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27. - 29. 4. 2026

→ PROGRAM

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



prof. Audun Rikardsen



prof. Phil Hammond



dr. Jonathan Gordon



dr. Eve Jourdain

# PROGRAM ANDENES WHALE SUMMIT 27. - 29.4.2026

## MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

- 18.00 Dining & socialising
- 19.00 «Kvaleventyr på yttersida - min våte drøm som forsker og fotograf» *prof. Audun Rikardsen, UiT*
- 20.30 Whale watching

## TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

- 08.30 **Registration & coffee**
- 09.30 Welcome, *Sadie Hale, PhD student, UiB.*
- 09.40 «**More than just whale watching**» *Marten Bril, CEO Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes*
- 09.50 «**History of whale watching and whale research in Andenes**»  
*dr. Tiu Similä, Research coordinator Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes*
- 10.00 «**Community and business development in the Arctic**»  
*Terje Gustavsen - head of business development Nordland County*
- 10.20 «**Tourism that powers science: Regenerative impact from sea to society**» *Vebjørn Andresen, CEO Visit Vesterålen*
- 10.35 Coffee break**
- 10.50 «**Conserve marine mammals? Conserve the sea! - Supporting awareness and engagement of youth with GUARDNA**»  
*Genevieve Desportes and Naima El Bani Altuna, NAMMCO.*
- 11.05 «**A decade of revealing the secrets of our Norwegian Arctic whales - surprises and challenges**»  
*prof. Audun Rikardsen, UiT*
- 11.50 Lunch**
- 13.15 «**Sperm whale migration patterns revealed by five years of telemetry data**»  
*dr. Marie-Anne Blanchet, Senior researcher, NPI*
- 13.30 «**Seasonal and individual variability in habitat use of male sperm whales in high-latitude Northeast Atlantic**»,  
*dr. Zoë Morange, Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes and UiT*
- 13.45 «**Pilot whale habitat use and diving behaviour**» *dr. Carla Freitas, research scientist, IMR*
- 14.00 «**A whale in a petri dish: How lab-based studies unravel the cumulative impacts of human activities on marine mammals**»  
*Thea Grunwald, Akvaplan-niva*
- 14.15 Coffee break**
- 14.45 «**The importance of long-term studies of cetacean populations**»  
*prof. Phil Hammond, Sea Mammal Research Unit. UK*
- 15.45 «**Norwegian Orca Survey - a decade of orcas, science and action**»  
*dr. Eve Jourdain, Norwegian Orca Survey, UiO & Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes*
- 16.30 «**Toxic seas and stressed whales: How pollution, tourism and nutrition shape whale health**»  
*PhD student. Clare Andvik, UiO*
- 16.45 «**Killer whale behaviour in relation to whale watching activities**»  
*Elena Sasso, MSc student, University of Rome, Italy & Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes*
- 18.00 Dining & socialising**
- 20.00 Whale watching



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→ [Klick here for more information & registration](https://whalesafari.no/andenes-whale-summit)

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## WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

08.30 Coffee

09.00 «Whale watching and science: cooperation, collaboration and conflict»

*dr. Jonathan Gordon, Marine Ecological Research Ltd, UK*

09.45 «Tourist snorkelling with whales in Skjervøy: challenges, regulatory blind spots and insights from the field»

*Sadie Hale, PhD student, UiB.*

10.00 «Sizing up sperm whales: length and body condition estimates from Andenes, Norway»

*Seán O'Callaghan, PhD student, Atlantic Technological University, Ireland & Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes*

10.15 «Distributional changes of odontocetes in Norwegian waters with particular focus on Risso's dolphins»

*Alexander Eckerle, MSc student, UiB & Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes*

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 «Does the navy sonar disturb the whales and fish»

*dr. Petter Helgevd-Kvadsheim, Chief Scientist, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI)*

11.45 Lunch

13.15 «Sperm whales depredating on Greenland Halibut on long-line vessels off Vesterålen»

*Hannaleena Väisänen, MSc student, University of Helsinki, Finland & Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes*

13.30 «The depredated» Film by Hannaleena Väisänen and Ove Pedersen

13.45 «Fishermen and whales sharing the same fishing grounds» Rune Solvang, Leader of Andøy fishermen's union

14.00 «Whales and northern norwegian fishery interactions and fishers' attitudes towards whales and other marine mammals» *dr. Emma Vogel, Post-doctoral researcher, UiT*

14.15 Coffee break

14.45 «Nature conservation work - challenges and perspectives for whale watching companies»

*Ronny Gebser, MSc, Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes*

15.00 «Whale2Sea Whalesafari Academy: educate, inspire, and empower the next generation of whale watching guides, enthusiasts, and conscientious tourists»

*Luís Dias, Msc, Whale2Sea Whalesafari Andenes*

15.15 Wrap up by Sadie Hale



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