

## INDEMARES



**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MARITIME TRANSPORT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION  
(submitted by Spain)**

In Spain, a European LIFE+ Project ([www.indemares.es](http://www.indemares.es)) named "*Inventory and designation of marine Natura 2000 areas in the Spanish sea*" is being developed to contribute to the protection and sustainable use of the biodiversity in the Spanish seas. This project contains a specific action, coordinated by ALNITAK Research Center to identify, assess and mitigate the impacts of maritime traffic activities on marine biodiversity with a special focus on cetacean's populations and marine protected areas.

Within the context of this European Project, an international workshop, "Maritime Transport and Biodiversity Conservation", is being convened and invites shipping industry leaders, living marine resources scientists, public administrations and other stakeholders to identify and assess ways to develop an International Mariner Outreach & Training-for-Action Program that will provide communication tools and delivery systems to educate mariners about steps that can be taken to reduce the risks of maritime transport for whales and other protected species and their habitats while improving industry safety and cost-effectiveness.

The workshop will take place in Tenerife, Spain, between the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2012. It seeks to develop environmental protection materials and delivery systems to assist mariners grappling with environmental requirements and guidelines in ways that will reduce impacts to living marine resources, possibly reduce damage to vessels, and allow efficient transport of goods. The workshop will regard the international shipping industry as a single global population that is interested in elevating environmental impacts, and one that would welcome guidance on ways to recognize and adhere to environmental regulations. The workshop also seeks to identify efficient and cost-effective delivery systems to provide information to the industry. It will also consider feedback and monitoring mechanisms to assess and improve a dynamic outreach program. Finally, it will help establish steps needed to build and maintain such an environmental protection program.

Expected outcomes include an information paper to be submitted to and presented at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a content proposal for an International Mariner Outreach & Training-for-Action Program and a technical proposal for the integration of environmental information on the daily operation of industry vessels.

Considering the interest, and past and present initiatives on the issue of ship strikes within the IWC, Spain would like to inform the Conservation Committee about this workshop in **order to seek possible collaborations and synergies**. Further information on the progress of the LIFE + INDEMARES Project or / and the International workshop (including the **ToR & Agenda**) is available by contacting Ana Tejedor ([ana@kaimarineservices.com](mailto:ana@kaimarineservices.com)).