

**Summary Record of the  
SACLANTCEN Bioacoustics Panel,  
La Spezia, 15 - 17 June 1998**

1. The Chairperson, Ms Angela D'Amico, Group Leader, Antisubmarine Warfare Group, (SACLANTCEN), introduced the Director of SACLANTCEN, Mr Jan L. SPOELSTRA, who welcomed members and observers (Annex AA) to the inaugural meeting of the SACLANTCEN Bioacoustics Panel. The Director expressed his confidence in the outcome of a broadly based discussion by an international team of experts. All present would have an opportunity to express their point of view, thus ensuring that the Panel would play a role in contributing to an essential definition of research policy consistent with safeguarding the oceans for the future.
2. The Co-Chairperson, Ing Wim C. Verboom, (TNO, the Netherlands), had been elected during a preliminary session.
3. The Chairperson invited members, observers and SACLANTCEN staff to introduce themselves, described changes to the agenda and outlined the objectives of the Bioacoustic Panel, from the terms of reference, (Annex A), which had been distributed prior to the meeting. The Chairperson explained that the format of the Bioacoustics and Marine Mammal Environmental Policy and Mitigation Procedures Panel meetings would consist of Presentations, Discussion and Recommendations.
4. The consensus, following the introductory presentation by Dr. D. Chapman, (Defence Research Establishment, Atlantic, Canada), (Annex B), was that it was essential to standardise units of acoustic measurement in terms of:
  - reference distance
  - reference pressure
  - reference bandwidth
  - sound intensity (mammals)
  - sound pressure (fish)
  - impedance
5. Omission of the reference distance in the scientific correspondence, (Frantzis, A. Does acoustic testing strand whales? [*Ziphius cavirostris*] *Nature*, 392, 1998:29).) constituted a serious editorial lapse.
6. The editor of *The Economist* had chosen not to publish a 600 word reply (Annex C) by Chapman and Ellis (DREA), to the reference in paragraph 5.
7. Presentations by Panel members, observers and SACLANTCEN staff on information specific to the Kyparissiakos Gulf strandings in May 1996 are given as the Report of the SACLANTCEN Bioacoustics Panel Section 2.
8. The Chairperson thanked Panel members, observers and SACLANTCEN staff for their presentations. Ms D'Amico expressed particular appreciation of the contribution by Dr Georgios Haralabus.
9. The findings and recommendations of the Panel are tabulated on the next two pages.

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