1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words):

A group of 15 people from veterinarian experts to marine biologists who have attended at least to one marine mammal stranding gathered to perform the necropsy of a common dolphin that died as a consequence of being caught on fishing nets. The animal was a calf and we carefully all the steps to follow in order to diagnose the cause of death when performing a necropsy.

2. What were the benefits of attending and what did you gain from the experience in terms of transferable skills and knowledge.

I was able to get an anatomical and physiological perspective of the effects that military sonar sounds have on marine mammals. This complements my knowledge on marine mammals’ behavioural response to military sonar sounds.

3. What actions will you be taking as a result of attending or by making new networking contacts.

Although I will not be able to perform a necropsy by my own with a valid diagnose, I have now the basic knowledge to assist experts on the field when performing necropsies.

4. Can you share any additional resources produced in connection with the event (e.g. feedback from participants, training resources, website links, and additional materials).

Nothing yet. There is a draft of a European protocol that would be open for everyone to follow the same steps when performing a necropsy.

5. Tips/experience learned from the event

It is very important to have a standardised protocol with a minimum of measurements or things to look at to get a reliable dataset of marine mammal strandings which could be compared across different countries, enlarging our knowledge about these animals. There are some species of cetaceans in particular of beaked whales which are only known from strandings, enhancing the importance of knowing how to proceed in a necropsy.

6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event