

RapCon -meeting 7-9 March 2023

DAY 1 (Tuesday 7th of March 2023)

 Hotel Scandic Aulanko

12:00 Opening of the meeting - Jason Baker, Samantha Simmons & Mervi Kunnasranta

12:30 - 14:00 What's up with rare pinnipeds? (few min/person)

14:00-14:30 Coffee

14:30-15:00 Keynote: *What would it take to make Arctic ringed seals rare?* - **Brendan P. Kelly** (International Arctic Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks)

15:00-17:00 Health Assessment and Intervention

15-15:30 Keynote: *Insights about health from live and dead animals* - **Frances M.D. Gulland** (Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center, University of California)

15:30-15:45 Use of remote sensing tools for physiological measurements in pinnipeds - **Michelle Shero** (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)

15:45-16:00 Diseases of conservation concern - **Kathleen M. Colegrove** (Zoological Pathology Program, University of Illinois)

16:00-16:15 Field based health interventions in Hawaiian monk seals - **Michelle Barbieri** (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program)

16:15-17:00 Discussion: health - **Marja Niemi** leading (University of Eastern Finland)

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19:00 Get together-dinner

DAY 2 (Wednesday 8th of March 2023)

 Hotel Scandic Aulanko

9:00 - 10:15 Genetics

9:00-9:30 **Keynote:** *What are Saimaa seals made of?* - **Jukka Jernvall** (University of Helsinki)

9:30-9:45 Spot the Monk: a non-invasive approach for detecting the monk seal presence by means of eDNA analysis - **Elena Valsecchi** (University of Milano-Bicocca)

9:45-10:00 What do parasite genomes tell us about the past and present of the Saimaa ringed seal? - **Tommi Nyman** (Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research)

10:00-10:15 Genomic resources for evolutionary and conservation studies of pinnipeds - **Simon Goodman** (University of Leeds)

10:15 - 11:15 Novel monitoring and conservation tools/solutions

10:15-10:30 Assisted gene flow as a conservation method for the Saimaa ringed seal - **Mia Valtonen** (Natural Resources Institute Finland)

10:30-10:45 Seal Codex - Automating identification and collaboration in conservation - **Tanya Stere** (Wild Me)

10:45-11:00 Automatic image-based re-identification of ringed seals - **Ekaterina Nepovinnikh** (LUT university)

11:00-11:15 Nest boxes of the Saimaa ringed seal – a potential tool for conservation and research - **Mervi Kunnasranta** (University of Eastern Finland)

11:15 - 12:15 Lunch Break

12:15 - 13:15 Novel monitoring and conservation tools/solutions

12:15-12:30 Conservation of Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus* along Turkish coasts – **Cem Kirac** SAD-AFAG (Underwater Research Society - Mediterranean Seal Research Group)

12:30-12:45 Fisher support for sustainability and alternative livelihoods can reduce incentives for illegal fishing in a small-scale fishery with high rates of marine mammal bycatch – **Linas Svolkinas** (University of Leeds)

12:45-13:00 Implementation and evaluation of effective mitigation of Australian sea lion bycatch in a gillnet fishery- **Simon Goldsworthy** (South Australian Research and Development Institute – SARDI (Aquatic Sciences)
REMOTE TALK

13:00-13:15 The results of research on the Caspian seal (*Pusa caspica*) in the Kazakhstan part of the Caspian Sea from 2015 to 2022 - **Assel Baimukanova** (Institute of Hydrobiology and Ecology)

13:15-13:30 Mediterranean monk seal tracking using GPS bracelets - **Pablo Fernandez de Larrinoa** (Monk Seal Conservation Program, Fundación CBD-Habitat)

13:30 - 14:00 Coffee

14:00 - 15:15 Habitat, Ecology, Demography

14:00-14:30 **Keynote:** Lessons learned at the leading edge of Arctic seal research –
Josh London (Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries)

14:30-14:45 How to get a reliable population estimate – **Samu Mäntyniemi** (Natural Resources Institute Finland)

14:45-15:00 Linking Saimaa ringed seal behaviour to environmental variability -
Milaja Nykänen (University of Eastern Finland)

15:00-15:15 The Global Ocean Observing System and RAPCON: Contributing to delivery of the marine mammal essential ocean variable (EOV) -
Samantha Simmons (SMRU Consulting)

15:15-15:20 Break


15:20 - Other key gaps: discussions

- Discussion on other key gaps - **Simon Goodman** leading (University of Leeds)
- Discussion on challenges and possibilities in project financing - **Mikko Tiira** leading (Metsähallitus)

SPA

19:00 video night, posters

Day 3 (Thursday 9th of March 2023)

 **Aulanko nature activity center** (1.4 km from the hotel Scandic Aulanko, ~20 minutes walk)

<https://luontoliikuntakeskus.fi/aulanko-nature-activity-center>

10:00-11:00 Future perspectives discussion

- **How to continue? – Jason Baker**
- Directory of people working on various subjects.

11 → Light lunch

Possibility for sauna/ice swimming, walking tours etc.