



# The United Kingdom and Ireland Regional Student Chapter of the Society for Marine Mammalogy

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
Swansea University  
24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Conference Timetable

#UKIRSC19

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Sea Mammal  
Research Unit  
Instrumentation



Swansea  
University  
Prifysgol  
Abertawe



Sea Mammal  
Research  
Unit

PR  
STATISTICS



## Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January

**18:00 - 20:00**                      **Communicating Your Research using Social Media**

(Taliesin Building, Singleton Campus)  
*Dr Stephanie Januchowski-Hartley*

*All welcome to attend.*

**20:00 - 22:00**                      **Icebreaker Event**

(Taliesin Building, Singleton Campus)  
*Sponsored by the British Ecological Society*

## Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January

**08:30 - 08:50**                      **Registration** (Wallace Building - Ground Floor Foyer)

**08:50 - 09:00**                      **Welcome from the UKIRSC Committee**  
(Wallace Building – Wallace Lecture Theatre)

**09:00 - 09:10**                      **Welcome from Head of Department**  
*Professor Dan Eastwood*

**09:10 - 09:50**                      **“How to be a (marine mammal) scientist in tomorrow’s world”**  
Invited Speaker: *Dr Hanna Nuuttila, SEACAMS Research Officer, Swansea University*

**09:50 - 10:50**                      **SESSION 1: POPULATION BIOLOGY**  
(Wallace Building – Wallace Lecture Theatre)  
*Session Chair: William Kay, Swansea University*

09:50 - 10:05                      **Tanya Riley** – “Predicting the distribution of *Lutra lutra* (Eurasian otter) on the Isle of Anglesey, Wales”

10:05 - 10:20                      **Michael Weiss** – “Modelling disease spread in endangered cetaceans”

10:20 - 10:35                      **Tilen Genov** – “Drivers of unique social partitioning in a dolphin social network”

10:35 - 10:50                      **Hélène Mazière** – “Cetacean, seal and sea turtle strandings in Greece: spatio-temporal distributions and correlations with environmental factors”

<b>10:50 - 11:10</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b> (Wallace Building – Science Central, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Foyer)
<b>11:10 - 11:40</b>	<b>S2: MARINE MAMMAL &amp; HUMAN INTERACTIONS</b> (Wallace Building – Wallace Lecture Theatre) <i>Session Chair: Katherine Whyte, University of St Andrews</i>
11:10 - 11:25	<b>Linas Svolkinas</b> – “Socio-economic models for marine conservation: the illegal wildlife trade in Caspian seal ( <i>Pusa Caspica</i> ) products”
11:25 - 11:30	<b>María Pérez Tadeo</b> – “Assessment of anthropogenic disturbances due to ecotourism on a grey seal ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ) colony in the Blasket Islands, SW Ireland”
11:30 - 11:35	<b>Tom Grove</b> – “Whale Wise: assessing and mitigating the impact of whale watching encounters on whale populations in north Iceland”
11:35 - 11:40	<b>Cynthia Barile</b> – “Habitat modelling of deep-diving species in Irish waters, through the use of static acoustic monitoring (SAM)”
<b>11:50 - 12:30</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
<b>12:30 - 14:30</b>	<b>Workshop 1: Parallel Session A</b> (Margam Building – Room 318)  <b>Past present and future of marine mammal monitoring – standardising existing data and discussing possibilities for novel techniques from drones or eDNA.</b> <i>Dr Hanna Nuuttila, SEACAMS Research Officer, Swansea University</i>  <i>Capacity: 45</i> Sign up via: <a href="https://doodle.com/poll/mn9uuvr3vyzikxig">https://doodle.com/poll/mn9uuvr3vyzikxig</a>
<i>You are welcome to bring along your lunch to this session.</i>	If you’re a student working on UAV or eDNA data you are invited to contribute to the workshop - please contact the workshop organising team through <a href="mailto:h.k.nuuttila@swansea.ac.uk">h.k.nuuttila@swansea.ac.uk</a>

