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-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-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-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-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	

Document generated electronically. Does not require a seal or signature.