



World Organisation
for Animal Health
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CReDiMa GENOVA
Centro di Riferenza Nazionale per le
Indagini Diagnostiche sui Mammiferi marini spiaggiati

*30th Conference of the Regional Commission for Europe
Catania, Sicily, Italy, 3 - 7 October 2022*

Monday October 3rd, 10-13

Seminar “Impact of environmental and climate changes on Marine Mammals health”

As recently stated at the UN conference in Lisbon the oceans are facing a state of emergency, for which there is an urgent need of protection and scientific knowledge. In recent decades, the altered state of marine ecosystems around the world have been increasingly linked to anthropogenic activities, such as urbanization, pollution, and climate change. Indeed, marine mammals as top predators are especially sensitive to perturbations in ecosystems. They are considered sentinels for ocean and human health because they are long-lived, feed at upper trophic levels, have fat stores that accumulate anthropogenic toxins, and are vulnerable to many of the same pathogens, toxins, and chemicals as humans.

Recently, emerging terrestrial pathogens have been recorded in stranded cetaceans. They may originate from human waste or their activities. Moreover, several studies have shown the association between extreme weather events and outbreaks of waterborne diseases, due to the presence of wildlife and livestock faeces that have been washed into the sea.

The study of stranded cetaceans provides a great source of information on the marine environment and can provide early warnings of acute perturbation.



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PROGRAM

Opening Authorities

10:00 – 10:20 Greetings from the authorities
Angelo Ferrari – General Director IZSPLVA

Chair Giovanni Di Guardo – Retired Professor at Veterinary Faculty - Teramo University

10:20 Cristina CASALONE (CReDiMa - IZS PLVA ITALY STOR-Remesa -IZS Sicilia ITALY)
Emerging biological threats for cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea

10:40 Antonio FERNANDEZ (Las Palmas University SPAIN)
Veterinary Pathology and Cetacean Health and Conservation

11:00 Sandro MAZZARIOL (CERT – Padua University ITALY)
Impact of anthropogenic activities on Marine Mammals Health

11:20 Cara Field (Marine Mammal Center USA)
Management of unusual mortality events related to harmful algal blooms and oil spills

11:50 Letizia Marsili (Siena University ITALY)
*Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the health of marine mammals:
where does the relationship lie?*

12:10 Simone Panigada (Tethys research Institute ITALY)
*The Accobams survey initiative-a tool to facilitate conservation effort across cultural,
social and political boundaries*

12:30 Ammiraglio Ispettore Capo Nicola Carlone (Comando Generale Capitaneria di Porto ITALY)
Protection of the marine environment: role of the Coast Guard

12:45 Mario Latini (WOAH Sub Regional Office for Central Asian)
Aquatic animal health and water environment: One Health WOAHEurope activities

13:00 End of Seminar