



53rd Annual Symposium

European Association for Aquatic Mammals

11th – 14th of March 2025

A letter from the President of the EAAM for the Call for Abstracts 2025

WELFARE & CONSERVATION

Aquatic Mammal Welfare: A Key to Conservation Success

Caring for Individuals, Protecting Species

Aquatic mammals continue to face significant and growing threats from human activities, including habitat degradation, pollution, climate change, and bycatch. As these challenges escalate, there is an urgent need for innovative solutions that integrate welfare science with conservation strategies to protect both ex-situ and wild populations.

This year, the EAAM conference seeks to spotlight how advancements in aquatic mammal welfare science can drive and enhance conservation efforts for wild populations. We invite researchers, practitioners, and experts to submit abstracts that explore how welfare science can improve animal care in zoological settings and how these insights can be applied to conservation practices in the field.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- The role of welfare science in improving the health and well-being of aquatic mammals in human care
- How ex-situ welfare insights can inform and enhance conservation strategies for wild populations
- Case studies where welfare science has directly supported the conservation of endangered species
- The intersection of animal welfare, ethics, and conservation efforts
- Innovative welfare practices in zoological institutions and their potential applications in the wild

The upcoming conference aims to bridge the gap between animal welfare science and conservation by demonstrating how ex-situ expertise is critical to protecting aquatic mammals in the wild. Join us in showcasing the essential role that welfare science plays in both safeguarding individual animals and contributing to the long-term conservation of species.

Martin Boye
President EAAM



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CALL FOR
PAPERS, VIDEOS & ROUND TABLES

The European Association for Aquatic Mammals invites authors to submit abstracts and proposals for the upcoming 53rd Annual Symposium, which is due to take place at **ZooParc de Beauval, France** on

11th to 14th of March 2025

The EAAM calls for abstracts of oral, poster, and short talk presentations, as well as “video presentation(s)” and “roundtable(s)” like last year!

All topics related to marine mammal science and husbandry (including conservation, education, veterinary medicine, operant conditioning, etcetera) are acceptable.

For the 53rd Annual Symposium, the EAAM will especially encourage presentations dedicated to these special subjects:

Conservation & Welfare

Aquatic Mammal Welfare: A Key to Conservation Success

Caring for Individuals, Protecting Species

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

Abstract Submission Deadline: **15 December 2024**

Registration Deadline for the first/presenting author: **26 January 2025**

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS
of POSTERS, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, AND SHORT PRESENTATIONS

Please read the following recommendations carefully before submitting any abstract.

The abstract must include:

- Title
- Author(s); if more than one, please mark presenter with an asterisk (*)
- Affiliation of (each) author
- Summary of presentation
- The abstract should be complete and informative (objectives, methods, results, conclusions)
- The text should have a maximum length of 200 words (font Arial, size 10)
- Line drawings, figures, graphs, charts, et cetera, should not be included
- Authors wishing to present more than one abstract must submit separate submission forms
- Abstracts submitted by students should be reviewed beforehand by their supervisor(s).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS:

Students are particularly encouraged to submit presentations. These presentations are eligible for the *Prizes* for best student presentation (Oral and Poster) and for the EAAM student *Grants* for Symposium participation, which includes symposium fee and a contribution to housing costs during the Symposium. Students will only be considered for both the *Prize* and the *Grant* if their abstract submission is accompanied by a support letter from their University or Professor. PhD students can equally be candidates for EAAM Student Grants and Prizes, but only if the abstract is accompanied by a declaration that a PhD grant is the only subsistence source or only marine mammal related activity.

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SPECIAL REMARKS:

- The Scientific Committee reserves the right to accept or decline any submission and may ask authors to adjust their presentation content and/or their format (e.g., from oral to poster presentation or vice versa).
- Only electronic abstract submission is accepted.
- Oral presentations: The allowed presentation time will be 15 minutes, plus 5 minutes for discussion.
Posters: Poster size is A0 vertical (115.0 cm high x 83.0 cm wide).
Short Talks: Presentation time will be 5 minutes. The presenter will be notified when one minute of time is left.
- Presenting authors must be **registered** for the symposium no later than **26 January 2025**
- One submission form per abstract is required.
- Save the abstract with the surname of the first author (ex.: "Hartmann.doc", or in the case of several abstracts: "Hartmann01.doc") and send the completed PDF form by email to **SC-EAAM@proton.me** and **President_elect@eaam.be**
- Use the PDF submission form and fill in the required blanks.

MANDATORY:

- To be accepted, a submitted abstract requires that the Registration Fee for the presenting author must be paid by the date indicated above.
- Students are required to submit proof of their student status.
Grant-awarded students will be reimbursed.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSALS of VIDEOS and ROUND TABLES

VIDEO

The video format may be especially suitable for certain types of presentation that benefit from a more visual presentation than the traditional PowerPoint format.

The content of the video is the sole responsibility of the submitting author(s). The subject(s) of the video may include all topics related to marine mammal science and husbandry including conservation, education, veterinary medicine, operant conditioning, etcetera. The Scientific Committee reserves the right to accept or decline any submission and may ask authors to adjust their presentation content and/or their format.

Promotional videos will not be accepted. The author(s) are responsible for respecting EU copyright legislation.

The new video format will be limited to a standard of 10 minutes length, plus 5 minutes for questions. The lead author of the video shall be available at the end of the video to answer any questions from the conference attendees.

Video format **must be** MPEG or WMV. The authors are responsible for providing a suitable version of their video in one of these two formats running under Windows 10. (An option for .mp4 may be available, please contact the conference committee with questions.)

Procedure:

1. Submit an abstract for the video using the abstract form. Deadline for submission is the same as that of the regular poster and oral presentations: **15 December 2024**.
2. After abstract acceptance (in January 2025), please submit the final video for evaluation by **9 February 2025** to the email addresses **SC-EAAM@proton.me** and **President_elect@eaam.be** using data transfer services (e.g., wetransfer.com, link from DropBox or GoogleDrive.)

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ROUND TABLE

As for the recent few EAAM symposia, the opportunity for round table discussions will be provided. The choice of topic and details are open from the membership and potential participants of the symposium.

Round Table topics will be limited to subjects related to marine mammal science and husbandry including, but not limited to, conservation, education, veterinary medicine, operant conditioning. The Scientific Committee reserves the right to accept or decline any round table proposal or may ask proposers to adjust their content and/or their format.

Procedure:

1. All round tables will have a maximum duration of 90 minutes
2. The deadline for the proposal of a round table is **15 December 2024**, same as that for the other program content.
3. The main, i.e., corresponding proposer of a round table will be in charge of coordinating and organizing the round table's content in close cooperation with the Scientific Committee.

It is strongly suggested to affiliate different partners with a special interest and experience in the proposed subject and assure their participation at the round table. – i.e., at the Symposium Discussing different aspects, several points of view, and a comprehensive presentation of the subject are a plus.

4. The EAAM will approve the proposed round tables according to space and time availability. All proposers are requested to be flexible in terms of the final format. The Scientific Committee reserves the right to accept or decline any submission and may ask authors to adjust their proposed content and/or their format.
5. Please use the abstract submission form to propose a round table