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News, Issues, Opportunities, and Topics of Interest

New Information Available from ACCOBAMS

I wish to inform you that it is now possible to download the following report from the ACCOBAMS website: <<http://www.accobams.mc/Accob/Wacco.nsf>>

“Cetaceans of the Mediterranean and Black Seas: State of Knowledge and Conservation Strategies”. Downloading options include the full report (zipped) and the individual chapters (pdf files).

(submitted by Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara)

From the Nominations/Election Chair

John E. Reynolds, III

The results of the elections for new officers, honorary members, and a venue for our 2007 conference are tabulated. I commend the members of the Society for their vastly improved voter response this year: 483 ballots were submitted, compared to fewer than 150 in each of the previous two elections.

I congratulate the following individuals, who have been selected to represent us on the Board of Governors for the Society for Marine Mammalogy:

President-Elect:

Treasurer:

Secretary:

Member-at-Large:

Student Member-at-Large:

Kit Kovacs

John Bengtson

David St. Aubin

Nick Gales

Carolyn Kurle

I thank these people for their willingness to serve our society.

I also thank the individuals who ran for office but were not elected. Having been in that same position myself a few years ago, I can imagine that you have feelings of disappointment that you were not elected, mixed with feelings of relief that you do not have yet another job to do. On behalf of the members, however, I thank you for your willingness to run for office and to support the Society.

Three individuals, David Sergeant, Peter J.H. van Bree, Vyacheslav Alekseevich Zemski, were nominated for Honorary Membership. To become an Honorary Member, an individual must be endorsed by at least 2/3 of all votes cast. I am pleased to say that each of the individuals who was nominated received far more than the number of votes needed; thus, each of our Society's new Honorary Members was very strongly endorsed by the members. I congratulate each of these eminent contributors to our field.

Finally, we will meet in 2007 in Capetown, South Africa, our first southern hemisphere venue. Many thanks to Peter Best for his invitation. We would also like to thank the folks in Portugal and Quebec City for all their effort producing a bid for 2007.



From the Committee of Scientific Advisors

Steven Swartz, Chair

Research Grants-In-Aid Program

The International Society for Marine Mammalogy established in 1999 a program to help support marine mammal research in economically disadvantaged countries. Awards of up to \$1000 (U.S.) will be made annually in the foreseeable future, and continue to be awarded as long as finances of the Society permit. This is the maximum amount available under this program. Requests for additional funds beyond this amount will not be considered.

These grants are intended to support the purchase of essential equipment, travel to field sites, or other fundamental components of “getting the job done”. Applications for conference, meeting, workshop travel or salaries will not be considered. The grants-in-aid program is open to all members of our Society. Undergraduate students need to demonstrate an affiliation with established researchers and/or universities that can serve as mentors for the proposed research.

Although we all recognise that all projects in our field, everywhere, could benefit from increased funds — these small awards are intended to support very practical research needs in areas of the world where other support is difficult or impossible to obtain. Established researchers and graduate students at major universities with access to existing funding sources and/or alternative institutional sources of support are asked to refrain from applying for these small grants.

Applications will be reviewed by the Committee of Scientific Advisors and recommendations for awards provided to the Board of Governors of the Society. There is no official application form, however ***APPLICATIONS MUST FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING FORMAT OR THEY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED:***

Please include the following:

- (1) a CV for the principal applicant (2-pages single spaced maximum);
- (2) a letter of request that outlines the basic intent and purpose of the proposed research including the methods to be used (2-pages single spaced maximum);
- (3) the specific financial requirement that is to be supported.

Grants will be awarded based on NEED and scientific excellence.

One year from the date that an award is made, grantees will be asked to provide the Society with a 250 word summary report on how the small grant funds were used to support marine mammal research, and if the research findings will be published.

