

Spanish Dolphins – 2006 Field Report



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Dear Friends of the Toftevaag,

We hope this letter finds you all well. First of all, we would like to thank you all for making it possible again to advance one more step in our programme for the conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles in the Mediterranean. I think that those of you who have followed our work for a while will be struck by how fast things are moving.

We thought that with the end of the LIFE project things would slow down a bit, but it certainly hasn't been the case. This next phase we are starting now should be very exciting, as we will be "exporting" part of our results to other areas in Europe and the Mediterranean, and in Alboran starting to work more on an "ecosystem approach". But I won't go into details of this, as you can find that either in the annexes of this report or on the webs www.cetaceos.com and www.alnitak.info. In this letter, we simply want to show you and the Earthwatch staff our gratitude for your support during the 2006 season.

Last week we were at the European Cetacean Society Conference presenting the results of the LIFE project. Ana is right now in Anchorage (Alaska) for a couple of weeks at the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission. She will be presenting several aspects of the research here. I will go next week to Vancouver Island to the International Fishery Observer Conference where we will also present some of the turtle bycatch mitigation experiment results, and prepare some new actions and experiments for the coming season. Jeppe is currently working on a new acoustic set-up for conducting some experiments in the sardine purse seining fishery where fishermen are starting to have a problem with common dolphins. So as you can see things are still very busy with a lot of travelling. Fortunately on the 16th of June, meetings, reports, deadlines and other bureaucratic worries will be locked up in some hidden part of the brain as other more "natural" feelings related with the sea and the dolphins take over.

Those of you who join us this summer will get to know a few new faces, as we'll have four or five students from the University of St. Andrews (SMRU) starting their masters theses with us. So, we hope that you will follow the progress of these management plans and the Spanish dolphins either by staying in touch, or even better, by joining us again onboard the Toftevaag in the near future.

Thanks and a very big hug to all of you!

Ric (on behalf of the Toftevaag crew – Ana, Nano, María, Mar, Pilar, Susana, Lucía, Ana, Neus, Toño, Elena, Diego, Jeppe, Carol, Dina, Claudia, Carolina, Noaa)

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EARTHWATCH INSTITUTE FIELD REPORT

Project Title:

CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS AND SEA TURTLES IN THE ALBORAN SEA

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Ana Cañadas

Ricardo Sagarminaga

Position/Affiliations:

Universidad Autonoma de Madrid - SEC

Alnitak – SEC

Spanish Cetacean Society (SEC)

Research Site(s) (geographic location, include coordinates if known, e.g.

Lat/Long):

The “gate to the Mediterranean”: the Alboran Sea

Local Management Status of the Research Site(s) (e.g. National Park, RAMSAR Site, World Heritage Site, IBA etc.):

Four Natura 2000 sites

One SPAMI Barcelona Convention site proposal

One ACCOBAMS (CMS) SPA site

Scientific names of primary species being studied:

Tursiops truncatus, *Delphinus delphis*, *Caretta caretta*, *Globicephala melas*, *Ziphius cavirostris*

Key Research Objectives:

Development of Species Conservation Plans, Development of Marine Protected Area Management Plans, Monitoring Plan as feedback mechanism for management and conservation plans. Research actions to complete baseline data and find possible solutions, especially with respect to interactions with fisheries. Bycatch mitigation measure development and testing.

Data Collection and Results

- a) Give a concise account of the data you have collected during the past field season. The year 2006 was the ending of an important phase of the Spanish Dolphin programme with the finalising of the LIFE02NAT/E/8610 project. Nine successful shipboard surveys were conducted obtaining important data for the monitoring plan developed by the LIFE project as a feedback mechanism to the conservation and

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management plans. Apart from basic sighting data, essential for obtaining cetacean abundance, habitat use and distribution knowledge, biopsy samples, dorsal fin and fluke images and acoustic recordings were made to “feed” the diverse studies aiming at filling in the gaps in the baseline data that constitutes the foundation of the management plans.

b) What progress have you made towards achieving your original objectives?
The LIFE project, despite being very ambitious, has been a great success. In October of 2006, Ana and Ric travelled to Brussels to present the results in person. The reason for this was to make sure that all the work carried out in these last years contributes as efficiently as possible in the European policy and other international biodiversity conservation frameworks.

