



“An integrated approach to non-lethal research on minke whales in European waters” Workshop

**22nd April, 09:00-13:30 at the Aquarium
ECS 2007 Donostia – San Sebastian, Spain**

Registration Fee: 10€

Contact: Kevin Robinson [kev.robinson@crru.org.uk]

Organising Committee:

Kevin P. Robinson (1), Peter T. Stevick (2) & Colin D. MacLeod (3)

(1) Cetacean Research & Rescue Unit (CRRU), PO Box 11307, Banff AB45 3WB, Scotland UK; (2) Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust (HWDT), 28 Main Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull PA75 6NU, Scotland UK; (3) School of Biological Sciences (Zoology), University of Aberdeen, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB24 2TZ, Scotland UK.

Overview:

The minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) is the smallest and most abundant of the baleen whales in European waters and a significant component of marine ecosystems. As a truly cosmopolitan species, it is found throughout the world's oceans and seas – from the Poles to the tropics – but shows an apparent fondness for coastal waters. Due to its extensive distribution and preference for inshore waters, however, the minke is subject to a range of detrimental anthropogenic impacts, including commercial whaling, and a better knowledge of the behaviour and biology of this species and its role in the marine environment is considered vital for its future protection.

The main objective of this workshop will be to bring together research groups and individuals currently using non-lethal research methods to study minke whales in European waters, to share experiences and discuss present and future research priorities, collaboration, and the current conservation issues driving research studies at this time. Although the agenda is yet to be finalised, emphasis will be placed on new and recent results from current studies, and proposals for new studies targeted at resolving gaps in our knowledge.



Topics covered will include large and fine-scale distribution studies, site fidelity and habitat selection, feeding strategies and behavioural research, genetics / stock structure, and meta-analysis techniques, as a basis. The format for this workshop will consist of a number of invited talks and submitted presentations along with a closing discussion session. Of particular interest in the discussion session will be the potential for establishing a European Working Group for the species.

Registration: As places will be limited for this workshop, pre-registration is advised, and interested parties should email: kev.robinson@crru.org.uk with the subject line "ECS minke whale workshop" to register. A participation cost of 10 Euros will be required to cover workshop expenses and the provision of refreshments. Attendees will be expected to make their own arrangements for lunch.

Call for abstracts: Submissions will be considered for this meeting on any subject associated with non-lethal minke whale research, and not exclusively from researchers within Europe. Subjects currently sought for this meeting include presentations on acoustic research, eco-geographic modelling, behavioural ecology, stock composition, and applied techniques, although other subjects not specified in this listing will also be welcomed by the organisers. If you are interested, please send a note of intention and a brief outline to kev.robinson@crru.org.uk prior to invited abstract submission. Invited abstracts (300 words max and following standard ECS guidelines) must subsequently be received by 22 March 2007, and final decisions will be made by 5 April 2007.