrations at this year's meeting. Members will be able to register at a reduced rate.

GRAHAM A.J. WORTHY

1993 CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSON
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY,
GALVESTON, TEXAS

BRAER OIL SPILL MEETINGS, UK

After the "Braer" oilspill in the Shetland Islands in January 1993, two related meetings are being organised.

The first, entitled "Braer Oil Spill: Effects on Wildlife" is being organised by the British Wildlife Health Association, and will be held on Saturday 11th September 1993 at King's Manor Hotel, 100 Milton Road East, Portobello, Edinburgh, Scotland. Talks include the impact of the spill on seals, otters, seabird populations, and rocky shore communities, and the rescue and rehabilitation of affected animals. Registration costs £30 and includes morning and afternoon tea, lunch and all scientific sessions. Please make cheques payable to BWAHA, and send to S. McOrist, Secretary BWAHA, University of Edinburgh, Veterinary Field Station, Easter Bush, Midlothian EH25 9RG, Scotland.

The second meeting is entitled "Environmental Monitoring at an Oil Terminal: The Shetland Experience" and is organised by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in association with The Shetland Oil Terminal Environment Advisory Group. It will be held on Tues 21st and Wed 22nd September 1993 at The Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22, 24 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PQ, Scotland. At the meeting SOTEAG will present the results of its independent, integrated monitoring programmes from 1974 to the present day, in a series of papers covering chemical and biological monitoring in the marine environment. Full registration costs £75 (£25 for registered students) and cheques should be made payable to The Royal Society of Edinburgh, and be sent to: 'Environmental Monitoring', The Meetings Office, The Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22,24 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PQ, Scotland.

EERO SYMPOSIUM & COURSES ON MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Three meetings, organised by the European Environmental Research Organisation for later this year, may be of interest to ECS members, particularly those involved in toxicological research.

The first is a symposium entitled "European Coastal Seas: From Science to Management" and will be held between Monday 4th and Wednesday 6th October 1993 at Centro de Investigacion y Desarrollo (CSIC), Barcelona, Spain. The objectives are to bring together an international group of young and established scientists from different disciplines to discuss science and management of European Coastal Seas. Emphasis is placed on Physico-chemical and bio-organic processes. Monitoring strategies as well as marine management and global issues will be addressed. The symposium will be devoted to improve the transfer of knowledge from science to management. The cost is ECU 450 including registration, handouts and lunches. Some grants will be available for young researchers and other participants in need of support. The grants include registration and lunches but no travel and accommodation support. Applicants should indicate their field of research and why they would benefit from the conference. A supporting letter from the candidate's supervisor is required.

The second is a course on "Environmental Chemistry of Organic Pollution" and will be held between Sunday 24th and Wednesday 27th October 1993 at Cameri di Commercio, Cremona, Italy. The objectives are to educate scientists involved in environmental research and/or decision making processes in connection with risk evaluation and risk assessment; and to discuss recent achievements in national as well as in international environmental chemistry research. The cost is ECU 1,550 including course material and full board and lodging during the course.

The third is a course on "General Toxicology - Principles, Applied aspects of toxicological risk assessment and International Regulatory Issues" and will be held between Wednesday 1st and Saturday 4th December 1993 at Hotel Bayerischer Hof, Lindau, Germany. The objectives are to educate scientists involved in toxicological research and/or decision making processes in connection with regulatory activities; and to discuss recent achievements in toxicological research. The cost is ECU 1,575 including course material and full board and lodging during the course.

To register for any of these, please send a cheque (in ECU) for the appropriate amount to the EERO Training Centre, P.O. Box 182, 6700 AD Wageningen, The Netherlands (Tel. +31-8370-84924; Fax +31-8370-84941).

REQUEST FOR HELP

HYDROPHONES AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT

At the end of this year, I am going to be involved in a research project about river dolphins in Peru. To collect data for my thesis (diploma, supervised by Prof. Dr. Ehlers of the Dept. of Zoology, University of Göttingen), I would like to work on the acoustics of these animals.

As a matter of fact, there is a "predominant" lack of all kinds of acoustical equipment (e.g. hydrophones, tape recorder, which need to be used for covering ultrasonic frequencies as well as lower frequency ranges).

So I shall be very grateful to anyone who is willing to lend me his/her equipment (or parts of it) or can help me otherwise in this matter.

KARSTEN MEYER

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