The main contribution of this project is certainly the management and conservation plans, and the way in which they were developed, with the help of an incredible international scientific committee. But at the level that affects volunteers’ work more directly, we must highlight the important contribution made by the development of innovative monitoring techniques that have raised a lot of interest.

Finally, we must highlight the importance of the work carried out, especially with fishermen. Active implication of stakeholders (especially fishermen) in the management process and research has resulted in an acceleration of the established management plan timeline, clearly highlighted by the different speeds of development of the “slow” legislative actions and the management actions “on site” with the people that are actually at sea, the decision-makers, fishermen, whale watching operators, diving clubs, military fleets, etc.

c) Please provide a summary of your results.

To summarise: the development of innovative marine pelagic species monitoring tools that tackle the logistic and economic challenges. We can highlight the development of spatial modelling tools for the design, management and monitoring of marine protected areas, but also the analysis of the migration and habitat use data from satellite tracking that has played an important part in identifying important bycatch mitigation measures for our Mediterranean longlining fishery that catches over 20,000 loggerhead turtles every year.

Significance/Benefits of Research

a) What is/are the significance/benefits of your research at the following levels?

- Local (in the area of the research site)

Identification and development of actions that make biodiversity conservation and socioeconomic development compatible.

- National

Implementation by Spain of marine biodiversity conservation frameworks – EC Habitat Directive, Marine Strategy, Fishery policy (bycatch). UN FAO guidelines for responsible fishing, Barcelona Convention, Bern Convention, Bonn Convention (ACCOBAMS).

- International

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Contribution to the frameworks cited above with innovative cost efficient monitoring tools and the positive example of active stakeholder implication.

Example of the utility of high quality volunteering programme as a backbone to long-term monitoring.

b) How do your findings contribute to issues of sustainability?

See www.alnitak.info and www.cetaceos.com (LIFE Project results)

Dissemination of Results

a) Have you provided details of results from your research to or within:

- Scientific papers
 - European Cetacean Society presentations (6)
 - International Whaling Commission presentations (3)
 - International Sea Turtle Society (1)
 - ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (3)
 - Journals (2)
 - Master thesis (1)
- Management plans and reports (in progress or completed)
 - Bottlenose Dolphin Conservation Plan – Environment Ministry, Fisheries Ministry and EC Natura 2000
 - Loggerhead Turtle – Environment Ministry, Fisheries Ministry and EC Natura 2000
 - Harbour Porpoise – Environment Ministry, Fisheries Ministry and EC Natura 2000
 - Common Dolphin Conservation Plan – ACCOBAMS (participation as Scientific Committee members)
 - Alboran SCI – Management Plan Proposals – Environment Ministry, Fisheries Ministry and EC Natura 2000
 - Conference on sharing knowledge on marine protected area management – Malta June 2006
 - ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee Meeting – Monaco November
 - Others - see attachment

- Presentations (given or planned)

See layman report of LIFE project annex

- Popular articles or films (in progress or completed)

Apart from several news reports, the production of the documentaries “El Gran Rojo” and “Todos por la Mar”.

- Books, chapters, illustrations

“Todos por la Mar” book (expected presentation in June 2007)

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Field Report Section II

Volunteer Tasks and Accomplishments

a) How did the volunteers contribute ideas, skills, expertise and motivations beyond that which you anticipated?

The field season 2006-2007 was made possible by the sponsoring and active help of 60 volunteers. Apart from this, which is fundamental for the running of the project, the “additional” input of Earthwatch volunteers was as in other years, substantial. Just being able to meet and share life on board with 68 people from five different continents (we have now had 49 nationalities onboard) is a luxury that makes any job interesting. In our last year’s report, I mentioned the challenge of dealing with the great diversity of volunteers’ expectations: “The diversity of perspectives, ideas, recommendations that come out of this experience is also unique. As specialised researchers, our focus is often so narrowed down that “the trees don’t let us see the forest”. But apart from this sharing of visions and ideas, there have also been important contributions from volunteers with specialised skills. Maybe this aspect could be greatly improved as we are aware that many times volunteers would like to contribute more with their skills, and that often we are “under-exploiting” these. The main problem for this is the great variety of volunteer skills and variety of willingness to contribute with their special skills. For instance, we have computer experts who may be dying to help us improve aspects of our computer set-up, or on the other hand, want to do anything but computer work when they are onboard. Or a doctor who comes onboard willing to improve our first aid kit and medicate all volunteers, as opposed to a doctor who will even hide when the dreaded moment comes of asking “is there a doctor onboard? (touch wood)”. I’m afraid we still haven’t come up with a solution to fulfill everybody’s expectations, but I guess being aware of the importance and difficulty of this is a first step that will gradually allow us to improve.

