

Key Speakers at CIMCAR

Eminent marine ecologists and marine mammalogists who will speak at the colloquium include:

- Dr. Charles Anderson, Maldives
- Dr. Anouk Ilankoon, Sri Lanka
- Dr. E. Vivekanandan, India
- Dr. S. Faizi, Biodiversity Consultant, JICA

Why should you attend CIMCAR?

If you are interested in knowing the role played by these keystone species in shaping our marine ecosystems and if you are keen on conservation of these wonderful denizens of our oceans, then you should attend CIMCAR.

Who can attend?

The Colloquium welcomes students and researchers in marine biology and ecology, conservation biology, ethology, taxonomy etc.

How do I register for CIMCAR?

Please mail us your interest in participation and we will get back to you. Additional details are given in our website (www.mbai.org.in).

Papers can be submitted only as posters which would be prominently displayed at the venue and discussed and finally published as a Poster Book.

Dolphin Watch Cruise

The concluding session of CIMCAR will be on board a houseboat cruising the Kochi Backwaters during late afternoon and sunset. And dolphins would be there to see you.

Marine Mammals

The oceanographer Sylvia Earle said "You must love it before you are moved to save it". That is true for marine mammals.

There is a need to create awareness on the marine mammals among fishermen and public on the importance of mammals in the marine ecosystems, their status and threats, and the need for conservation.

CIMCAR

**Jones Colloquium
26-27 August 2011
Kochi**

CIMCAR

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**Marine
Biological
Association of
India**

DR. S. JONES CENTENARY COLLOQUIUM ON CHALLENGES IN MARINE MAMMAL CONSERVATION & RESEARCH IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

The Marine Biological Association of India, established in 1958, has completed 53 years of active service. The birth centenary of its Founder President Late Dr S Jones is on August 27, 2011 and the association is commemorating the occasion with two landmark events.

Dr. S. Jones Centenary Award 2010 The MBI has instituted a biennial Dr. S. Jones Centenary Award for researchers who have made outstanding contributions in marine biology and fisheries, and the first award will be presented during the colloquium, which will be followed by a lecture by the prize awardee.



CIMCAR

The Association has also deemed it fit to commemorate Dr S.Jones by conducting a colloquium on the topic that was a passion to him, namely, marine mammals. The colloquium is proposed to be held at Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, India on August 26 & 27, 2011.

The purpose of the colloquium is to

- Assess the status of research on marine mammals in the Indian and contiguous seas;
- Identify research gaps; and
- Suggest advanced research for proper understanding and conservation of this endangered fauna.

Marine mammals are major consumers of production at most trophic levels from primary production to predatory fish and even to other marine mammals, as in the case of killer whales. Because of their large body size and abundance, they have a major influence on the structure and function of marine communities. The ecological importance of marine mammals is poorly understood, but they are conspicuous as the charismatic megafauna of marine ecosystems that elicit strong human emotions. Marine mammals are probably one of the best sentinel organisms in aquatic and coastal environments because many species have long life spans and have extensive fat stores that serve as deposits of anthropogenic toxins.

Of the currently 125 recognized species of marine mammals in the world, the IUCN has listed 25% as threatened. Marine mammals face a wide range of threats. The greatest threat to coastal populations of dolphins is due to the intense fishing activities and the incidental killing as a result of entanglement in fishing gear.



However, all is not lost. After suffering shocking losses in the 20th century, we are getting encouraging signs that whale populations are on the path to recovery. In the case of the giant hump-back whale, after implementation of moratorium on whaling, the numbers have bounced back in the southern hemisphere. This is an example to show how good conservation efforts could replenish the populations.

In India, 26 species of cetaceans and one species of sirenian have been recorded. All the species are placed under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Capture, use and trade of marine mammals are punishable under the Act. However, marine mammal-fisheries interaction is a major cause for concern. Conservation research on marine mammals has not received enough attention in India in comparison to that on terrestrial animals, and other marine fauna such as corals, echinoderms, turtles etc. One major reason for the lack of understanding is that we are faced with interplay of no less than three disciplines: marine ecology, marine mammal population biology and fisheries.

The research on marine mammals needs to be strengthened and CIMCAR will address the way forward.

