University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Introduction to Marine Mammals Biology and Protection - lecture, PG_00205299		
Field of study	Oceanography		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2028/2029
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	3	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	6	ECTS credits	1.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Faculty of Oceanography and Geography -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Iwona Pawliczka Vel Pawlik	
	Teachers		

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	15	1.0	9.0	25

Subject objectives

Learning the basics of systematics and biological characteristics in terms of life needs and the role of marine mammals in the functioning of the marine ecosystem. Getting to know the basics of knowledge about species and habitat protection of marine mammals, with particular emphasis on the Baltic Sea. Learning about modern research methods and the importance of research in conservation.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[OCEANL3-U01] is able to use the current scientific terminology in the field of oceanography in various forms of expression	the student is able to use current scientific terminology in presentations and discussing problems related to the biology and protection of marine mammals	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[OCEANL3-W01] has an advanced knowledge and understanding of the terminology used in oceanography and related exact and natural sciences (in Polish and a selected foreign language)	the student knows and understands the terminology on biology and conservation of marine mammalsat at advanced level	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[OCEANL3-W04] has an advanced understanding of issues and research problems in oceanography, and recognizes their connection with other scientific disciplines	the student knows basic research techniques and methods at an advanced level regarding marine mammals	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[OCEANL3-W06] has an advanced understanding of the principles of managing the marine environment and its resources, as well as the consequences of disrupting the balance of marine ecosystems	the student knows and understands potential threats to marine mammals and methods of their mitigation, knows and understands the basic legal regulations and principles regarding protection of marine mammals	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

Basics of systematics and phylogeny of marine mammalsBasics of biology and ecophysiology of marine mammals.Adaptations to life in an aquatic environment.Characterization and assessment of the population status of Baltic marine mammal speciesThreats to marine mammals and methods of reducing them.The role of the individual and science in the conservation of marine mammals.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Exam	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature

HELCOM Working Group on Marine Mammals (HELCOM MaMa) - reports (online)

IUCN Red List of Marine Mammals

Jefferson, T., Webber, M.A., Pitman, R. 2015. Marine Mammals of the World. A Comprehensive Guide to Their Identification. Academic Press.

The Society of Marine Mammals, Committee on Taxonomy, List of Marine Mammal Species and Subspecies (online)

Gójska, A., Pawliczka, I., Pawlaczyk, P. 2015. National Plan of Harbour Porpoise Protection. Ministerstwo Środowiska.

	Supplementary literature	Skóra, K.E., Kuklik, I. 2003. Bycatch as a potential threat to harbour porpoises (Phocoena phocoena) in Polish Baltic waters. NAMCCO Scientific Publications 5: 303-315 Read A.J., 2000. Potential Mitigation Measures for Reducing the By-catches of Small Cetaceans in ASCOBANS Waters. Report to ASCOBANS, December 27th, 2000; 34 Pawliczka, I. 2009. Czynna ochrona fok i morświnów w Polsce. W: Bobek, B., Mikoś, J., Wasilewski, R. (red) Gospodarka łowiecka i ochrona dzikich zwierząt na Pomorzu Gdańskim. Polskie Towarzystwo Leśne. Regionalna Dyrekcja Lasów Państwowych w Gdańsku. Gdańsk: 241-260 Harding, K.C., Härkönen, T., Helander, B. And Karlsson, O. 2007. Status of Baltic grey seals: Population assessment and extinction risk. NAMMCO Sci. Publ. 6: 33-56 Bergman, A. and Olsson, M. 1985. Pathology of Baltic grey seal and ringed seal females with special reference to adrenocortical hyperplasia: Is environmental pollution the cause of a widely distributed disease syndrome ? Finn. Game Res. 44: 47-62
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Physiological adaptations of marine mammals to life in water.History of the Baltic gray seal population.Harbor porpoise habitats in Polish marine areas based on hydroacoustic studies.The importance of NATURA2000 areas in the conservation of marine mammals.Threats to cetaceans and ways of mitigating them.Underwater noise and marine mammals.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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