b) How have volunteers helped you to achieve your research or educational objectives? Firstly, we have been able to pay the ship maintenance and engine change fuel costs, port fees, food, insurance, research equipment. Secondly, volunteers allowed us to steer the ship over 4,000 nautical miles, spending more than 1,000 hours looking out for cetaceans and turtles, record data on over 2000 sampling stations, track 324 groups of cetaceans, collect over 40 biopsy samples for genetics, toxicology and feeding studies, take over 2,800 images of dorsal fins for photo-identification, catch and measure 23 turtles, record cetacean behaviour and conduct 20 Acoustic Deterrent Device experiments. Over 300 slides were scanned and thousands of digital photographs were added to the photo identification catalogues.

Project Development

a) What logistical or scientific challenges have you encountered in the past season and how will you address them during the next field season?

The main logistical challenge of the last field season has certainly been combining the workload of the EC LIFE project with the field season, and some important conversions on the Toftevaag. The first teams in the summer experienced the difficulties involved with the changing of the ship’s engine, but despite these difficulties the Toftevaag was able to complete a whole season of data collection without any major plan alterations.

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b) Have you used any additional methods/strategies to meet your research objectives?

This last season again most volunteers got a chance to participate in a very interesting experiment on the reactions of dolphins to sounds produced by acoustic deterrent and harassment devices. This was done through the collaboration with EC DG Fisheries project NECESSITY. The implications of this work for management are very important. Over the last years fishermen have started looking at the use of “pingers” as a means of scaring dolphins away from their nets. The results of our research last year has allowed us to initiate the process of regulating the use of these devices in Spain.

c) How will you develop your research in the coming field season?

In 2007, we have started a contract with the Spanish Fisheries Department to work on solutions to mitigate the negative interactions between fisheries and endangered species. This project represents the fishery related actions developed in the conservation and management plans of the LIFE project. For volunteers onboard in this coming season that will imply some new activities.

Educational Opportunities

a) Does your project directly or indirectly involve the following groups in your research topic?

- Local communities

The “Todos Por la Mar” coastal tours used during the LIFE project to have meetings with the Management Plan stakeholders have allowed us to develop management plans that are more than just paper. By linking science with management and stakeholder implication we have been able to set up a management process that is alive. This is why most of the actions included in the management plans delivered to politicians are already starting now with the active implication of stakeholders, and specially fishermen.

- Students

The “Todos Por la Mar” educational programme is the key to the cultural change required for ensuring the future of management efforts. It is with great satisfaction that we had a meeting in May with the teachers’ unions in order to have them take on this programme, using the materials produced to integrate this programme officially in the curriculum. Our role from now on will be carrying out some teacher capacity building courses and gradually revising and complementing the educational materials.

- Early career scientists

Apart from the four regional research groups created by the LIFE project, we have carried out some capacity building initiatives for researchers of North African countries. This will in future years become an important responsibility of Spanish Dolphins. In 2006, three students from another European university and two invited researchers participated in the project. In 2007 five students will start research projects with Alnitak.

- Other groups

Whalewatching in other parts of the planet is often considered a threat to cetaceans. In Alboran, active participation of whalewatching operators in the management process has resulted in an exemplary development of this industry. In parallel to the national law on whalewatching that we have been assisting the Ministry of the Environment with, we are also seeing here the benefits of active stakeholder implication.

- International cooperation

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In 2007, we plan to establish a cooperation project with the University of Oran in Algeria. This will be an important step towards a regional approach, exporting some of the learnings to other areas.

b) Please tell us the ways your research helps these groups better understand the conservation of a sustainable environment (see the UNESCO definition above).
Whalewatching operators are developing research and education projects apart from adopting the code of conduct of a law that has still not come through. Fishermen are part of our research and management process and understand the need for solutions that make economic development and biodiversity conservation compatible. By using the EU Habitat Directive, science becomes a powerful tool for getting relevant authorities to implement the management plans.

c) Has your project helped lead to the completion of Masters' theses, or other educational research findings?

