

Report of the NETCET Workshop, Lošinj 20-22 March 2013

This course was developed as part of the NETCET project to provide consistency between the partners in developing monitoring systems and protocols for the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles in the Adriatic Sea. These are migratory species moving between the Adriatic States hence the development of consistent monitoring will aid their conservation utilising a more holistic approach to protection.

According to the published agenda the workshop on cetacean and sea turtle monitoring was hosted on the 20th-22nd March 2013 in hotel Bellevue in Mali Lošinj. Due to the timing of the second meeting of the partners on Lošinj in the previous days (18th-19th March) the workshop was brought forward from the original schedule (Period V, July-October 2013) as agreed between the partners at the kick-off meeting in Venice in December 2012. This decision was based on the availability of participants to make one trip to Lošinj Island instead of two. As agreed with the lead partner, the workshop was opened to other interested parties beyond the NETCET partnership. In total 26 persons attended during the three days, on each day more than 24 individuals signed in.

On the first day, an overview of the hosting region and potential for development of further projects related to the aims of the NETCET project were presented. The aims and objectives of WP4 were detailed through lectures from Dr Draško Holcer (for the cetacean aspect) and Dr Paolo Casale and Dr Bojan Lazar (for the sea turtle aspects). In the afternoon Dr Nikolina Rako-Gospić provided a review of the potential cetacean species that could be found in the Adriatic Sea.

Day two commenced with greater details on cetacean research including research methods and threats to these animals within the Adriatic Sea, presented by Dr Nikolina Rako-Gospić. The case study of research methods within the Slovenian sea was presented by Mr Tilen Genov. The afternoon session included a technical analysis methods workshop presented Mr Jure Miočić-Stošić and Mr Grgur Pleslić.

Day three started with a lecture on the logistics, protocols and methods of undertaking aerial surveys for cetaceans and sea turtles in the Adriatic. Presented by Dr Draško Holcer and Mr Jure Miočić-Stošić the lecture highlights all of the potential issues around developing research through this technique. The final presentation of the workshop was given by Mr Grgur Pleslić who provided



information on the methods to recover data from stranded animals highlighting the protocols in place for each of the partner countries.

The workshop was concluded on the afternoon of day three with those participants, not leaving immediately for ferries and other such transport, provided the opportunity to take a field trip with the researchers from Blue World in the afternoon to apply practically the theoretical methods presented in the workshop.

For further details on the workshop please feel free to contact the lecturers through the Blue World Institute website, or through info@blue-world.org.

AGENDA:

Day	Time	Lecture title	Main topics
1	09:00 – 10:00	Registration	
	10:00	Opening of the workshop (Peter Mackelworth, BWI)	
	10:15	Blue World Institute (Peter Mackelworth, BWI)	Presenting main projects, goals and cooperative studies of Blue World Institute
	11:00	NETCET project (Draško Holcer, BWI)	Presenting the main objectives of the Work Plan 4 of the NETCET project; discussing the goals of the workshop
	12:00-14:00	Lunch break	
	14:00	Sea turtles in the Adriatic Sea (Bojan Lazar, UPR and Paolo Casale, WWF)	An overview of the biology and ecology of the species recorded in the Adriatic Sea; main threats posed by humans
	14:30	Satellite telemetry on sea turtles (Bojan Lazar, UPR and Paolo Casale, WWF)	An insight into the satellite telemetry; methodology; goals within the NETCET project; procedures that will be applied in WP4 and expected roles of the partners



The project is co-funded by the European Union, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.



Day	Time	Lecture title	Main topics
2	10:00	Cetaceans of the Adriatic Sea (Nikolina Rako-Gospić, BWI)	An overview of the cetacean species recorded in the Adriatic Sea, species recognition, biology and ecology; discussing the knowledge gaps, data priorities, main threats for potential management regimes
	10:30	Methods of scientific research (Nikolina Rako-Gospić, BWI)	Introduction into the research methods and monitoring techniques; discussing the purpose, advantages and disadvantages of using different research platforms; securing all the requirements for research (permits, equipment, data collection forms)
	11:00	Monitoring techniques in local studies (Grgur Pleslić, BWI)	Photo-ID technique; dorsal fin distinction based on the natural markings; the use of digital camera; categorizing fins; distinction of different age classes; equipment used; designing forms to collect photo-ID data, advantages of standardising methods across the basin for common protocols
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of photo-ID in Slovenian waters (Tilen Genov, UPR) 	Giving an example on how this technique was applied in the Slovenian waters (Piran bay); significance of this data; comparison of data with Adriatic Dolphin project Lošinj
	12:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	
	14:00	Photo – ID practicum (Jure Miočić-Stošić, & Grgur Pleslić BWI)	Analyzing photo-ID data using Adobe Photoshop Lightroom
	16:00	Estimating population size (Grgur Pleslić, BWI)	Data sorting, and analysis: how to create basic numbers and results starting from the photographs taken in the field
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cres – Lošinj case-study (Grgur Pleslić, BWI) 	Data management and the use of mark – recapture methods to obtain population size estimates
	17:00	Modelling the habitat use (Tilen Genov, UPR)	The case when forecast models are preferred to experimental studies; discussing the use of indicators for cetacean distribution to model the habitat use.



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Day	Time	Lecture title	Main topics
3	10:00	Cetacean Aerial survey in the Adriatic Sea (Dražko Holcer, BWI & Jure Miočić-Stošić)	Providing information on techniques. Review of the first complete data at the basin level on distribution and abundance of cetaceans; discussing basic requirements and the techniques used. Identifying roles of partners.
	11:00	Strandings (Grgur Pleslić, BWI) • Open discussion:	Cases of live/dead strandings; problems occurring when stranding happens, short overview of the necropsy techniques; Data obtained and their scientific importance. Overlapping with WP3.6 and WP4 networking and Adriatic Emergency Task Force. Exchanging experiences on strandings in different countries facing the Adriatic Sea
	12:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	
	14:00	Indirect threats to cetaceans (Nikolina Rako-Gospić, BWI and Hrvoje Carić, Institute of Tourism)	The use of passive acoustic techniques in monitoring the effects of humanly generated noise on bottlenose dolphins related to the development of tourism – The case of Cres and Lošinj archipelago The Influence of tourism on environment, mitigation and new ecotourism products. Using tourism as a means to communicate the importance of the environment - The Cres and Lošinj archipelago
15:00	Round table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussing cetacean research in other countries involved in NETCET project • Recapitulation of the basic requirements for setting up the boat based research • Cetacean conservation according to the current national laws, etc. • Defining future tasks for the participants 	
Close of Workshop			



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