



ECS-ASCOBANS WORKSHOP:

PROTECTING THE LESSER-KNOWN CETACEANS OF THE NE ATLANTIC

Aula Darwin Room, University of Catania, Via Empedocle, 58, Catania, Sicily, Italy

Monday 8 April 2024, 08:30-12:30 CEST

AGENDA

(Approximate timings)

Time	Item	Presenter
08:30	Registration	
08:45	Opening of the Workshop Welcome, aims of the workshop, tour-de-table introductions	Jenny Renell, Peter Evans & Mark Simmonds
<i>Chair: Mark Simmonds</i>		
09:00	Questions to Address	Peter Evans
09:10	White-beaked Dolphin	Peter Evans
09:25	Atlantic White-sided Dolphin	Peter Evans
<i>Chair: Peter Evans</i>		
09:40	Sperm Whale	Daniel Miranda
09:55	Beaked Whales	Natacha Aguilar de Soto
10:10	Northern Bottlenose Whale	Sascha Hooker
10:25	Long-finned Pilot Whale	Philippe Verborgh
<i>Chair: Jenny Renell</i>		
10:40	Killer Whale	Cherine Baumgartner & Ruth Esteban
10:55	Risso's Dolphin	Mark Simmonds
11:10	<i>Break 30min</i>	
<i>Chairs: Peter Evans & Mark Simmonds</i>		
11:40	Discussion	All
12:20	Conclusions	Peter Evans & Mark Simmonds
12:30	Close of the Workshop	



Description of the Workshop:

The Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) works to conserve small cetaceans within the NE Atlantic and it has concluded conservation plans for various populations of harbour porpoise and the common dolphin. Bottlenose dolphin populations also have a range of initiatives associated with them beyond the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive. There are nine other small cetacean species regularly found in the Agreement area and these currently receive far less attention. This workshop is intended to promote action to address the issues that they are facing by bringing together experts to firstly review what is known about them, including significant data gaps, and then brainstorming how to best take forward their conservation. Consideration will be given to alternative approaches to investigate them, for example, the greater use of citizen science, photo-ID, acoustics and strandings where appropriate. This workshop will provide a report to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee of ASCOBANS and will also be made available to other interested parties. The species considered will include those that are data-deficient, such as beaked whales, white-beaked and Risso's dolphins.