



University of  
St Andrews

#UKIRSC23



# Conference Programme



17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
University of St Andrews



Sea Mammal  
Research  
Unit



Inter-Research  
Science Publisher

HiDef  
AERIAL SURVEYING LIMITED



# UKIRSC 2023



Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Time	Event	Venue
17:30-19:30	Icebreaker event/registration	SOI

## Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January

Time	Event	Venue
08:30-09:00	Registration	School 3
09:00-09:15	Welcome to UKIRSC 2023 from your committee!	School 3
09:15-10:00	Invited Speaker: Dr Andrew Brownlow, Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme, University of Glasgow	School 3
10:00-11:00	Talks session 1: Ecology 1	School 3
	COFFEE BREAK	Lower college hall
11:30-12:45	Talks session 2: Virtual	School 3
	LUNCH BREAK	
14:00-17:00	Workshop #1 Machine Learning in PAMGUARD	Maths B
	BREAK	
19:00-22:30	Movie night	School 3



# UKIRSC 2023



Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January

Time	Event	Venue
09:00-09:45	Invited Speaker: Professor Phil Hammond, University of St Andrews	School 3
09:45-11:00	Talks Session 3: Acoustics	School 3
COFFEE BREAK		Lower college hall
11:30-13:00	Talks Session 4: Physiology, biomarkers & genetics Talks Session 5: Human pressures	School 3
LUNCH BREAK		
14:00-17:00	Workshop #2 Tags and the analysis of animal movement data	Maths B
BREAK		
19:30-LATE	End of conference social	Student Union

## Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January

Time	Event	Venue
09:00-09:45	Invited Speaker: Dr Gill Braulik, University of St Andrews	School 3
09:45-11:00	Talks Session 6: Ecology 2	School 3
LUNCH BREAK		
11:30-13:00	Poster session (and coffee!)	SOI
LUNCH BREAK		
14:00-16:00	Workshop #3 Grant writing (Virtual)	School 3
BREAK		
16:30-17:00	Conference close and prize giving	School 3



# UKIRSC 2023

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## Speaker schedule

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January

#### 10:00-11:00 Session #1 Ecology 1

**Georgina Whittome, University of St Andrews** - Improving our understanding of the population ecology of Eastern North Pacific blue whales.

**Alyssa Quackenbush, University of St Andrews** - Site fidelity of common bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in a highly industrialized area of the Galveston Bay estuary.

**Isha, University of Plymouth** - Is the Chagos Archipelago one of the last tropical refuges for cetaceans?

**Izzy Langely, University of St Andrews** - Grey seal predation of marine mammals: what do we know and what could it mean?

#### 11:30-12:45 Session #2 Virtual

**Sandra González-Campos Mäs, University of Valencia** - Patterns of specificity in whale-lice: geographic and phylogenetic influences.

**Sarah Tubbs, Newcastle University** - Cambodian coastal cetaceans: abundance, distribution, and bycatch.

**Vera Fedorova, M. V. Lomonosov Moscow State University** - Cultural evolution of close-range killer whale calls. (Speed Talk)

**Sebastian Muñoz-Duque, Ghent University (IMBRSea)** - Evaluation of the presence of Mediterranean Monk Seal sounds in underwater acoustic recordings at Madeira Archipelago (Portugal). (Speed Talk)

**Evie White, University of Plymouth** - Investigating the spatial interactions between bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) and marine vessels across the coastline of Montenegro, South Adriatic Sea. (Speed Talk)

**Sewwandi Alwis, Atlantic Technological University** - An investigation of parasite infections of common dolphins, *Delphinus delphis*. (Speed Talk)

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January



# UKIRSC 2023

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

09:45-11:00

## Session #3 Acoustics

**Mackenzie Meier, University of Bristol** - Information content in bottlenose dolphin whistles during a cooperative task

**Tristan Kleyn, University of St Andrews** - What's in a whistle? Towards an accurate acoustic classifier for UK delphinid species

**Julia Ivanchikova, Institute of Zoology of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine & University of St Andrews** - The Error Rate of Acoustic Detections of Cetaceans in the Black Sea

**Alexandre D. Paro, IEAPM/Federal University Fluminense** - A dolphin whistle classifier for the Southwest Atlantic Ocean

**Ellen White, University of Southampton** - One Size Fits All? Adapting and deploying trained CNNs in new acoustic environments for marine mammal detection

