



# TOWARDS A SEA REFUGE FOR DOLPHINS

*AN ENCLOSED SEA AREA IN ITALIAN WATERS TO ACCOMMODATE*

*AND REHABILITATE STRANDED AND CAPTIVE DOLPHINS*

**FRIDAY 13th MAY 2016** | ROME

## WHY A DOLPHIN REFUGE

Finding a place where dolphins can be cared for in an appropriate way is an urgent necessity in Italy, as well as elsewhere in Europe, to address two categories of problems connected with dolphin welfare: captivity and stranding. A societal change is ongoing in Europe, where dolphinariums are perceived by an increasing fraction of the public as a thing of the past, and are likely to become unpopular and less fashionable in the near future. This means that captive dolphins will have to be accommodated in a dedicated location able to respond to their ethological needs. Cetaceans stranded alive may need a location to be assisted and rehabilitated before being released (if deemed feasible); calves which lost their mother or group need to be cared in a marine specialised location. All these activities need to be done in a semi-enclosed area at sea – the most similar place to cetacean natural environment: the open sea. Italian coasts have potential for the establishment of one or more Sea Refuges to act as a response to the above - mentioned problems. The Sea Refuge will play as a permanent or temporary accommodation for the captive and stranded cetaceans. Following the workshop, a technical feasibility study will be realised with the view to identify candidate locations in Italian coasts.

**ROBERTO MORABITO**

Roberto Morabito is the Director of the Sustainability Department for production and territorial systems at ENEA - Italian national Agency for new technologies, energy and sustainable economic development. He has a Phd in Chemistry and a wide professional experience in research & technology and international projects on several environmental issues. He has taught in a few Italian Universities on issues related to Chemistry and Quality Control. He is also an expert in Green Economy and author of books and more than 100 scientific publications.

**GIUSEPPE NOTARBARTOLO DI SCIARA**

Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara (PhD) is a marine ecologist concerned with the conservation of the marine environment and its biodiversity. He obtained a PhD at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (California, U.S. In 1986 he founded the Tethys Research Institute, an Italian based non-profit research organisation supporting marine conservation internationally through science and public awareness. In 1991 he proposed the creation of the Pelagos Sanctuary for the Mediterranean Marine Mammals. He has chaired several scientific international committees, including ACCOBAMS. Current activities and engagements include, among others: President of the Tethys Research Institute; co-chair of the joint SSC/WCPA Task Force on marine mammal protected areas; deputy chair of the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group; regional coordinator for the Mediterranean and Black Seas of IUCN WCPA – Marine; member of the Board of Directors, The Society of Marine Mammalogy; contract Professor at the University Statale of Milan (Italy).

**JOAN GONZALVO**

Joan Gonzalvo (PhD) is a Catalan biologist whose main research interest is the conservation of the marine environment and, more specifically, the study and conservation of cetaceans. He has participated in diverse dolphin research projects across the Mediterranean involving primarily work on fisheries interactions, population estimates and behavioural studies. During the last 15 years he has spent over 1,000 hours observing dolphin groups in their natural environment and he has designed and executed numerous public education and awareness campaigns. Joan has worked as consultant of the UNEP's Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) and for the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS). Since 2006 his research activities are conducted mainly in Greece, where he leads the Ionian Dolphin Project, run by Tethys Research Institute, with the aim of ensuring the long-term viability of dolphins species living in coastal waters of the eastern Ionian Sea.

## FRANCES GULLAND



Frances Gulland (PhD) is the Senior Scientist at The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, California, where she has been actively involved in the veterinary care and rehabilitation of stranded marine mammals and research into marine mammal diseases since 1994. She has provided medical care for thousands of seals and sea lions, has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles, and is coeditor of the CRC Handbook of Marine Mammal Medicine. She chaired the Working Group on Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events for six years, has a lead role on recovery teams for the Hawaiian monk seal and southern sea otter, and is a member of the committee of scientific advisors to the Marine Mammal Commission. On November 10, 2010, President Barack Obama nominated Dr. Gulland to serve on one of three Commissioner positions at the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission. She was sworn in as Commissioner on April 29, 2011. In this additional role, she serves the federal government with a focus on the protection and conservation of marine mammals.

