

# Cetacean abundance and distribution in the North Atlantic

28 & 29 October 2017

Halifax World Trade and Convention Centre

## Objectives

1. To generate a set of North Atlantic wide abundance estimates for 2015/16 for those cetacean species for which sufficient data are available.

Species to include: minke whale, fin whale, humpback whale, pilot whale, sperm whale, white-beaked dolphin, white-sided dolphin, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, harbour porpoise, beaked/bottlenose whales? others?

Estimates will be design-based, corrected for  $g(0)$  (if possible and if appropriate), and have appropriate measures of precision.

**Outcomes:** a complete set of estimates or, more likely, an incomplete set of estimates and an action plan to achieve a complete set in timely fashion.

2. To discuss modelling the spatial and temporal distribution and habitat use of cetaceans in the North Atlantic using data from 2015/16.

Discussions to include: the most important and available variables to inform modelling; the merits or otherwise of modelling the entire northern North Atlantic; the challenges of combining multiple datasets from different projects/platforms/methodologies; logistics of making this happen (who, how funded, when, etc); other?

**Outcomes:** an action plan for moving forward.

## Schedule: Day 1

1. **Introduction** (welcome, thanks, schedule, housekeeping, etc)

2. **Presentations**

- 2.1 Surveys and existing abundance estimates, focussing on 2015-2016**

Daniel Pike: Overview of North Atlantic Sightings Surveys

Nils Øien: Joint Norwegian/Russian ecosystem surveys in the Barents Sea

Gísli Víkingsson & Bjarni Mikkelsen: Iceland/Faroe Islands

Rikke Hansen: Greenland

Jack Lawson: Canada

Debi Palka: USA

Phil Hammond: SCANS-III

Emer Rogan: Irish ObSERVE

- 2.2. Modelling distribution and habitat use – previous work**

Gísli Víkingsson: Changes in large whale distributions in the central North Atlantic

Nadya Ramírez Martínez: Preliminary modelling of NILS/NASS data pre-2015

Anita Gilles: Modelling harbour porpoise distribution in the North Sea

Jason Roberts: Modelling in the western Atlantic

Lisa Ballance: Cetacean-Habitat Relationships: From basic science to conservation and management

- 2.3 Oceanographic features influencing animal distribution**

Igor Belkin: Fronts and Whales

Héðinn Valdimarsson – variability in the Northern North Atlantic

### 3. Discussion

#### Schedule: Day 2

##### 1. Opening remarks

- 1.1 Reiteration of objectives
- 1.2 Plans for workshop report

##### 2. North Atlantic wide abundance estimates

- 2.1 Species
- 2.2 Status of estimates from different surveys
- 2.3 Issues regarding combining estimates
- 2.4 Future work

##### 3. Towards North Atlantic wide modelling of distribution and habitat use

- 3.1 Species
- 3.2 Explanatory variables
- 3.3 Spatial scale of modelling
- 3.4 Combining multiple datasets from different projects/platforms/methodologies
- 3.5 Future work

##### 4. Post workshop action plans

- 4.1 Abundance estimates
- 4.2 Modelling distribution and habitat use

##### 5. Closing remarks

#### Provisional timetable

Day	Time	Activity
<b>1</b>	0830	Arrival, Introductions
	0900	Presentations (2.1)
	<b>1015</b>	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>
	1045	Presentations (2.1)
	1200	Presentations (2.2)
	<b>1300</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
	1400	Presentations (2.2)
	<b>1530</b>	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>
	1600	Presentations (2.3) & Discussion
	1800	Close
<b>2</b>	0830	Arrival, opening remarks, Abundance
	<b>1015</b>	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>
	1045	Abundance
	<b>1230</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
	1330	Distribution & habitat use
	<b>1530</b>	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>
	1600	Distribution & habitat use
	1730	Action plans
	1800	Close