

# 'MARINE MAMMALS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT'

## Symposium – 07-08 March 2019 – CeNak, Hamburg, Germany



Marine mammals comprise top predators and upper trophic levels in oceanic ecosystems of the world. They are increasingly threatened by various anthropogenic impacts in their marine habitat, e.g. pollution by chemical and pharmaceutical substances, marine litter, underwater noise, changes in prey abundance and climate change. These constraints can have serious implications for the health status of marine mammals through elevated stress response, immune suppression as well as higher energy and metabolic demands caused by disturbances that may affect different populations to a varying degree.

The project 'Marine Mammals in a Changing Environment', funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, forms a consortium of German museums and universities and cooperating museums in Copenhagen (Natural History Museum of Denmark) and Stockholm (Swedish Museum of Natural History), combining unique collections, marine mammal expertise, and innovative methods to investigate native marine mammal species.

During the symposium we are presenting our results of different parameters in time and space for changes in health condition and population status of marine mammals over long time periods and in different marine environments. The results are reported, relating to 1) to bone lesions in seal skulls, 2) feeding-related dental micro texture, 3) organochlorines in blubber of harbour seals, 4) trace elements in pelts of several seal species, and 5) parasitic and viral pathogens in seals during the last decades and century.

## Cooperation partners

Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research (ITAW),  
University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation (TiHo), Germany  
Centrum of Natural History (CeNak), University of Hamburg, Germany  
Zoological Museum of Kiel University (CAU), Germany  
German Oceanographic Museum Stralsund, Germany  
University of Hildesheim, Germany  
Natural History Museum of Denmark, Denmark  
Swedish Museum of Natural History, Sweden

## Confirmed keynote speakers

Anders Galatius, Aarhus University, Department of Bioscience, Marine Mammal Research, Denmark  
Krishna Das, University of Liège, Laboratory of Oceanology-MARE, Belgium  
Gerd Meurs-Scher, Multimar Wattforum, Germany

## Programme

The detailed programme will be available soon!

## Registration

The symposium is **free of charge** but formal registration is needed as our venue is limited to 200 attendees. Please e-mail your registration for the symposium until 15 February 2019 to [vwkonferenz2019.cenak@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:vwkonferenz2019.cenak@uni-hamburg.de)

## Venue

The symposium will be held at the Centrum of Natural History (CeNak), University of Hamburg, located in  
Martin-Luther-King-Platz 3, 20146 Hamburg, GERMANY



### By public transport:

#### *From central station via Bus*

Leave the central station through the entrance 'Mönckebergstraße, City', take the escalator at the end of the tunnel and continue to the bus station 'HBF/Mönckebergstraße'. Take the metro bus line 5, direction 'Burgwedel' or 'Nedderfeld', and get off at 'Grindelhof'. Cross the street and continue on 'Grindelallee' leading to 'Balutschistan Restaurant', then continue to the left. Walk up the stairs and turn to the left. The entrance to the CeNak is up the stairs.

#### *From central station via S-Bahn (city train)*

Take an S-Bahn line leaving at platform 2 and get off at 'Dammtor'. Leave Dammtor station through the entrance 'Theodor-Heuss-Platz, Universität' and cross the street to get to the bus station. Take the metro bus line 5, direction 'Burgwedel' or 'Nedderfeld', or the bus line 4, direction 'Wildacker' or 'Eidelstedter Platz'. Get off at 'Grindelhof'. Cross the street and continue on 'Grindelallee' leading to 'Balutschistan Restaurant', then continue to the left. Walk up the stairs and turn to the left. The entrance to the CeNak is up the stairs.