

08 & 09 May 2008

**Dakar Novotel**  
Avenue Abdoulaye Fadiga,  
BP 2073,  
18524 DAKAR,  
SENEGAL

Contact person:  
Dr. Mamadou Diallo  
(221) 33 869 37 00  
[mdiallo@wwfsenegal.org](mailto:mdiallo@wwfsenegal.org)

# Whales & Fish Interactions: Are Great Whales a Threat to Fisheries?

Organised by  
WWF WAMER & the Lenfest Ocean Program



**WWF** *for a living planet*<sup>®</sup>



**LENFEST  
OCEAN  
PROGRAM**



Recent studies have proposed that whales are the culprits behind decreased fish populations and as a result they should be culled.

The rationale for such arguments is questionable in light of documented overfishing occurring on a global scale, the lack of scientific evidence for existing large-scale competition between marine mammals and fisheries, and the unpredictable consequences of culling. Nonetheless, the "whales eat fish" issue has become a significant point of contention.

To understand the impact of whales on fisheries, it is necessary to analyze the situation in the context of ecosystems in order to consider the complex indirect and direct interactions through which these two groups might influence each other. To this end the Lenfest Ocean Program is conducting a project to examine the scientific evidence for the assertion that commercial fisheries are negatively impacted by whales.

As the project is underway, but not concluded, we are organizing the Dakar Workshop in order to share preliminary findings concerning a study area located off the coast of Northwest Africa.

#### Highlights:

- Area under review: the area defined by NOAA as the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME).
- Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, the Canary Islands, Gambia, Cape Verde and Western Saharan Coastline.

#### WWF WAMER

9639 Sacré-Coeur III  
BP 22 928 Dakar  
Sénégal  
Tel : +221 33 869 37 00

[www.wwfsenegal.org](http://www.wwfsenegal.org)

#### The Lenfest Ocean Program

1025 F Street NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
United States of America  
Tel: +202-552-2131

[www.lenfestocean.org](http://www.lenfestocean.org)

08 & 09 May 2008

**Dakar Novotel**

Avenue Abdoulaye Fadiga,  
BP 2073,  
18524 DAKAR,  
SENEGAL

Contact person:  
Dr. Mamadou Diallo  
(221) 33 869 37 00

Whales & Fish Interactions:  
Are Great Whales a Threat to Fisheries?  
Organised by  
WWF WAMER & the Lenfest Ocean Program

## WEDNESDAY 7th MAY

**20h00 EVENING DINNER RECEPTION FOR WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS**

## THURSDAY 8th MAY

**09h00 OPENING SESSION**

Welcome Address – Dr. Papa Samba Diouf, Coordinator, WWF WAMER

Introduction - Dr. Margaret Bowman, Director, Lenfest Ocean Program

Opening remarks by His Excellency Mr. Souleymane Ndéné Ndiaye, State Minister of Maritime Economy, Fisheries and Aquaculture of Senegal (tbc)

**10h00 COFFEE BREAK**

**10h30 SESSION 1 MORNING – PRESENTATION OF LENFEST OCEAN PROGRAM SCIENTIFIC REVIEW**

Presentation and adoption of the draft programme - Dr. Mamadou Diallo, Program Manager, WWF WAMER

Whales and Fish interactions: the Scientific and Policy Debate – Dr. Daniel Pauly, Professor and Director of the Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia, Canada

Modelling & Methodology - Dr. Lyne Morissette, Lenfest Ocean Program

Preliminary results 1: Ecosystem structure and trophic interactions - Dr. Lyne Morissette & Dr. Kristin Kaschner (LOP)

- Diet composition of marine mammals vs fisheries catch composition
- Total catches vs total consumption by Marine Mammals
- Mixed trophic impacts
- Overlap index

**13h00-14h00 LUNCH**

**14h30 SESSION 1 AFTERNOON– PRESENTATION OF PEW SCIENTIFIC REVIEW (CONT.)**

Preliminary results 2: Dynamic simulations (the 'what if' scenarios) - Dr. Lyne Morissette & Dr. Kristin Kaschner

- What happens to fish stocks when whales are eradicated?
- Would a massive cull of baleen whales benefit pelagic and inshore fisheries?
- Testing of different assumptions

Preliminary results 3: Implications for management and policy

**15h45-16h00 COFFEE BREAK**

Discussion 1: Model structure and data collection

Discussion 2: Exploration of potential alternative scenarios

General discussion and conclusion

**17h30 END OF DAY 1 WORK SESSION**

## 09 MAY

**09h00 MORNING – TOWARDS SCIENCE-POLICY SYNERGY**

Welcome to additional Day 2 participants - Dr. Bakhayokho Workshop Facilitator

Outline of Day 1 discussions - Dr. Margaret Bowman

Implications in the policy context - Dr. Mamadou Diallo

Intervention by His Excellency Mr. Lamine Thiam, President of the Environment Parliamentary Network of the Senegalese National Assembly

Discussion

Wrap up and conclusion

**13h00 LUNCH**

**16h00 AFTERNOON – PRESS BRIEFING**