- 12:30 - 14:30**                      **Workshop 1: Parallel Session B**  
(Wallace Building – Room 113)
- 12:30 - 14:00                      **An Introduction to Policymaking for Ecologists**  
*William Kay, PhD Student, Swansea University*
- 14:00 - 14:30                      **Imposter Syndrome Workshop**  
*Ben Whittaker, PhD Student, Swansea University*
- You are welcome to bring along your lunch to these sessions.*
- Capacity: 35  
Sign up via: <https://doodle.com/poll/yr3y5keyeq99fq9e>
- 14:30 - 14:50**                      **COFFEE BREAK** (Science Central – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Foyer)
- 14:50 – 17:00**                      **Workshop 2: Harbour Porpoise Necropsy**  
(Wallace Building – Room 115)
- Rob Deaville, Matthew Perkins and Rod Penrose  
UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP)*
- All welcome.*
- 19:00 - 22:00**                      **Conference meal at Brewstone**  
*33 Uplands Crescent, Uplands, Swansea SA2 0NP*
- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January**
- 08:45 - 09:00**                      **UKIRSC Announcements** (Wallace Lecture Theatre)
- 09:00 - 09:40**                      **“Title TBC”**  
Invited Speaker: *Professor Rory Wilson, Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor, Swansea University*
- 09:40 - 10:35**                      **SESSION 3: ACOUSTICS**  
*Session Chair: Heather Vance, University of St Andrews*
- 09:40 - 09:55                      **Claudia Allen** – “Assessing harbour porpoise activity in a conservation Hotspot in North East Lewis, Scotland”
- 09:55 - 10:10                      **Nicole Todd** – “Using passive acoustic monitoring to investigate the occurrence of cetaceans in a protected marine area in Northwest Ireland”

- 10:10 - 10:25      **Caitlin Allan** – “Modelling the Habitat Preferences of Sperm Whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) off the North-west Coast of Scotland”
- 10:25 - 10:30      **Katie Welsh** – “The use of Passive Acoustic Monitoring to localise sperm whales off the west coast of Scotland”
- 10:30 - 10:35      **Emma Longden** – “The use of passive acoustics to detect the presence of individual bottlenose dolphins, *Tursiops truncatus*, in a coastal population”
- 10:40 - 11:20**      **COFFEE BREAK & POSTER SESSION**
- 11:20 - 11:55**      **SESSION 4: PHYSIOLOGY & GENETICS**  
*Session Chair: Claudia Allen, Swansea University*
- 11:20 - 11:35      **Laura Oller** – “Understanding oxygen management in grey seal blubber”
- 11:35 - 11:50      **Kayleigh Jones** – “Stable isotopes in Antarctic fur seal whiskers reveal sexual segregation in foraging distribution”
- 11:50 - 12:05      **Adam Cogan** – “The evolution of cetacean cultural intelligence”
- 12:05 - 12:10      **Kristina Steinmetz** – “Population genetics of seals in Irish waters: a tool for management and conservation”
- 12:15 - 13:10**      **LUNCH BREAK**
- 13:10 - 13:50**      **SESSION 4: BEHAVIOUR & MOVEMENT**  
*Session Chair: William Kay, Swansea University*
- 13:10 - 13:25      **Heather Vance** – “Offshore foraging and resting behaviour of harbour seals (*Phoca vitulina*) as revealed by high-resolution multi-sensor tags”
- 13:25 - 13:40      **Katherine Whyte** – “Behavioural response of seals to pile driving during offshore wind farm construction”
- 13:40 - 13:45      **Natalie Sinclair** – “The cultural transmission of humpback whale (*Megaptera novaengliae*) song in the central and eastern South Pacific Ocean”

13:45 - 13:50	<b>Virginia Iorio</b> – “Marine top predator inter-specific interactions in a dynamic environment
<b>14:00 - 14:40</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK &amp; POSTER SESSION</b>
<b>14:40 - 15:00</b>	<b>Prize Giving</b> (Wallace Lecture Theatre)
<b>15:00 - 16:30</b>	<b>Workshop 3</b> (Margam Building - Room 318)
	<b>Biologging Workshop</b> <i>Dr Hannah Williams, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Swansea University</i>
<b>16:30</b>	Conference close
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Activities to be confirmed.</b>

## POSTER TITLES

<b>Amy Jones</b>	“Investigating the effect of season and time of day on the behaviour and distribution of Irrawaddy dolphins ( <i>Orcaella brevirostris</i> )”
<b>Franca Eichenberger</b>	“The enigma of humpback whale song: getting to the bottom of complex male mating behaviours”
<b>Deborah Vicari</b>	“A study on cranial variation in Beluga whales ( <i>Delphinapterus leucas</i> ), Narwhals ( <i>Monodon Monoceros</i> ) and their hybrids”
<b>David Orr</b>	“Evolutionary Genomics of Lactation Strategies in Pinnipeds”
<b>William Kay</b>	“Grey seal ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ) pup dispersal in Wales: Spatio-temporal overlap with a tidal stream turbine”