



## ECS-ASCOBANS WORKSHOP (21PM3)

### BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, BUILDING ACTION: ATLANTIC WHITE-SIDED AND WHITE-BEAKED DOLPHINS

*Glamis Room, Queens Hotel*

*Tuesday 21 April 2026, 14:00-18:00 BST*

#### Programme

Time	Item	Presenter/Lead
13:30	<i>Registration open on site (sign in)</i>	
14:00	<b>Opening of the Workshop</b> Welcome, aims of the workshop, Introduction to a conservation plan	Jenny Renell, Peter Evans
14:15	<b>Abundance and distribution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview, incl. large scale surveys</li> <li>• Acoustics</li> </ul>	Peter Evans Thomas Webber / Nienke Van Geel Susie Calderan / Peter Evans
14:45	<b>Population structure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview, incl. genetics</li> <li>• Tracking</li> <li>• Photo ID</li> </ul>	Marie Louis / Marc-Alexander Gose  Sara de Clerck / Peter Evans Marianne Rasmussen
15:15	<b>Ecology and behaviour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview, incl. drone habitat modelling</li> <li>• Feeding ecology, diet</li> </ul>	Marianne Rasmussen  tbc
15:45	<b>Strandings and health assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview</li> </ul>	Lonneke IJsseldijk
16:15	<b>Life history</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview</li> </ul>	Carl Kinze / Anders Galatius Bjarni Mikkelsen
16:45	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview, incl. prey depletion</li> <li>• Hunting</li> <li>• Bycatch</li> <li>• Underwater noise / climate change</li> </ul>	Peter Evans Maria Garagouni Peter Evans Marianne Rasmussen
17:15	<i>Break 15min</i>	
17:30	<b>Conservation management</b> Discussion. <i>Do countries have plans in place? How does conservation management vary per country?</i>	Peter Evans
17:50	<b>Key points and recommendations</b>	Peter Evans
18:00	<b>Close of the Workshop</b>	



*Description of the Workshop:*

*Despite some recent advances in our knowledge, the white-beaked dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*) and Atlantic white-sided dolphin (*Leucopleurus acutus*) remain two of the least-studied dolphins across their range. For both species, there are few estimates of life-history parameters; no reliable overall abundance estimates for either species that encompass their range, limited information on population trends, and a poor understanding of the conservation threats and population-level impacts faced by either species. One fundamental issue has been distinguishing the two species during abundance surveys, and concerns remain over mortalities resulting from direct hunting and bycatch.*

*There is a potential risk of local extirpation of the southernmost populations of white-beaked dolphin, which could lead to the loss of a significant proportion of species-wide genetic diversity whilst the Atlantic white-sided dolphin appears to have a relatively narrow ecological niche, which makes them particularly vulnerable.*

*This workshop aims to present current knowledge and data gaps for both species, foster collaboration across national boundaries, and discuss the development and components of an ASCOBANS conservation plan, similar to existing plans for other small cetaceans.*