

# Summary of the 2014 Annual General Meeting in the Danish Marine Mammal Society

University of Southern Denmark, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014

## Election of moderator for the AGM:

- Lee Miller was elected

## Election of rapporteur:

- Christian Riisager-Pedersen was elected

## Annual report by the Chairman Carl Kinze:

- The bylaws of the society will be translated into English in the coming year.
- In general, the panel discussion was considered a success due to a very pleasant discussion atmosphere.
- In 2017, the European Cetacean Society could be going to Denmark. This should be followed up by the board.
- The board discussed whether the society should approach the "Grønne Kontaktudvalg" in order to participate in a more political discussion.

## Points raised by the members in conjunction with the chairman's report:

- Re: the symposium and Annual General Meeting:
  - o It is very good that we arrange the AGM in English
  - o The guidelines for the submission of abstracts should be given in better time
  - o Consider a more balanced selection of presentations for talks and posters. Several posters were addressing complicated topics that would have been better explained in a talk. Consider reducing the length of talks to 15 mins to allow for more talks.
  - o Generally the panel discussion at the symposium was considered a success
  - o Consider publishing summaries of the panel discussions without mentioning specific names.
- Re: the society's role in the public debate
  - o Should the society participate in "Det grønne Kontaktudvalg"?
  - o Two members of the board suggest that the society could act from a non-normative perspective in "Det grønne Kontaktudvalg" to make sure that all scientifically sound arguments are raised.
  - o Could one person should be able to speak on behalf of the entire society?
  - o The society could act as consultants and direct enquiries towards the most knowledgeable person on specific subjects.

- The question is raised what the purpose of the society is. Carl Kinze noted that the basic aim of the society was to bring people together who study marine mammals so that students and scientist can meet and share ideas about their present and upcoming projects.
  - It is generally agreed that the society should be very careful not to take a political stand in any way.
- Re: organisation of a ECS conference in Denmark:
    - Most members in favour of such an event
    - It could be a problem that the expenses are too high for students to participate in a conference held in Denmark

#### Budget:

- The Treasurer Puk Faxe Sabinsky presented the financial report.
- The society had a surplus of 10.616,44 DKK in year 2013
- The symposium fee was discussed and generally found to be fine
- Lee Miller raises the perspective that we should still try to find a venue with free rooms for presentations.
- The financial report was accepted by the AGM

#### Election to the board:

- Carl Kinze stepped down as Chairman and nominated Morten Tange Olsen. Morten was subsequently elected as new Chairman
- Maria Iversen was proposed as new Vice-Chairman
- Christian Riisager-Pedersen, Carl Kinze, Puk Faxe Sabinsky, Eva Garde and Andreas Salling were all re-elected as Members-at-Large
- Maria Palner (formerly a Substitute) was elected as Member-at-Large
- Katja Vinding Pedersen wished to step out of the board, as she is still abroad
- Nynne Hjort Nielsen and Lara Delgado were elected as new Substitutes.
- Jeppe Dalgaard Balle was re-elected as Accountant

Thus, new board of the Danish Marine Mammal Society 2014-2015 is:

- Chairman: Morten Tange Olsen
- Vice-Chairman: Maria Iversen
- Treasurer: Puk Faxe Sabinsky
- Members-at-Large: Eva Garde, Christian Riisager-Pedersen, Andreas Salling, Maria Palner and Carl Kinze
- Substitutes: Anders Galatius, Nynne Hjort Nielsen and Lara Delgado
- Accountant: Jeppe Dalgaard Balle was re-elected

#### Final remarks:

Lee was thanked for reserving rooms, moderating the panel discussion and being moderator at the AGM. Carl Kinze was thanked for his work over two years as Chairman of the society.