One PhD, many technical reports, three scientific publications and many presentations at conferences (please download the information from www.alnitak.info and www.cetaceos.com

Two masters' theses in other European universities (UK and Denmark).

Partnerships

a) List partnerships or collaborations with other organisations that you have developed or maintained in the past season.

At the international level: EC DG Environment and DG Fisheries, UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan, IUCN Mediterranean Cooperation Centre and Specialist Groups, ACCOBAMS scientific committee, International Whaling Commission scientific committee, NOAA Fisheries, WWF, Greenpeace, OCEANA Europe, WIDECAS, European Cetacean Society, International Sea Turtle Society, Marine Mammal Society.

At the national level: Ministries of Fisheries, Environment, UNESCO Chair for the Environment, Merchant Navy and National Environment Press Association.

At a regional level, local environmental associations, fishermen, teachers, relevant authorities, whalewatching operators.

b) How have these organisations contributed to your project objectives?

Active implication in project actions and management plan process.

c) How do you anticipate these organisations will use the results generated by the project, and in what timeframes?

At present most of the high priority actions of the management plans are underway. Many of them we are involved with still directly. Others will be carried out by these stakeholders. Legislative actions, management actions, research actions, monitoring actions, capacity building actions and public awareness actions.

The main partnerships presently underway are:

SEC – LIFE02NAT/E/8610

PIs Ana Cañadas and Ricardo Sagarminaga were founder members of the Spanish Cetacean Society (SEC) in 1999, and directed the coordination, management and monitoring actions of the LIFE Nature project LIFE02NAT/E/8610 from 2002 to 2004. Alnitak, with the sponsorship of Earthwatch, has played a key role in the success of this project.

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NOAA Fisheries

In complement to the actions of the LIFE project related to the problem of loggerhead turtle bycatch in surface longlines, Alnitak – SEC developed a contract with NOAA Fisheries to develop an experimental fishing programme to test some of the identified bycatch mitigation measures. This research action was carried out in cooperation with the Spanish Mediterranean longlining fleet.

Spanish Ministry of Fisheries

At the outcome of the LIFE Nature project, one of its primary partners, the Spanish Ministry of Fisheries, signed a contract with Alnitak for a two-year programme dealing with the development of the high priority actions of the conservation and management plans dealing with fishery interactions.

ACCOBAMS

Under the Bonn Convention of Migratory Species (CMS), the Agreement for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea (ACCOBAMS), constitutes a major framework for the application to conservation of the research carried out by the Spanish Dolphins project. During the previous phase, Alnitak has participated actively with ACCOBAMS in actions as the development of the Mediterranean Common dolphin conservation plan, the IUCN red list revision and in the meetings of the Scientific Committee (A. Cañadas as member in 2004, 2005 and 2006, and R. Sagarminaga as invited expert in 2006). Among the active contributions to ACCOBAMS presently underway, we can highlight the development of a habitat preference modelling exercise for the identification of high risk areas for beaked whales for the use of military sonars and other sources of acoustic pollution, and the organisation of a Mediterranean wide survey for cetaceans and sea turtles. Alnitak is one of the most active groups within ACCOBAMS, especially since Ana Cañadas is a member of its Scientific Committee.

DG Biodiversity – OSPAR task

One of the major successes of the LIFE project has been the positive momentum generated by the active implication of stakeholders and especially fishermen in the management process. As a result, Alnitak has been asked by the National Biodiversity Directorate General to lead a task for OSPAR dealing with the learnings of stakeholder implication initiatives in relation to marine protected areas (MPAs).

Duke University Marine Lab (Pew Fellowship)

The recently approved Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation “Spatially-explicit Conservation in the Alborán Sea: Predictive Habitat Modelling and Gap Analysis Guide Pelagic Protected Area Designs” coordinated by David Hyrenbach will be carried out as a collaboration between Alnitak and Duke University Marine Lab (through a contract) between 2007 and 2009.

International Whaling Commission

Ana Cañadas has been a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission since 2004, and a member of the Spanish Delegation since 2006. Since 2004, Alnitak is contributing several scientific documents to the meetings and Ana is participating in the discussions of some of the subcommittees, especially those dealing with the new methods in modelling and population assessments.

Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) – University of St. Andrews

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Ana has spent much time at the SMRU during the past few years while doing her PhD under the supervision of Professor Phil Hammond. Even though the PhD finished in 2006, a strong collaboration continues between Alnitak and SMRU through several joint projects (SCANS-II, CODA, and others in preparation), joint publications and scientific advice. Furthermore, an application for a post-doc in SMRU has been submitted too, in the fields of spatial modelling and mark-recapture. The result of the application will be known by the end of 2007.

Acknowledgements

The EC and all the LIFE project partners
Earthwatch Institute and all the Earthwatch volunteers
UNESCO Chair for the Environment
ACCOBAMS Secretariate

The relevance of volunteers and the support from Earthwatch

The support from the Earthwatch Institute was a key step in the 1999 “turning point” of Alnitak’s work in the Alboran Sea. During the four years of the EC LIFE Nature project, sponsorship of Earthwatch to the Spanish Dolphin programme has constituted the backbone of this project, making it possible for a relatively small NGO to handle the challenges of the complex LIFE funding tool in a particularly ambitious project. On the other hand, the great number of volunteers “flying in” from 49 different countries of all continents has added an important international scope to the project of great value and utility.

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PRESENTATIONS

Articles in Scientific Journals

- Cañadas, A., Natoli, A., Vaquero, C., Politi, E., Fernández-Piqueras, J. and Hoelzel, A.R. In review. Conservation genetics of the short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) in the Mediterranean Sea and eastern North Atlantic Ocean.
- Cañadas, A. and Murphy, S. In review. Anecdotal notes on evidence of promiscuity and mating units in wild common dolphins *Delphinus delphis*.
- Cañadas, A., Sagarminaga, R. and Hammond, P.S. In review. Abundance and trends of short beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) in South-western Mediterranean.
- Eckert, S.A., Moore, J.E., Dunn, D.C., Sagarminaga, R., Eckert, K.L. and Halpin, P.N. In review. A hierarchical state-space model of loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) movement behavior in relation to oceanography in the Alboran Sea.
- Cañadas, A. and Hammond, P. 2006. Model-based abundance estimate of bottlenose dolphins off Southern Spain: implications for conservation and management. *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*, 8(1).
- Natoli, A., Cañadas, A., Peddemors, V.M., Aguilar, A., Vaquero, C., Fernández-Piqueras, P. and Hoelzel, A.R. 2006. Phylogeography and alpha taxonomy of the common dolphin (*Delphinus* sp.). *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* 19(3): 943.
- Cañadas, A., R. Sagarminaga, R. de Stephanis, E. Urquiola and P.S. Hammond. 2005. Habitat selection models as a conservation tool: proposal of marine protected areas for cetaceans in Southern Spain. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 15:495-521.
- Bearzi, G., R.R. Reeves, G. Notarbartolo di Sciara, E. Politi, A. Cañadas, A. Frantzi and B. Mussi. 2003. Ecology, status and conservation of short-beaked common dolphins *Delphinus delphis* in the Mediterranean Sea. *Mammal Review*, 33: 224-252.
- Cañadas, A., Sagarminaga, R. and García-Tiscar, S. 2002. Cetacean distribution related with depth and slope in the Mediterranean waters off southern Spain. *Deep Sea Research I* 49: 2053-2073.
- Cañadas, A. and Sagarminaga, R. 2000. The Alboran Sea, an important breeding and feeding ground for the long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*) in the Mediterranean Sea. *Marine Mammal Science* 16 (3): 513-529.

Books

Book of the LIFE project “Todos por la Mar” (in press – expected May 2007)

Proyecto Mediterráneo. Zonas de especial interés para la conservación de los cetáceos en el Mediterráneo español (Ed. J.A. Raga and J. Pantoja). Ministerio de Medio Ambiente. Organismo Autónomo Parques Nacionales. Madrid.

Popular articles

See annex LIFE project media analysis.

