

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

It is my pleasure to write you on behalf of your readers and subscribers to summarize the latest Annual Symposium of the European Association for Aquatic Mammals. The 46th meeting of our association was held at Zoomarine Rome, Pomezia, Italy, from 13 to 16 March 2018, and was a very fruitful and successful meeting. The quality of the scientific contributions was very high and covered many different aspects of the aquatic mammals,

from ethology and bioacoustics to veterinary science and training. I encourage everyone actively working with aquatic mammals or professionally interested in them to join our next conference at Zoomarine Portugal in March 2019.

Sincerely,

Javier Almunia
President, EAAM

The 46th Annual EAAM Symposium 2018 – Scientific Program

Invited Speakers

Letizia Marsili – “Dangerous Relations’: The Invisible Contamination of the Seas and the Cetacean Risk”

Lorenzo Rojas Bracho – “Vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*): Grand Challenges in the Conservation of a Critical Endangered Species”

Grey Stafford – “Churchill or St. Francis of Assisi? Charting a Successful Path Forward for Modern Zoos & Aquariums in the 21st Century”

Oral Presentations

Andreini,* Eljarrat, Barceló, Franzellitti, & Zaccaroni – “Fireproof Sperm Whales: Flame Retardants in Tissues of Stranded Animals”

Zaccaroni* – “Healthy as a Fish? Hidden Risks from Fish Eating”

Liz,* Nagl, & Pereira – “How Do Organic Pollutants Affect Seals’ Health? A Review”

Fabrizi,* Rubio Garcia, Salazar-Cassals, Arribas-Garcia, & Zaccaroni – “Feces as Non-Invasive Tool to Predict Trace Elements Exposure in Seals”

Zaccaroni,* Hoseini, Namroodi, & Shirazi – “Trace Elements Exposure in Caspian Seals: Threat to Conservation?”

Rubio-Garcia,* Rossen, Raangs, Garcia Cobos, Wagenaar, Friedrich, & Zomer – “Natural Gut Microbiome of Stranded Harbor Seal Pups (*Phoca vitulina*) and Assessment of the Effect of Rehabilitation”

van Elk,* Mercera,* Mellin, Garcia Hartmann, & Zaccaroni – “Case Report of a Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) with Cushing’s Disease”

Sanchez-Contreras,* Benaglia, Biancani, & Gili – “Medical Handling of a Recidivant Abscess on the Perineum of a Male Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)”

Garcia Hartmann,* Ferreira, Eira, Vingada, Zaccaroni, Bento, & Pereira – “Rehabilitation of a Stranded Risso’s Dolphin: A Case Report”

Bolcioni,* Zaccaroni, & Garcia Hartmann – “First Morphological Description of White Blood Cells in Captive Bottlenose Dolphins”

Sussmann* – “Seafoodia–Pure Ocean”

Felipo,* Rubio-Guerri, Martínez, & O’Connor – “Immune System Characterization in Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) to Assess Animal Health and Welfare”

Sanchez-Okrucky,* Rangel-Martínez, & Morales-Vela – “Determination of Physiological Variables Related to Physical Activity in Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) Under Human Care and Jumping Horses During a Training Session”

Vaicekauskaite,* Schneider, & Delfour – “Does Environmental Enrichment Improve Welfare in Animals Under Human Care: A Case Study of Two Harbor Seals (*Phoca vitulina*)”

Clegg,* Rödel, Boivin, & Delfour – “Dolphins Looked Forward to Non-Food Interactions with Their Trainers: Anticipatory Behaviour as a Welfare Tool”

Palma,* Rico, Flanagan, Neto, Urbani, Leal, & Silva – “Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) Husbandry and Management in Cases of Salt Water Ingestion”

Schulz* & Rath – “*Sex-Sorting 2.0*: A Powerful Tool for Population Management and Conservation of Marine Mammal Species Is Finally Available for Routine Applications”

Latson* – “Potential Problems with the Use of Chlorine, Bromine and Ozone in Marine Mammal Life Support Systems”

Dudzinski,* Hill, & Botero-Jaramillo – “Coding Contact: Clarifying Methods and Functional Units for Comparison Across Taxa”

Ruiz,* Henderson,* Sladova, & Belgic – “Recognition of Symbols, the Association of the Geometric Shapes and the Use of Abstract Concepts in Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) as a Mental Stimulation Program”

Böye,* Kremers, Celerier, Schaal, Campagna, Trabalon, . . . Lemasson – “Sensory Perception in Cetaceans: Promising Experimental Approaches to Study Chemoreception in Dolphins”

Casas,* Borque Espinosa, Ferrero Fernández, Suárez, Muñoz Caballero, García Párraga, . . . Fahlman – “Lung Function and Metabolic Rate in a Beluga Calf (*Delphinapterus leucas*): The First Measurements on Respiratory Capacity and Energy Requirements During Early Development Stages”

Borque Espinosa,* Casas, Ferrero Fernández, Suarez, Muñoz Caballero, Cabildo, . . . Fahlman – “Spirometry Through Voluntary Participation: A Non-Invasive Technique to Provide Vital Information About Pulmonary and Diving Capabilities in the Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*)”

Pócsai,* Gnone, Esposti, Gili, Friard, Gamba, & Favaro – “Contextual Use of Signature and Non-Signature Whistles in a Group of Bottlenose Dolphins Under Human Care”

Böye,* De Lima, Sébilleau,* Durand, Hausberger, & Lemasson – “Captive Bottlenose Dolphins Recognize Their Own Human-Made Sound Label Both Underwater and in the Air”

Henderson,* Garcia, & Ruiz – “Early Stimulation and the Introduction to Operant Conditioning in a Newborn (*Tursiops truncatus*) that Focuses on Husbandry, Health Conditions, and Reproductive Success”

van der Heul* & Schrijvers* – “Improving Parental Care of an Unexperienced Female Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) by Training”

Welsh* & Ward – “Implications of Trainer: Animal Interactions on Mother–Calf Interactions in the Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)”

Short Talks

Giolito* – “Prevention in 8 Seconds – The Strength of Images”

Giolito* – “‘PVAP Dolphin Breath’ and ‘PVAP Baby Dolphins’: New Tools for Monitoring Neonate Dolphins”

De la Fuente,* Arbelo, Gelado, Montoto, Galván, Suárez, . . . Fernández – “MAR CET Project: International and Multidisciplinary Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans”

Posters

Arija* & Gómez-Tejedor – “Evaluation of Historical Data Suggest the Nature of Migratory Routes of Mysticeti in the Cantabrian Sea”

Fiorucci & Marsili – “Ecotoxicological Investigations on Two Bottlenose Dolphin Lactating Females (*Tursiops truncatus*) Under Human Care”

Leal,* Flanagan, Faísca, Smith, Stoll, & Urbani – “Disseminated Malignant Melanoma in a South African Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus pusillus pusillus*)”

Lupeikaite, Vaicekauskaite, Kreiviniene, & Kleiva – “Cognitive Challenger for Black Sea Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*) Under Human Care”

Margez,* Khalid, & Abramson – “How and Why We Trained a Copy Signal”

Schulz* & Rath – “Bottlenose Dolphin Spermatozoa: Liquid Storage and Cryopreservation Results”

Simoni,* Rafaniello, & Guadagnini – “Management of Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) Calf During First Two Weeks Since Birth: Reintroduction to the Mother”

Zaccaroni,* Oesterwind, & Garcia Hartmann – “Why Laboratory Experience Matters”

Note: Presenters are signified by an *.