Applications will be accepted, reviewed and awards made three times each year. Funds will be distributed to grant recipients by the Society’s Treasurer. Remaining application periods in 2002 will be: May 1 to August 31 and September 1 to December 31. Submissions by e-mail are preferred – send documents in Word Perfect 7-9, MS-Word, or Rich Text Format (RTF) formats. Applications should be sent to the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee:

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From the Membership Committee

Phil Clapham, Chair

As of May 2002, the Society’s membership stood at a record high of 1,866 individuals, with renewals still coming in. For reference, the previous high at this time in any previous year was 1,575 members. Of the 1,866 total, 1,180 come from the United States, 167 from Canada, 27 from Mexico and 492 from elsewhere in the world. The two largest membership categories are full member (1,099 individuals) and student member (542 individuals).

The long-overdue Membership Directory will be produced this year (we promise!) The Society has taken over production of this document from Allen Press, and we have had to spend a considerable amount of time verifying the accuracy of entries, testing email addresses, et cetera. The Directory will be published as a Adobe Acrobat PDF document for the first time; this will cut down considerably on associated expenses, allow for easy electronic transmission, and also permit us to more easily update entries on a regular basis.

From the Secretary

D. Ann Pabst

Greetings! If you should have a change in your address, email, telephone, fax, etc., please contact the Society at <members@marinemammalogy.org>, who will ensure that those changes are noted in the *Newsletter*, and sent to Allen Press. Thank you.

DIRECTORY CHANGES: 23 February 2003 – 30 March 2002

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Publications, Reviews, and New Titles

Ian Stirling, Book Review Editor, *Marine Mammal Science*

Two excellent new books on Marine Mammals!

In this brief column, I usually try to inform our membership of books, symposia, institutional publications, etc. which are of interest but may not warrant a full review in *Marine Mammal Science*. However, this time I am going to break with tradition to ensure everyone knows two excellent new text books on marine mammals are available so their institutional libraries can ensure they have them for the fall term. Along with the two fine texts reviewed back to back in the January 2001 issue of *MMS*, these two new texts are a must for the core holdings of all libraries of every teaching and research institution that works with marine mammals and teaches undergrads. The emphasis and content of each book varies a certain amount but collectively, these books form a knowledge core that is extremely solid. Full reviews of the most recent two books have been done by senior scientists and will appear in the October number of *MMS* to help individuals evaluate them for their personal libraries.

Marine Mammals: Biology and Conservation. P.G.H. Evans and J.A. Raga, ed. 2001. ISBN 0-306-46572-8 (hardback), ISBN 0-306-46572-6 (paperback). Kluwer Academic Publishers. New York, NY. 630 pp.

(cloth Euro 126, \$US110, £77; Paper \$US 59.95. Special discount on paperback edition only ISBN 0-306-46573-6 Euro 55.00, £35.00, USD\$50.00 available to members of Society for Marine Mammalogy and European Cetacean Society. Members should contact the order department directly, either by email or telephone and quote the society discount In Europe: Orderdept@wkap.nl, +31 78 65 76 000; in North America: kluwer@wkap.com, +1 781 871 6600)

Marine Mammal Biology: An Evolutionary Approach. A. Rus Hoelzel, ed. 2002. ISBN 0-632-05232-5 Blackwell Publishers Inc. Oxford. 432 pp. 432 pp.

(Paper \$69.95 (US) (20% discount for SMM members to \$US55.00, plus postage and packing costs of: \$5.00 – America; \$8.00 - to Canada and elsewhere; \$1 each additional book. All North and South American orders to: Blackwell Publishing, c/o AIDC, PO Box 20, Williston, VT 05495 USA (Reference code, SFMM02, must be given to receive discount). For UK/Europe orders, contact Ally Haughton - email: ahaughton@blackwellpublishers.co.uk or Tel: +44 (0) 1865 382458 / Fax: +44 (0) 1865 381458. Discount price £23.95 + postage and packaging UK - £2.50; Europe - £3.50; ROW £5.00)

Some other interesting books

The following are brief summaries (i.e., *not* analytical reviews) of publications that members, and especially their libraries, might want to be aware of. I encourage anyone knowing of similar books, reports, or workshop proceedings they think would be of interest to forward them to me along with information on cost and how to obtain copies if there are specific instructions that are not enclosed with the book.

