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## Methods to assess cetacean abundance in Italian waters

### Workshop - Rome, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008

Auditorium APAT, Via Curtatone, 7 e Sala Fazzini APAT Via Curtatone, 3

Italy has taken several commitments in terms of monitoring populations, in accordance with a number of international Conventions, Agreements, European Directives and Regulations such as, for example, the CBD, ACCOBAMS, the Pelagos Sanctuary, the Habitats Directive and Regulation (EC) 812/2004.

To strengthen the coherence among the different monitoring system and to enhance their scientific appropriateness the Italian Agency for Environmental Protection and Technical Services (APAT, [www.apat.gov.it](http://www.apat.gov.it)), the Central Institute of Marine Research (ICRAM, [www.icram.org](http://www.icram.org)), and the National Consortium inter-universities of Marine Sciences (CoNISMa, [www.conisma.it](http://www.conisma.it)) organized a workshop on "Methods to assess cetacean abundance in Italian waters". The workshop is supported by the Ministry of Environment of the Land and the Sea ([www.minambiente.it](http://www.minambiente.it)).

The workshop, that will be held in Rome on the 21st and 22nd of April 2008, is aimed to focus on standardisation of methods for data collection to estimate absolute abundance of cetaceans. The first day will be open to the participation of all interested people and invited observers. The second day will be organised in working groups and will be limited to Italian scientist operating in this field.

The main goal of the workshop is to provide an agreed methodological basis on which relevant administrations could build up a national monitoring system for cetaceans' abundance and coordinate research efforts.

Welcome and introductory talks (9:00 – 9.20)

Technical talks (9.20-10.50):

Chairman: Dott. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, Chairman del Comitato Scientifico di ACCOBAMS

- Prof. Silvano Focardi (Italy) ICRAM
- Dr. Greg Donovan (Ireland), International Whaling Commission - Cetaceans: can we manage to conserve them? The role of long-term monitoring, with particular reference to the European and Mediterranean cases.
- Prof. Philip Hammond (UK), Sea Mammal Research Unit, University of St Andrews, UK – Mark-recapture using photo-identification data: classical model & multi-site

*Coffee break* (10:50-11:10)

Technical talks (11.10-13.00):

Chairman: Prof. Michele Scardi, Biology Department, University of Tor Vergata, Rome

- Dr. David Borchers (South Africa), Centre for Research into Ecological and Environmental Modelling, University of St Andrews, UK – Line transect sampling surveys.

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- Dr. Greg Donovan – Examples of aerial surveys.
- Prof. Philip Hammond - SCANS I e SCANS II: distance sampling and two examples of “good practice” for wildlife management and conservation within the LIFE-Nature framework.
- Dr. Ana Canadas, (Spain) Alnitak – Model-based abundance estimates and their implications for conservation and management. An other example of “Good practice” for wildlife monitoring within the LIFE-Nature framework.

*Lunch break* (13:00-14:30)

Technical talks (14.30-15.30):

Chairman: Dott. Philippe Robert, Segretario esecutivo del Santuario PELAGOS

- Dr. Clare Embling (UK), School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen, UK – Acoustic surveys from platform of opportunity (fishing boats)

Round table (15:00-17.00) Discussion on some Italian case studies, on the basis of the methods highlighted during morning presentations.

*Coffee break* (17:00-17:20)

Round table (17:20-18:30)

*Conclusions* (18:30)