

## INTRODUCTION

Karen Stockin<sup>1,2</sup> and Adriana Vella<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Coastal-Marine Research Group, Institute of Natural Resources, Massey University,  
Private Bag 102 904, North Shore MSC, New Zealand

k.a.stockin@massey.ac.nz

<sup>2</sup>Biscay Dolphin Research Programme, 6 Manor Way, Lee-on-Solent,  
Hants PO13 9JH, UK

<sup>3</sup>Conservation Biology Research Group, University of Malta, Msida MSD 06, Malta

To date, two species of common dolphin are recognised worldwide: the short-beaked (*Delphinus delphis*) and the long-beaked (*D. capensis*), with a subspecies of the long-beaked (*D. capensis tropicalis*) also acknowledged. Despite its widespread presence throughout most European waters, many aspects of common dolphin biology and ecology, including abundance, distribution and taxonomy, remain unclear.

The purpose of this workshop was to bring together managers and researchers from different disciplines who work with common dolphins, in order to discuss and review the current scientific research, issues and threats facing European common dolphins. The workshop took place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 at Kolmården Zoo, Sweden immediately after the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society. The workshop was attended by 33 participants from ten countries, listed at the end of this volume.

For the proceedings of this workshop, we invited a further contribution to those presented at the meeting – from Barbara Mussi of *Delphis*, Mediterranean Dolphin Conservation. We are very grateful to all contributors for their submissions, and to the Kolmården Djurpark and European Cetacean Society for kindly hosting the meeting.

We also forward our thanks to Giovanni Bearzi for his initial assistance in the planning of the workshop, Lissa Goodwin for taking minutes during the workshop, and Simon Berrow for chairing the meeting.