



ECS-ASCOBANS WORKSHOP:

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON CETACEANS

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

Tuesday 9 April 2024, 14:00-18:00 CEST

AGENDA

(Approximate timings)

Time	Item	Presenter
14:00	Opening of the Workshop Welcome, aims of the workshop, and tour-de-table introductions.	Jenny Renell, Peter Evans & Mark Simmonds
<i>Chair: Mark Simmonds</i>		
14:15	Questions to Address	Peter Evans
14:30	Case Study: Recreational Disturbance to Coastal Species - Bottlenose Dolphin & Harbour Porpoise	Peter Evans
<i>Chair: Peter Evans</i>		
15:00	Case Study: Recreational Disturbance to Dolphins in Southwest England	Simon Ingram
15:30	Marine Mammal Disturbance: Challenges, Recommendations & Solutions	Katie Dyke
16:00	<i>Break 30min</i>	
16:30	The Welfare Implications of Recreational Boating	Mark Simmonds & Laetitia Nunny
16.45	The Mediterranean Situation: A view from ACCOBAMS	Tilen Genov
<i>Chairs: Peter Evans & Mark Simmonds</i>		
17:00	Discussion	All
17:45	Conclusions	Peter Evans & Mark Simmonds
18:00	Close of the Workshop	



Description of the workshop:

Small and often fast-moving motorized vessels used for recreational purposes appear to be increasing in many coastal waters of Europe whilst there is considerable anecdotal information that negative interactions between them and cetaceans are also increasing. These interactions may constitute significant harassment and other harm, such as causing stress by chasing the animals and even striking them. The rise in the number of personal watercraft in particular poses major challenges for awareness raising and education, as well as ensuring compliance to codes of conduct and regulations. Cetaceans are in theory highly protected species in European nations but even where this is enshrined in law it is often difficult to enforce. The workshop will provide a platform to review the status of marine recreation across Europe, and gather information about impacts through presentations followed by a facilitated group discussion. The latter will focus upon standardizing a definition of disturbance and how best for regulators to identify it, and the actions might follow to try to limit negative interactions. A report from the workshop authored by the participants will be provided to ASCOBANS and if there is enthusiasm from the workshop participants, a scientific publication may also follow.