Presentations/Conferences/Workshops

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Oral presentations:

- 2007 | Presentation of Bottlenose Dolphin Conservation Plan at the Earthwatch Institute Annual Conference – Boston, March.
- 2007 | Presentation of Bottlenose Dolphin Conservation Plan at the Seminar on: “Connecting Natura 2000 and Economy” – Amsterdam, March.
- 2006 | Presentation of Bottlenose Dolphin Conservation Plan at the Scientific Committee meeting of ACCOBAMS – Monaco, November.
- 2006 | Presentation of Bottlenose Dolphin Conservation Plan at the seminar on: “Is being green a business opportunity for SMEs?” – Malaga, November
- 2006 | Presentation of results at the Meeting of the Parties – OSPAR – Azores, October.
- 2006 | Presentation of results to CE DG Environment – Brussels, October.
- 2006 | Presentation of results at International Sea Turtle Bycatch Workshop – Puntarenas, Costa Rica, June.
- 2006 | Presentation of results at the Annual Conference of the International Whaling Commission – St. Kitts and Nevis, June.
- 2006 | “Towards conservation of the short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) off Southern Spain”. XIX Annual Meeting of the European Cetacean Society. Gdynia, Poland. April.
- 2006 | “Surveying the ACCOBAMS area”. Scientific Seminar on Cetaceans in the South Mediterranean Countries. ACCOBAMS – ISPA. Bizerta, Tunisia. March.
- 2006 | Developing a Conservation Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in Spain, ISTS Symposium Crete, 5th of April 2006.
- 2006 | Testing mackerel bait as a bycatch mitigation measure, ISTS Symposium Crete, 5th of April 2006.
- 2006 | Coordination of Loggerhead Turtle LIFE Nature projects, ISTS Symposium Crete, 2nd of April 2006.
- 2006 | Loggerhead turtle conservation actions in the Alborán sea, presentation of LIFE02NAT/E/8610, ISTS Symposium Crete, 3rd of April 2006.
- 2006 | Development of the LIFE Nature Project “Conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles in Murcia and Andalusia, 29th of March 2006.
- 2006 | Developing Conservation Strategies for Marine Pelagics, Masters on Environmental Policy, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 18th of February 2006.
- 2005 | "Ecology of the short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) off southern Spain." Workshop “Application of GIS and Spatial-Temporal Modeling for Marine Mammal Science and Management”. Society of Marine Mammalogy. San Diego, US. December
- 2005 | “Spatial analysis as a tool for conservation and management of bottlenose dolphin populations”. Workshop “How can Science best inform Managers: the role of field studies in the conservation management of European bottlenose dolphin populations”. La Rochelle, France. April. Organized by the European

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- Cetacean Society. Sponsored by ASCOBANS.
- 2004 "Acciones de Monitorización de poblaciones de cetáceos en el proyecto LIFE: distribución y abundancia. El caso del delfín mular". 4th Conference of the Spanish Cetacean Society, Málaga, Spain. December.
- 2004 "Proyectos realizados por Alnitak en 2004". 4th Conference of the Spanish Cetacean Society, Málaga, Spain. December.
- 2004 "Making marine protected areas for cetaceans and sea turtles in the Alboran Sea". Annual Conference of the Earthwatch Institute. Boston, US. November.
- 2004 "Model-based abundance estimates for bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) off Southern Spain". XVIII Annual Meeting of the European Cetacean Society. Kolmarden, Sweden. April.
- 2004 "Conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles in Murcia and Andalucía". Jornadas sobre Áreas Marinas Protegidas. Sociedad Española de Cetáceos. University of Cadiz, Spain.
- 2003 "Characterizing habitats as a conservation tool". Workshop 'Use of Ships of Opportunity for Cetacean Research'. Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, Spain. March.
- 2003 "Proyecto de conservación de cetáceos y tortugas marinas en Andalucía y Murcia". Lecture in the Master programme "Master en espacios naturales protegidos. Módulo C. Fondos Europeos y espacios protegidos". University Autonomous of Madrid, Spain. December.
- 2003 "Modelos de selección de hábitats como herramientas de conservación: propuesta de áreas marinas protegidas para cetáceos en Andalucía". Jornadas sobre Areas Marinas Protegidas. Sociedad Española de Cetáceos. University of Almería, Spain. December.
- 2003 "Habitat selection models as a conservation tool for cetaceans: a case study in Southern Spain". Workshop on GIS and Spatial Analysis, Greensboro, North Carolina. December.
- 2003 "Habitat selection models as a conservation tool: proposal of Marine Protected Areas for cetaceans in Southern Spain". XV Biennial Conference of the Society for Marine Mammalogy. Greensboro, North Carolina. December.
- 2003 "Conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles in Murcia and Andalucía", Primer Festival de Cine de Mamíferos Marinos – IFEMA Madrid. May 2003
- 2003 "Conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles in Murcia and Andalucía". Jornadas sobre Areas Marinas Protegidas. Sociedad Española de Cetáceos. University of Almería, Spain.
- 2002 "Habitat use of common dolphins in the Alboran Sea, Western Mediterranean Sea". II Workshop of graduate and post-graduate students of the Sea Mammal Research Unit (Universities of Aberdeen and St. Andrews, Scotland). January.
- 2002 "Ecological aspects of the common dolphin in the Alboran Sea". Lecture at the II Course on Biology and Veterinary medicine on marine mammals". University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain. May.
- 2002 "Conservation of cetaceans and sea turtles in Murcia and Andalucía", II Course on Biology and Veterinary medicine on marine mammals". University of Santiago

