



PRESS RELEASE

Fourth Meeting of the Scientific Committee hosted by the Principality

Principality of Monaco, 9th November 2006

The **Fourth Meeting of the Scientific Committee** of ACCOBAMS was held in the Principality of Monaco between November 5th and 8th. **24 internationally known scientists**, as well as regional representatives from the ACCOBAMS Area and various observers from different NGOs gathered for a four-day hard work session at the “Auditorium Rainier III”.

The Scientific Committee represents the **consultative body** of the Meeting of Parties of ACCOBAMS, and gathers every year to analyse and give advice on **technical and scientific issues**. It provides recommendations to be submitted to the Governments for approval and constituting the ground for the application of concrete measures in the field of cetacean conservation.

This year, the Scientific Committee had quite a challenging objective: that of compiling the recommendations which will be presented to the III Meeting of the Parties, foreseen in **Croatia for October 2007**.

Given the **very complex stakes**, night sessions followed intense daylight discussions and analysis.

Experts agreed on:

1. Measures to mitigate the impact of noise pollution;
2. Actions aiming to the conservation of endangered species in the Black Sea and for the Common Dolphin in the Mediterranean;
3. The need for the reinforcement of a network monitoring strandings occurring in the ACCOBAMS Area;
4. Measures for the mitigation of collisions between ships and cetaceans, particularly referring to Fin Whales.

The Scientific Committee also met the recommendations issued during the **workshop on the rescue network (Monaco, 3rd-4th November)** which will allow to intervene in the event of living animals stranding.

Last, special attention was given to the **creation of Specially Protected Areas** for cetaceans.



On Tuesday, the Meeting was animated by an unexpected guest: a young **fin whale** appeared in the arm of sea right in front of the Auditorium!

At the first sight this fin whale, spotted by one of the participants, appeared very small in size: it was very likely a **calf**, which was inexplicably wandering without its mother.

The state of distress of the animal was evident: fin whales live in the high sea, and calves usually do not move too far from their mothers.

ACCOBAMS Secretariat immediately solicited the intervention of Maritime Police, in order to have the area monitored and the maritime traffic regulated. Luckily, up to today, no strandings have been reported.

Information

Silvia Sartori
Communication Officer
Secrétariat ACCOBAMS
Les Terrasses de Fontvieille, Jardins de l'Unesco
98000 Monaco
Tél. : + 377 93154275 Fax : + 377 93154208
e-mail sartoris@accobams.net

