Cetacean Strandings and Sea Turtle Routes in the Bay of Biscay

Cetaceans and sea turtles along the Basque Coast: movements.

09.Oct 2025

Cod. W10-25

Mod.:
Streaming Face-to-face

Edition
2025

Activity type
Open activity

Date
09.Oct 2025

Location
Miramar Palace

Languages
Basque Spanish

Organising Committee

Description

The Basque Stranding Network has been up and running for 23 years; first, thanks to the involvement of the NGO AMBAR and, since 2022, under Plentzia Marine Station (PiE-UPV/EHU). Samples from cetaceans, pinnipeds, sharks and sea turtles are usually collected to be stored and analysed at Plentzia Marine Station’s Biobank. The stranding network is gradually becoming more professionalised. It ensures coordinated, effective and rapid support, along with the maximum wellbeing of the stranded species that are alive and avoiding crossover effects on human health.

The session will address the following goals:

- The importance of scientific research in protecting marine ecosystems.
- Applying biotechnology in the study and conservation of marine species.
- Biobanks and their role in preserving biodiversity.
- Factor that can affecting the stranding of marine mammals and sea turtles.
- Analysing sea turtle routes using satellite transmitters.

Analysing the data of all the stranded species between 1993 and 2023, which refers to the stranding places, shows that the beaches of San Sebastián are a recurrent point, where 81 strandings were recorded. The following municipalities should also be highlighted: Zumaia (46), Zarauz (43), Getxo (36), Sopelana (36), Bermeo (31) and Getaria (31).

On the other hand, species that are alive have been helped. Therefore, 5 sea turtles have been cured and released, in conjunction with San Sebastián Aquarium. The 2 loggerhead sea turtles that recovered at the Aquarium were released on 20/8/2004. The loggerhead sea turtle at the Gorliz Fauna Recovery Centre (Bizkaia) was admitted on 28/08/2024. In 2025, a further 3 sea turtles have been released after long stays at the Aquarium. Satellite transmitters were fitted to follow their journey. Their journeys will be shown during the session.

Program

09-10-2025

18:00 - 19:15 “Zetazeoen lehorretazeak eta dortoken ibilbideak Bizkaiko golkoan“

Manu Soto López | PiE-UPV/EHU - Plentziako Itsas Estazioko (PiE-UPV/EHU) zuzendaria eta Biologia Zelularreko katedraduna

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Ana Galarraga zientzia-komunikatzaileak hizlariarekin elkarrizketa izango du hitzaldia amaitutakoan / La divulgadora científica Ana Galarraga mantendrá un diálogo con el ponente una vez finalizada la conferencia

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Teachers

Manu Soto López

Director of the Plentzia Marine Station (PiE-UPV/EHU) and Professor of Cell Biology

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Professor of Cell Biology (UPV/ EHU, 2011). Deputy Director Plentzia Marine Station (2012-). Researcher in the Consolidated Research Group Cell Biology in Environmental Toxicology. Pre and postdoctoral research studies in: U Wales (Aberystwyth, Cardiff), U Innsbruck, U Azores. He has supervised 9 PhDs (+ 3). Interests on the development and application of biomarkers of effect against exposure to metals in aquatic and terrestrial organisms (earthworms, molluscs, polychaetes, fishes), cellular localization and quantification of metal ions, transit of metals (aqueous forms, massive forms and nanoparticles), plastics, antibiotics, etc. Responsible of the stranced cetaceans network in Euskadi. >125 papers (>85% in Q1; H Index= 32), and >300 contributions at conferences. PI of research projects funded by the Spanish Ministry, UPV/EHU, Basque Government and contracts. Participant >20 years in European research projects. Evaluator for Agencies (Spanish, Portuguese, UK, Argentina). Founding Member of the Latin American Society of Environmental Contamination & Toxicology. Vicedean of FCT/ZTF (2007-2012), Coordinator of Master MER (2012-), Member of Committee: Ethics and Animal Welfare (2009-12).

Registration fees

REGISTRATION - FACE-TO-FACE	UNTIL 09-10-2025
General	0 EUR

REGISTRATION - ONLINE	UNTIL 09-10-2025
General	0 EUR

Place

Miramar Palace

Pº de Miraconcha nº 48. Donostia / San Sebastián

Gipuzkoa