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- de Compostela, Spain. May.
- 2001 "The Ecology of Cetaceans in the Alboran Sea". Seminar at the Molecular Ecology Group, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Durham (UK). February.
- 2001 "Methodologies for studying cetaceans at sea". Lecture at the I Course on Biology and Veterinary medicine on marine mammals". University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain. March.
- 2001 "Europhlukes. SW Europe". First Workshop of the European Project Europhlukes.
- 2001 "Cetacean Research and Conservation in Spanish Waters". I Course on Biology and Veterinary medicine on marine mammals". University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain. March.
- 2000 "Research in the Alboran Sea - Alnitak". I Simposium of the Spanish Cetacean Society "Hacia la conservación de los cetáceos y las tortugas marinas en España". Ceuta. February
- 2000 "Cetaceans in Spanish waters". I Program of Conferences on Marine Biology at the University Autónoma of Madrid. March.
- 2000 "The Bottlenose dolphin in SW Spain". I Workshop on the Conservation of Bottlenose dolphins in the Atlantic waters of Europe. Tenerife, Canary Islands, September.
- 2000 "The Ecology of Cetaceans in the Alboran Sea". I workshop for graduate and post-graduate students of the Sea Mammal Research Unit (Universities of Aberdeen and St. Andrews, Scotland, UK). December.
- 2000 "Methodologies for the study on cetaceans at sea". I Simposium of the Spanish Cetacean Society "Hacia la conservación de los cetáceos y las tortugas marinas en España". Ceuta (Spain).
- 2000 "Conservation problems of cetaceans and sea turtles in the Mediterranean Sea". I Conferences Programme of Marine Biology at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. March.
- 2000 Conference "Research on cetaceans at sea and its application to conservation policies". Faculty of Veterinary, University Complutense of Madrid.
- 1999 "Protocols for sightings of cetaceans and sea turtles". Meeting of the Spanish Cetacean Society for the development of the project "Recopilación, análisis, valoración y elaboración de protocolos sobre las labores de observación, asistencia a varamientos y recuperación de mamíferos y tortugas marinas de las aguas españolas". Valsain, Segovia. October.
- 1999 "Spanish Dolphins". XXVI Annual Conference of the Earthwatch Institute. Harvard University Science Center, Boston, US, November 1999.
- 1999 "Cetacean distribution with respect to the physiography of the Alborán Sea." XIII Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society. Valencia. April.
- 1999 Conference "Cetaceans and sea turtles in Spanish waters". Public school of Hoyo de Manzanares, Madrid (Spain).
- 1999 Conference on "Conservation problems of cetaceans in the SE of Spain".

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- University Autónoma of Madrid.
- 1999 Presentation of footage on cetacean behavior. XIII Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, Valencia (Spain).
- 1999 Conference "Ecology of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea". Instituto Pulpí, Almería (Spain).
- 1999 Conference "Conservation problems of cetaceans in SE Spain". Instituto de Aguilas, Murcia (Spain).
- 1999 Conference "Cetacean research program in the Alboran Sea", University of Almería (Spain).

Presentations at the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission:

- Cañadas**, A., Fortuna, C., Hammond, P.S. 2006. Modelling techniques to investigate the impact of changes in habitat on cetacean distribution and abundance. Document presented to the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission. Paper SC/58/E21.
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Nature project:

- “Pescadores y cetáceos” (Fishermen and cetaceans)
- “El Gran Rojo” (Documentary on Alboran and bluefin tuna fisheries)
- “Todos por la Mar” (Documentary of the LIFE project)

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