

## PROGRAMME. 22 & 23. November 2017 in Split, Croatia

**Workshop on mitigating the impact of underwater noise on marine biodiversity with specific focus on seismic surveys in the southeastern European waters in the Mediterranean Sea**

### Day 1

- 9.00 – 9.30: Welcoming notes
- 9.30 – 10.15: Anthropogenic noise effects on marine fauna, with special reference to seismic surveys  
**Speaker:** *Dr. Nikolina Rako-Gospić*  
Blue World Institute
- 10.15 – 10.30: Coffee break
- 10.30 – 11.15: Overview of anthropogenic underwater noise, impacts on marine biodiversity and mitigation measures in the southeastern European part of the Mediterranean, with the focus on seismic surveys  
**Speaker:** *Ana Štrbenac, M.Sc.*  
Regional nature conservation expert
- 11.15 – 12.00: Cetacean diversity and the concept of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) in the southeastern part of the Mediterranean  
**Speaker:** *Dr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara*  
Honorary President of the Tethys Research Institute, Co-Chair of the IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task, CMS COP-appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals  
**Speaker:** *Dr. Draško Holcer*  
President of Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation and Senior curator at Croatian Natural History Museum
- 12.00 – 12.30: Discussion
- 12.30 – 14.00: Lunch break
- 14:00 – 14.25: New approach to the understanding of airgun impact on marine mammals: using the new rules now in force in Italy as a case study  
**Speaker:** *Professor Gianni Pavan*  
CIBRA Centro Interdisciplinare di Bioacustica e Ricerche Ambientali
- 14.25 – 14.45: Obligations under European Union legislation: the Habitats Directive, the EIA Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive  
**Speaker:** *Dr. Vedran Nikolić*  
European Commission, DG Environment, Nature Protection unit
- 14.45 – 15.05: CMS Family Guidelines regarding Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and their proper application prior to seismic surveys  
**Speaker:** *Ms Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma*  
CMS Secretariat

- 15.05 – 15.25: Policy developments on ocean noise pollution in the context of the UN, FAO and RFMOs  
**Speaker:** *Mr. Nicola Ferri*  
GFCM Legal and Institutional Officer
- 15.25 – 15.45: Areas in the GFCM region, where fishing is prohibited, but other human activities, in particular anthropogenic noise, still continue to impact fish stocks  
**Speaker:** *Mr. Miguel Bernal*  
GFCM Fishery Resources Officer
- 15.45 – 16.15: Discussion
- 16.15 – 16.30: Coffee break
- 16.30 – 17.15: Precaution, mitigation and best available technology. Discussing measures (from time area closures, PAM to technical innovation towards quieting technologies as alternatives to airguns)  
**Speaker:** *Dr. Lindy Weilgart*  
Dalhousie University, Department of Biology
- 17.15 – 17.30: Concluding day 1 and providing details on day 2
- 19.15 – 22.00: Evening reception at the Ivan Meštrović Gallery: *Sonic Sea* – The Film, about protecting life in our waters from the destructive effects of oceanic noise pollution

## Day 2

**It is the objective of the workshop to agree on a set of actions and defining priorities for the region aimed at assuring the proper protection of vulnerable species and critical habitat**

- 9.00 – 13.00: Three parallel working groups
- WG 1: Vulnerable species and critical habitat: reflecting on noise hot spots and species distribution in the context to planned activities.  
WG 2: Socio-economic impacts: discussing potential conflicts between hydrocarbon exploration activities and other sectors, including tourism, commercial fisheries etc.  
WG 3: Challenges to the process: detailed discussion about the weaknesses and challenges of the bureaucratic process (including public participation) in reviewing licencing applications
- 13.00 – 14.30: Lunch break
- 14.30 – 15.00: Presentation of the workshop results by facilitators
- 15.00 – 16.00: Discussion
- Discussion of priorities as recommended by the working groups  
Identification of actions that have not been addressed by working groups, but deserve attention

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