Orientation of the Dolphins: Mechanism and Models. Belkovich, V. 2001. (In Russian with a 23 page English summary and references). Moscow. 239 pp. I have been unable to determine the but someone suggested it would be in the range of \$US5-10. It is available through the Russian Marine Mammal Council at mmc@ecosys.sio.rssi.ru.

Der Weiswal, *Delphinapterus leucas*. Gewalt, G. 2001. Westarp Wissenschaften. Hohenwarsleben. ISBN 3-89432-836-3. • 24.95 / sFr 43.60

This is a monograph, in German, about the beluga, or white whale. The contents include captive studies, natural history, and morphology, among other topics.

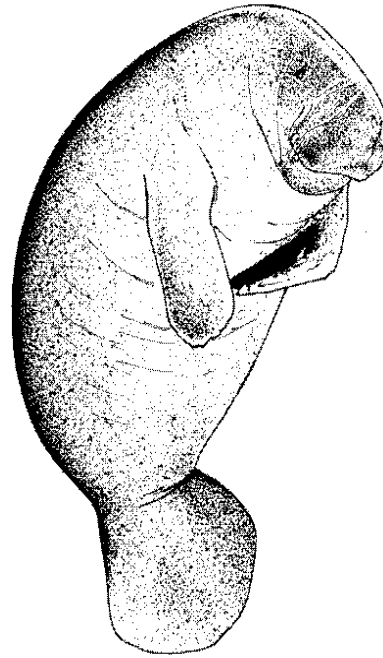
Right Whales: Worldwide Status. Special Issue 2 of the Journal of Cetacean Research and Management. International Whaling Commission, The Red House, 135 Station Road, Impington, Cambridge, CB4 9NP, England. 447 pp. (£30; US\$60; •60, plus postage). Available by mail or from http://www.iwcoffice.org/Publications/special_issue2.htm

This volume, the second special issue of the *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*, traces the recent work of the IWC (International Whaling Commission) Scientific Committee on the issue of the conservation and status of the three species of right whales. In addition to two major reports, it includes 28 original scientific papers. This is an impressive piece of work that deals with quantitative assessment of stocks, ecological aspects of habitat use, effects of whale watching, mortality events, reproductive parameters, and several other well researched and written topics. This is a significant piece of work.

For the information of individuals or libraries wishing to make their collections more complete, there are currently some savings to be had on orders of some publications. See the web site for details of prices and postage and handling charges. There is a 15% discount on subscriptions for members of SMM and ECS, and the subscriptions include the supplements. The annual subscription rate for an individual (before the discount) is: US\$120 (£70, •110).

Marine Biology: Function, Biodiversity, Ecology (2nd Edition). Levinton, J.S. 2001. Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-514172-5. Oxford University Press, 198 Madison Ave., New York, NY. 10016-4314. \$US72.95

This is a text designed for a semester-long course at the university level. It includes expanded coverage of many aspects, including marine mammals, subtidal rocky reefs, metapopulations, marine invasions, the relationship of functional ecology to higher levels of organizations, molecular approaches, protected areas, and several other topics. It appears to be a solid, up to date, text worth having in an institutional or upper level school library.



Submission of Materials for the Next SMM Newsletter

The SMM *Newsletter* is published quarterly. Submissions should be concise, and they may be subject to editing to meet space limitations. Text submitted as e-mail attachments, formatted in **Microsoft Word for Windows** is preferred. Material embedded in e-mail messages will not be accepted, because of the line-by-line editing required. **Address changes should be sent directly to <members@marinemammalogy.org>, NOT** to the *Newsletter* editor. The efforts of editorial assistant Kim Hull towards preparation of this *Newsletter* continue to be much appreciated. Please send material for the next issue by **1 September 2002** to:

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