



CURRICULUM VITAE

Registered name: Centro Studi Cetacei ONLUS

Date of 1985

Establishment:

Tax code: 94100150484

Board of directors:

2016-2020

- Dr. Eugenio Internullo
- Dr. Sergio Guccione
- Dr. Valerio Manfrini
- Dr. Vincenzo Olivieri
- Dr. Massimiliano Pennelli
- Dr. William Di Nardo

President: Dr. Vincenzo Olivieri

Secretary: Dr. Sergio Guccione

Treasurer: Dr. Sergio Guccione

Head Office: Via M. Mantini, 15 - 65125 Pescara

Phone number: S.O.S. Cetacei e Tartarughe: 0039 02 58240050 Europe Assistance

Email: centrostudicetacei@libero.it

Website: www.centrostudicetacei.it

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Centro-Studi-Cetacei/201018812571

HISTORY

Cetacean Studies Centre of Italian Society of Natural Science

Back in October 1985 (18th, 19th and 20th) Adriatic Sea World of Riccione, together with Natural History Museum of Milan, organized the first National Conference about cetaceans.

Around 20 zoologists took part in the Convention, from Natural Museums of Florence, Genoa, Milan, Rome, Siena, Venice, from Biology and Ecology Departments of Messina and Rome (La Sapienza) Universities, but also from several other Academic Research Institutes and other interested Foundations, such as Marine Biology and Fishing Laboratory (Fano), Marine Fishing Research Institute – CNR (Ancona) and the Parasitology Institutes of Milan and Rome Universities. Ministry of Mercantile Marine, Agriculture and Forests and Italian Zoological Union were also represented.

Purpose of the Conference was to gather, for the first time in Italy, all researchers in cetacean studies, in order to create a Scientific National Organization as a reference and coordination point for interventions and studies. After close examination of the different experiences, the Convention approved the establishment of the Centro Studi Cetacei (CSC), within the Natural History Museum of Milan, that was in fact the operative centre of Italian Natural Science Society.

First assignment was to organize a network of reports, inspection and rescue operations of stranded cetaceans along Italian coasts (a “Strandings Project”, something that was already happening in other Countries, such as France and Great Britain). To give better value to this work, sea turtles were also included in the group of interested species, thanks to the similarity of studies and rescue operations.

Cetaceans had never been subject of a specific and methodical study program in the past, as all the investigations about them were realized sporadically, after the stranding or the capture of particularly interesting samples. Only exception was the “Cetaceans Project” (“Progetto Cetacei”), a research program started in 1979 with the cooperation between Natural History Museums of Milan and Venice, the old Zoology and Comparative Anatomy Institute of Messina University and Italian Association for W.W.F.

The organisational set-up and consequently the “Strandings Project” (Progetto Spiaggiamenti) became operative on 15th May 1986, after the creation of an adequate network of researchers and partners, situated in 11 (currently 16) “areas” in which all Italian coast was subdivided. Each area was assigned to an Area Manager, whose task was to coordinate all inspection and intervention operations within his territorial range.

Crucial, for the activation of the Strandings Project, was the sponsorship from Europ Assistance Italia S.p.a., which offered their switchboard free of charge 24/7 (still operating) to receive reports of cetaceans in danger, or stranded, along Italian coasts. At the same time, incredibly important was the cooperation granted by Ministry of Mercantile Marine, through Port Authorities and their administrations, as most skilled and qualified Control authorities to report the stranding of cetaceans. The Centre has always received



help and cooperation also from Carabinieri, Guardia di Finanza, Guardia Forestale, Polizia di Stato, Vigili del Fuoco, Istituti Zooprofilattici, U.S.L. (local healthcare units) and several offices of coastal municipalities, involved from time to time.

Furthermore, a specific agreement was stipulated with W.W.F. Italy, which offered the cooperation of its many members around Italian coasts, ready to work side by side with Cetaceans Studies Centre's Operative Unions during delicate rescue operations.

Cetaceans Studies Centre is currently recognized by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and has received authorisation to their activity from Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (C.I.T.E.S. Office) and Ministry of the Environment (Nature Conservation Service).

In 1995 a protocol of common intervention has been established between CSC and Ministry of Health, with the purpose of formalizing the cooperative relationship between the two Institutions, in order to allow a better efficiency during interventions on cetaceans.

