

WORKSHOP- Inter/national harbour porpoise conservation: How to join forces for a migratory species and what tools are currently available?

A workshop organised by The North Sea Foundation, in cooperation with the World Wide Fund for Nature, Marine Science & Communication and The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture & Innovation

Date: 23 March 2012

Time: Workshop 9.30 – 16.00 / Drinks & snacks 16.00 – 17.00

Place: Galway Bay Hotel, Galway, Ireland

Herewith we would like to invite you for the workshop 'Inter/national harbour porpoise conservation'. The workshop focuses on North Sea countries, and specifically aims to bring together governments, scientists, NGO's and representatives of industry.

The meeting bridges between the Advisory Committee meeting of ASCOBANS (19 – 22 March) and the European Cetacean Society conference (24 – 28 March) in Galway. Therefore, part of our programme will be defined on site, creating the opportunity to zoom in on topics discussed during the ASCOBANS meeting. Invited experts will join us, to share their experiences, expertise and lessons learned.

With its European playing field this workshop will benefit from the synergy of international cooperation, resulting in concrete steps forward towards the conservation of harbour porpoises in European waters and beyond!

Objectives

1. To focus on the most important and promising means of international coordination for harbour porpoise conservation for the near future
2. To inform stakeholders and governments about the new Dutch Conservation Plan and its implementation
3. To learn from other – international or national - conservation plans, including the ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise in the North Sea
4. To discuss the rationale, benefits and specifics of a coordinated international approach

Outline programme

1. Objectives of the workshop
2. Main conclusions of the 19th ASCOBANS Advisory Committee meeting
3. North Sea Steering group: overview status harbour porpoise conservation North Sea Countries
4. Dutch Harbour Porpoise Conservation plan and its implementation
5. How to join forces for international harbour porpoise conservation: Identify which recommendations need an international approach and focus on the most important ones
6. What tools necessary for international cooperation are currently available: Formulate a plan of action for each recommendation and assess feasibility, with help of lessons learned

Please let us know if you would like to attend our workshop before: **20th February 2012**. We will confirm your application by email.

To conclude, please answer this question:
What topic within harbour porpoise conservation are you particularly interested in?

Thank you! We hope to see you in Galway.

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