**Kirstianna Morin, Atlantic Technological University**- Characterisation of sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus* acoustic behaviour along the Irish Atlantic Margin (Short Talk)

**Christina (Rosie) Day, University of St Andrews**- Variation in the frequency and time parameters of the signature whistles of a captive group of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops Truncatus*) (Short Talk)

**Elia Betschem, Ghent University (IMBRSea)** – Soundscape Analysis and Comparison of the inner and outer parts of the Kongsfjorden (arctic fjord, Svalbard) (Short Talk)

11:30-13:00

(both sessions)

## Session #4 Physiology, Biomarkers and genetics

**Nikita Groot, University of St Andrews** - Phylogenetically controlled life history trait meta-analysis in cetaceans reveals unexpected negative brain size and longevity correlation

**Michal Zatrak, Manchester Metropolitan University** - Investigating faecal cortisol metabolite levels in harbour (*Phoca vitulina*) and grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) in rehabilitation.

**Edward Doherty, University of Liverpool** - Using compound-specific stable isotope analysis to estimate trophic discrimination factors and trophic position in the Northwest Atlantic harp seal.

**Alice Lowry, University of Liverpool** - Reconstructing the health and trophic history of ringed seals using metabolically inert tissues



# UKIRSC 2023

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Alexandra Tranganida, University of Aberdeen**- Using molecular approaches to investigate the metabolic regulation of cetacean blubber tissue under different physiological challenges (Speed Talk)

## **Session #5 Human Pressures (All Speed Talks)**

**Rachel Lennon, University of Glasgow** - The Effect of Vessel Noise on Harbour Porpoise Behaviours

**Maria Clara Iruzun Martins, University of St Andrews**- Examining the human-predator interface of the North Sea: interactions between 2 species of seal and offshore energy structures

**Emily Hague, Heriot-Watt University**- Improving understanding of vessel activity in Scotland's coastal waters

**Ferrari Valeria, Heriot-Watt University**- Cetaceans, vessels and climate change

**Chris Reilly, Heriot-Watt University**- Exploring geovisualizations as place-based planning tools for collaborative marine and coastal management

## **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

**09:45-11:00 Session #6 Ecology 2**

**Sohini Dudhat, University of St Andrews** - The When and Where of Strandings in India- identifying temporal trends and hotspots of marine mammal strandings along the Indian coastline

**Thayusky da Penha Correa, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina and University of St Andrews** - Abundance and distribution of Atlantic spotted dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) in Santos Basin, Southwestern Atlantic

**Julia Sutherland, University of St Andrews** - Ecological Consequences of Orca Predation on Seals (ECOPredS): Killer Whales in Scottish Waters

**Tim Awbery, Scottish Association for Marine Science**- Are minke whales respecting the line on the map that we've drawn for them?

**Tiffany Goh, University College Cork** - Distribution of cetaceans in Irish waters using aerial survey data 2015-2017 and 2021-2023 (Speed Talk)

**Maeva Terrapon, University of St Andrews** - Life in the Tropics: investigating latitudinal movements of killer whales with stable isotopes (Speed Talk)



# UKIRSC 2023

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

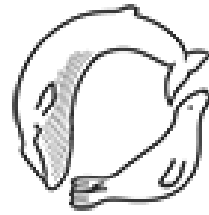
## Sponsors and prize providers:

This year we are kindly sponsored by the University of St Andrews, SMRU consulting, SMRU, Inter-Research Science Publisher and Hi-Def Aerial Surveying Limited. Prizes have kindly been provided by PR Statistics, Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, Patrick Lyne at Manada Environmental and Luke Rendell. We also thank the Murray Library Hostel for providing a deal for attendees on accommodation for the conference.



**SMRU Consulting**

understand ♦ assess ♦ mitigate



**Sea Mammal  
Research  
Unit**

**HiDef**

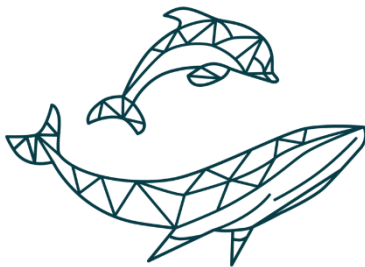
AERIAL SURVEYING LIMITED



**Inter-Research  
Science Publisher**



University of  
St Andrews



**Hebridean  
Whale &  
Dolphin  
Trust**



**Statistics**