In 1996 a very important collaboration agreement has been stipulated with Genoa Aquarium, in order to continuously improve the quality and promptness of the assistance of cetaceans in trouble. For this purpose, Costa Aquarium S.p.a. has offered to CSC their team of specialists and their emergency pool, for small cetaceans hospitalization. Furthermore, a multi-institutional group has been established with Genoa Aquarium and Fondazione Cetacea of Riccione to intervene, when necessary, as support or representative in each case of cetaceans in difficulty along the Italian coast or offshore.

A summary book of all activities has been published in 1997, with the title:

"Il Centro Studi Cetacei: dieci anni di attività 1986-1995", published within the volume of *Natura* 88 (1).

DESCRIPTION AND MISSION

Centro Studi Cetacei, research group of Italian Natural Science Society, was born in 1985 and is recognized by Ministries in charge as reference and coordination point for interventions and studies on cetaceans.

Cetaceans are marine mammals that are very sensitive to environmental changes of different origins and nature. Furthermore, they are at the top of the food chain and can be considered the best biological indicators of the global health of the sea. Therefore, there is no doubt they need to be taken into consideration for a trustworthy environmental monitoring.

Centro Studi Cetacei intervenes nationwide on cetaceans that, dead or alive, are found stranded along our coasts or get trapped in fishing gear. When a stranding is noticed by Port Authorities or by private citizens, a notification is immediately sent to CSC and then sent to the researchers of the CSC in territorial jurisdiction. They intervene on the event location to organize all necessary operations, making sure all health Authorities and public Institutions are involved, together with environment organizations and volunteering citizens. The work done to date has been remarkable and has enabled the rescue of many cetaceans (mostly sperm whales) which were trapped in fishing nets, and some injured or dispersed animals. The recovery and conservation in Museums of numerous osteological remains of high scientific value has also been possible, as well as the activation and coordination of many specialized researches, that have greatly increased the knowledge of cetaceans of our seas. For this purpose, a complex network of specialized cooperation with research institutes and natural museums has been activated. An essential support is provided officially by the Ministry of Transport and Navigation, through the work of Port Authorities. Cetaceans Studies Centre has always used also collaboration from A.S.L., Universities, Zoo Prophylaxis Institutes, Carabinieri, Guardia di Finanza, Corpo Forestale, Polizia di Stato, Vigili del Fuoco, etc.

Centro Studi Cetacei is headed by a President and a Board of Directors; it is also divided into Regional Operational Units reporting to Scientific Institutions. An analytical balance of Cetaceans stranded on the Italian coast is published annually, in addition to numerous publications which represent a very important contribution that puts Italy on the same level of other countries that operate similarly. Actions undertaken in the period 1986-2002 were 3075. The data collected in these years of activity are a good research base for proper management, protection and preservation of our seas cetological fauna.

Since 2012, the annual accounts have been replaced by GeoCetus: a geo-referenced online database, innovative and freely accessible online (<http://geocetus.spaziogis.it/>)



PARTNERSHIPS AND AWARDS

1986	Strandings Project
1986 - ongoing	Collaboration with the Ministry of Merchantile Marine and Port Authorities
1986 - ongoing	CSC Onlus benefits from collaboration of Carabinieri, Guardia di Finanza, Guardia Forestale, Polizia di Stato, Vigili del Fuoco, Istituti Zooprofilattici, U.S.L. (local healthcare units) and several offices of coastal municipalities, involved from time to time.
1986 - ongoing	Began working with major Italian museums for the collection of finds: this collaboration has resulted in an increase of the finds in the national museums of 57%
1986 - ongoing	Collaboration with Europ Assistance Italy S.p.A. for telephone switchboard service 24/7 for receiving, from all over Italy, reports concerning the cetaceans stranded or in difficulty
1990	Collaboration with WWF, Adriatic Sea World in Riccione, International Zoo Veterinary Group and Veterinary Faculty of the University of Milan. On that occasion, a project regarding interventions on live stranded samples has been officially launched, with the creation of Emergency Services Groups
1995	Collaboration with the Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Veterinary Services, in order to create a common intervention protocol with the purpose of formalizing the relations of cooperation between the two institutions, within the currently applicable national laws.
1996	Collaboration with the Aquarium of Genoa, in order to continuously improve the quality and promptness of interventions on cetaceans in difficulty
2008 - ongoing	International Whaling Commission: progress report on cetacean research
2013 - ongoing	Agreement with the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale of Abruzzo and Molise for a technical-scientific cooperation, with the purpose of pursuing activities on a national and international level.
2013 - ongoing	Registration in the catalogue of National Register of Researches (Anagrafe Nazionale delle Ricerche), to obtain public funding for training and/or research.
2013 - ongoing	Agreement with the Municipality of Pescara for the realization of a first aid centre for the recovery of sea turtles in difficulty. This collaboration is carried out within the project CE NetCet Network for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles in the Adriatic
2013 - ongoing	Framework Agreement between Cetacean Study Centre and Protected Marine Area Torre del Cerrano, on scientific and technological cooperation aimed at carrying out activities on domestic and international level.

