

## The Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology (WGMME)

2018/2/ The **Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology** (WGMME), chaired by Anders Galatius (Denmark) and Anita Gilles (Germany), will meet in Büsum, Germany, 11–14 February 2019 to:

- a) Review and report on any new information on seal and cetacean population abundance, population/stock structure, management frameworks (including indicators and targets for MSFD assessments), and anthropogenic threats to individual health and population status;
- b) Review and update information on the ecological role of marine mammals, e.g. influence on structure, function and transfer of energy (and of parasites) in marine foodwebs;
- c) Review additional aspects of marine mammal fishery interactions not covered by WGBYC. Details of this ToR to be agreed with WGBYC;
- d) Review the population-level effect of cumulative human impacts on marine mammals and further develop and/or update the threats matrix;
- e) Update the database for seals.

WGMME will report by 15 March 2019 for the attention of the Advisory Committee. Regional database.

*Only experts appointed by national Delegates or appointed in consultation with the national Delegates of the expert's country can attend this Expert Group*

## Supporting information

Priority	The activities of this Group contribute to the understanding of the ecological role of marine mammals
Scientific justification	<p>ToR a is a standing term of reference. However, the group proposes to expand its scope since it would be useful to include information on threats to population status.</p> <p>ToR b aims to address the ecological role of marine mammals, in response to emerging issues e.g. in seal-fisheries interactions. The group also proposes to include a review on the occurrence of trematode gastric parasites and the role of fish in the life cycles of respiratory parasites of marine mammals to follow up other areas not covered by this year's review of digestive tract parasites.</p> <p>ToR c is proposed in the recognition of common interests between WGMME and WGBYC, recognising that some issues related to marine mammal-fishery interactions may finally be covered by neither group.</p> <p>ToR d aims to address the interactive effects of multiple stressors (e.g., noise, fisheries, marine constructions, pollution, habitat degradation).</p> <p>ToR e is a standing term of reference to keep the reworked seal database up to date.</p>
Resource requirements	None
Participants	The Group is expected to be attended by 15-20 members.
Secretariat facilities	Web conference
Financial	None

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Linkages to advisory committees	ACOM
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Linkages to other committees or groups	WGBYC
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Linkages to other organizations	OSPAR
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