## HEATHER RALLY



Heather Rally (PhD) Trained as wildlife veterinarian, Rally worked with a wide variety of marine species, from dolphins and sea lions, to sea turtles and coral. She worked at the Marine Mammal Science Center (Sausalito) focusing on marine mammals. Dr. Rally began engaged in public outreach, undercover operations and documentary film – including Racing Extinction, a new feature from the Academy Award-winning filmmakers of The Cove. The film, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2015, relies on covert operations and high-tech gadgetry to highlight the massive rate of species loss due to human activity. Dr. Rally currently works in the Captive Animal Law Enforcement Division of the PETA Foundation. Among other issues, she works on captivity matters such as orcas and dolphins and she presented at the Working Group on captive marine mammals (Marine Mammal Science Conference, December 2015, S. Francisco).

## MARCO AFFRONTI



Marco Affronte Currently member of the European Parliament (MEP), elected in the 5 Stelle Political Group in Italy, Marco Affronte, graduated in natural sciences. He is an ecologist, a scientific researcher and science writer. He has a passion for the conservation of the marine environment and marine mammals, he published several articles and books about dolphins, sharks and turtles. In the past, he worked for Fondazione Cetacea. He is currently member of CERT- Cetacean Stranding Emergency Response Team established by the Ministry of the Environment and operated by the University of Padoa. In 2013 he co-founded the online magazine 'Mare Mag. La Voce del Mare'.

## VANESA TOSSENBERGER



Vanesa Tossenberger is a Marine Biologist that worked with marine mammals since 1992, mainly with Orcas and Commerson's dolphins likewise in many others cetacean species. She is WDC policy Director since 2013 and involved with WDC since 1995. Represented WDC at national and international congresses and national and international workshops related to wildlife conservation on cetaceans and she is WDC representative at the International Whaling Commission since 2000 and the Convention on International

Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 2002, SPAW since 2003 and CMS since 2008. She worked in a number of different roles within our policy team, also organised and delivered a series of Whale and Dolphin Watching Training Workshops for different communities in Latin America and in Thailand. These workshops were developed for two main aims: 1) develop a community work on the benefit of the population and 2) show that a live whale gives more income than a dead whale in a period of time.

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### GAIA ANGELINI



Gaia Angelini leads the Wild Animal Area in LAV where she started working in 2014. Gaia has a background in political science and international law with a MSc in management of NGOs and Environmental decision making. She worked for a number of international organisations such as IFAW, Humane Society International and Oceana in their EU Offices in Brussels. She spent more than 10 years in Brussels acting as political lobbyist to enhance the EU agenda on environmental, biodiversity and animal welfare issues. She also worked for the Green Group at the European Parliament and the European Commission. At LAV, she focuses on campaigns related to wild animals in captivity and illegal trade. She is member of European coalitions on animal protection and captivity matters. She carries out EU lobby work in Brussels together with the Coalitions LAV is member to.

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### DANIEL TURNER



Daniel Turner is Programmes Manager, Captive Wild Animals Policy at Born Free Foundation where he started working in the year 2000. He is responsible for developing and managing the charity's agenda in raising international standards in animal protection in Europe and in a global context. Daniel is a Chartered Environmental Biologist with a background in field conservation, and experience investigating illegal wildlife trade at the Wildlife Protection Society of India. He leads Born Free Foundation's core programmes such as Zoo Check and other initiatives related to sustainable tourism (e.g. ABTA's Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism) wildlife trade and cetaceans in captivity (he leads the Dolphinarium Free Europe coalition and he is member of the Global Council of the World Cetaceans). Daniel is Born Free Foundation's representative in European lobby work.

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### CARLA CAMPANARO



Carla Campanaro, Chief of LAV Legal office, she is barrister in criminal and administrative law. She is visiting Professor at the University of Barcelona and, at present she is undertaking a PhD in environmental law. She teaches in specialised courses at the Italian School of Public Administration on matters related to animal rights and animal protection. She is author of several books about Italian Law on Animal Rights and specialised articles published on the portal [www.dirittoambiente.net](http://www.dirittoambiente.net) and [www.dirittojustizia.it](http://www.dirittojustizia.it). She is co-author with Mr Maurizio Santoloci, Magistrate at the Supreme Court, of a Legal Manual on animal rights and related criminal legislation in Italy and Europe used by police forces and judicial authorities to correctly interpret and enforce existing legislation.