<i>2013 - ongoing</i>	Framework Agreement with the University of Molise for collaborative activities in the field of study and conservation of marine mammals and reptiles
<i>2013 - ongoing</i>	Agreement signed with Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale of Abruzzo and Molise, for a technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation of marine mammals and reptiles
<i>2014 - ongoing</i>	Agreement signed with the Department of Biology, Ecology and Earth Sciences of Calabria University for conducting internships, at the facilities of CSC, intended for graduates of the University
<i>2014 - ongoing</i>	Framework Agreement signed with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Teramo, for a collaboration aimed at synergic integration of their respective experience in the field of study and conservation of marine mammals and reptiles
<i>2015</i>	Award "Medicina Abruzzo" to President Vincenzo Olivieri and all CSC team operating in Abruzzo
<i>2016 - ongoing</i>	Agreement Protocol signed with the Department of Veterinary Medicine of University of Bari, for a collaboration aimed at synergic integration of their respective experience in the field of study and conservation of marine mammals and reptiles
<i>2016 - ongoing</i>	Collaboration agreement signed with the International Centre for Research & Development Adriatic and Mediterranean, and Posidonia S.r.l. for research collaboration in the environmental field
<i>Currently</i>	CSC Onlus CSC is still recognized by the Ministry of Agricultural Resources, Food and Forestry and has received the authorisation to its activities by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (C.I.T.E.S. Office) and the Ministry of Environment (Nature Conservation Service)

ANIMAL RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

Since 1985, Cetaceans Studies Centre has intervened on about 3000 cetaceans and more than 6500 sea turtles. Samples may be dead or alive and result from stranding, accidental capture, discovery in the sea.

TRAINING, DISCLOSURE AND AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

- **NATIONAL CONVENTIONS**

1985 - ongoing: Since 1985, Cetaceans Studies Centre organizes national conferences about cetaceans and turtles, every two years. Here below are the latest events:



THE VETERINARIAN AND PROTECTED MARINE ANIMALS: CETACEANS AND TURTLES

Pescara, CRTM Luigi Cagnolaro, 22.04.2017 - 29.04.2017 - 06.05.2017 - 13.05.2017

The Professional Training Course "The Veterinarian and Protected Marine Animals: Cetaceans and Turtles" was intended to illustrate the various phases of the intervention in the event of landing, reporting, eventual museum archiving, and paying particular attention to the skills of individual Entities and Associations involved, with particular regard to Public Veterinary Services, enriching the training of the Veterinarian as a professional figure essential to the management of wild animals, including marine, in difficulty or carcasses.

CETACEANS STUDIES CENTRE: 1985-2015, THIRTY YEARS OF CETOLOGICAL ACTIVITY IN ITALY

Pescara, CRTM Luigi Cagnolaro, 20th - 21st NOVEMBER 2015

Under the patronage of: Area Marina Protetta Torre del Cerrano, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise (IZSAM), Università degli Studi di Teramo (UNITE), Progetto Netcet, Comune di Pescara, Società Italiana di Biologia Marina (SIBM), S.I.V.E.M.P. Abruzzo Societas Herpetologica Italica (SHI)

Invited speakers

Maria Rita D'Orsogna (Mathematics Department CSUN, Institute for Sustainability CSUN, Biomathematics Department UCLA)
Piero Di Carlo (Università degli Studi Dell'Aquila)

