

Agenda Item 5.6.1: Publicity/PR Issues - Parties and Range States

Educational Programs in the Lithuanian Sea Museum

Submitted by: Lithuania

ASCOBANS

NOTE:
IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR OWN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN THE LITHUANIAN SEA MUSEUM

At the beginning of 2001 an educational program named 'Mysterious world of dolphins and whales' for the schoolchildren of 8 – 12 forms was initiated in the Lithuanian sea museum. This program has supplemented and extended subjects of the biological schoolbooks. More than 850 schoolchildren from 11 secondary schools of Klaipeda city were involved into these sessions.

In the second half of 2001 a traveling exhibition of ASCOBANS 'Harbour porpoise in distress' has been shown in the Aquarium of Klaipeda. Following this exhibition a special educational program 'Baltic sea dolphins – who are they?' was started in order to acquaint schoolchildren of 1 – 12 forms with anatomy, physiology, distribution, living conditions of harbour porpoises as well as threats for their survival, means and measures of conservation.

A third educational program is linked to the book of museum's director Aloyzas Kazdailis 'Adventures of the Scaly' and called 'The Scaly's journey to the country of dolphins and whales'. The 'Scaly' is a fiction character to whom various fish, seal and of course harbour porpoise are telling about their life, biological peculiarities and problems. The first part of this program is dedicated to the youngest group of schoolchildren. The information is conveyed by means of a puppet-play. The children manipulate puppets by themselves – various Baltic sea animals including harbour porpoise according to the suggestive text read by the museum's employee. In the dolphinarium comprehensive information on harbour porpoise biology and conservation measures is given to the senior pupils using pictures, slides, ASCOBANS posters and methodological material. More than one thousand schoolchildren from 30 secondary schools of Klaipeda have participated in this program.

These sessions are being continued and extended in this year as well, involving pupils from 30 schools of the Klaipeda port and it is planned to invite also schools from western regions of Lithuania. It means that comprehensive information on harbour porpoises will reach up to 4 thousands young people within current year. In spring sometimes up to 5-6 classes do take part in the educational sessions daily. A single event usually continues for an hour.

For the first annual 'Day of the harbour porpoise' in the third Saturday of the forthcoming May 2003, a special exhibition on harbour porpoise problems is planned to arrange in the dolphinarium including additional events. It would be great to receive more visual materials from ASCOBANS that could be used when implementing this exhibition.