

# ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM



c/o **Hotel Nautico**  
Lungomare della Libertà, 19 - Riccione (ITALY)

**Return no later than 23<sup>rd</sup> of december, 2005 to:**

Niels van Elk, President-Elect of EAAM  
Dolfinarium Harderwijk BV  
Strandboulevard oost 1, 3841 AB Harderwijk  
P.O. Box 9114, 3840 GC Harderwijk  
Telef.: +31 341 467 422; Fax +31 341 425 888  
E-mail: [eaam@dolfinarium.nl](mailto:eaam@dolfinarium.nl); Webpage: [www.oltremare.org](http://www.oltremare.org)

**Submission by e-mail is encouraged!**  
**This form is available as a file at [www.oltremare.org](http://www.oltremare.org)**

**Authors:** Esposti Apiccino, E.\* & Tizzi, R.  
**Address:** Via Martin Lutero 7 - 20126 Milano (Italy)  
**Affiliation:** Università Politecnica delle Marche  
**Phone:** +39 3498609516      **Fax:** -      **e-mail** erikaesposti@libero.it

**PLEASE CHECK (WITH AN X ON THE BOX):**

Presentation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oral (15 min)	<input type="checkbox"/> Poster
Student:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Audiovisual requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/> 35 mm slide projector	<input type="checkbox"/> Overhead projector
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VHS video projector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint projection

**ABSTRACT:**

**BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN (*TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS*) BEHAVIOURAL CATALOG:  
UNIFICATION OF CURRENT TERMINOLOGY AND SELECTION OF VIDEO SEQUENCES  
IN A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT**

Esposti Apiccino\*, E. (1) & Tizzi, R. (2)

(1) Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona (Italy)

(2) Delfinario Rimini, Lungomare Tintori 2, Rimini (Italy)

Ethological researches cannot prescind from the description, classification and measurement of behaviour and, first of all, from the setting up of a specific ethogram for the studied species. Since these sets of comprehensive descriptions often show a non-univocal terminology use (e.g. same

name for different activities or multiple verbal forms for an identical behaviour) in complex behavioural patterned animals as cetaceans are, together with difficulty in objective identification, the aim of this work was to set up a *Tursiops truncatus* behavioural catalog. This was to be done through a) the unification of the current nomenclature, b) the settlement of a database with accurately described and mutually exclusive behavioural units and c) the arrangement on DVD of a video archive with explanatory sequences of each activity. The first step has been a wide review of cetacean behaviour bibliography from which captive and wild behavioural descriptions are extrapolated. From more than 100 papers between the 1950's to the present, over 2600 records have been systematically inputted to a computerized database together with information on species, environment and complete reference. Successively, all of the units with similar empirical or functional description were grouped into a common main category while each behaviour with analogous definition were given a three-letter identification code. Then, to set up the univocal captive bottlenose dolphin catalog according to both the clarity of the definition and the publication year, one behavioural unit was selected for each code. Finally, in order to facilitate their identification even for first time observers, for every one of the 74 behavioural elements obtained, both aerial and underwater images were located in a 1000+ hour video archive available at the Rimini Delfinario and then assembled in an ideal video sequence for the behaviour. To conclude, this work seemed to have provided a very useful tool, able to make the behavioural identification easy and non-ambiguous and to support quantitative ethological studies, whose importance is related to the comprehension of the links between the animals and their habitat, to the settlement of the general principles of animal behaviour and therefore, to the conservation of the environment and species.