CETACEANS AND TURTLES: EMERGENCIES, INTERVENTIONS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

Roseto presso Palazzo del Mare, 21st - 23rd NOVEMBER 2013

Under the patronage of: Comune di Roseto, Area Marina Protetta Torre del Cerrano, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise (IZSAM), Università degli Studi di Teramo (UNITE), Progetto Netcet, Comune di Pescara, Società Italiana di Biologia Marina (SIBM), Società Italiana di Medicina Veterinaria Preventiva (SIMeVeP), Ordine dei Medici Veterinari Teramo-Chieti-Pescara, Societas Herpetologica Italica (SHI), Università degli Studi del Molise (UNIMOL)

Invited speakers

Flegra Bentivegna (Stazione Zoologica Napoli)
Craig Pelton (University of Florida, Volusia County Marine Science Center)
Giovanni Di Guardo (Università degli Studi di Teramo)
Sandro Mazzariol (Università degli Studi di Padova, CERT)
Antonio Di Bello (Università degli Studi di Bari)

Monica Aureggi (IUCN)

9th NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CETACEANS AND TURTLES

RICCIONE - Parco Oltremare, 11th - 13th NOVEMBER 2011

Under the patronage of: Parco Oltremare, Associazione no-profit Zoönomia, Società Italiana di Biologia Marina (SIBM), Società Italiana di Medicina Veterinaria Preventiva (SIMEVeP), Azienda USL di Rimini (AUSL RN), Associazione Nazionale Musei Scientifici (ANMS), Societas Herpetologica Italica (SHI), Lega Navale Italiana (LNI), Associazione Teriologica Italiana (ATIt).

Organizing Committee

Vincenzo Olivieri, Alessandro Bortolotto

Scientific Committee

Barbara Biancani, Alessandro Bortolotto, Giovanni Di Guardo, Vincenzo Olivieri

Invited speakers

Flegra Bentivegna (Stazione Zoologica Napoli)

Sophie Dennison (The Marine Mammal Center - Sausalito, California)

Giovanni Di Guardo (Università degli Studi di Teramo)

8th NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CETACEANS AND TURTLES

PESCARA, 29th - 30th OCTOBER 2009

Under the patronage of: ASL Pescara, Società Italiana di Medicina Veterinaria Preventiva e Associazione no-profit Zoönomia

Organizing Committee

Vincenzo Olivieri, Alessandro Bortolotto, Marco Caraceni, Roberta D'Aurelio, William Di Nardo, Enrico Ingle, Alberto Marzollo, Iginio Piscione

Scientific Committee

Alessandro Bortolotto, Giovanni Di Guardo, Nicola Maio, Simonetta Mattiucci, Vincenzo Olivieri, Marco Tocchetti

Invited speakers

Giovanni Di Guardo, Simonetta Mattiucci, Craig Pelton, Jesus Tomàs



- **AWARENESS**

2013 - ongoing: Cetacean Studies Centre organizes meetings with private citizens, fishermen, Coast Guard staff and students for lectures on the biology of cetaceans and sea turtles, and for raising awareness of the marine environment. Events are sometimes held within the CRTM Luigi Cagnolaro, where it's possible to take guided inspections/examinations of the hospitalized turtles. As part of the IPA cross-border project NetCet were held lessons to fishermen and boaters, on the correct approach to marine turtles.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

- **MANAGEMENT OF MARINE TURTLES RECOVERY CENTERS (CRTM)**

2014 - ongoing: Management of the Sea Turtles Recovery and Rehabilitation Center "Luigi Cagnolaro" the City of Pescara by a team of 14 volunteers composed of veterinarians and marine biologists. The Centre is authorized notwithstanding DPR 357/97.

2006 - 2014: Management of the Sea Turtles Hospitality Centre "Ospedale delle Tartarughe" at the headquarters of the Coast Guard of Montesilvano (PE). The Centre is authorized notwithstanding DPR 357/97.

2002 - 2006: Management of the Sea Turtles Hospitality Centre "Ospedale delle Tartarughe" at the Beach Delegation offices of Montesilvano (PE). The Centre is authorized notwithstanding DPR 357/97.

PUBLICATIONS (within the activities of Centro Studi Cetacei)

Listed at <http://www.centrostudicetacei.it/risorse#pubblicazioni>