

## RESULTS OF THE EUROPHLUKES PROJECT

HUELE, R. (1), PAUWELS, E. (2), DAVIS, P. (3), EVANS, P.G.H. (4), CAÑADAS, A. (5), DE STEPHANIS, R. (6), FREITAS, L. (7), MARTEL, V.M. (8), VILLALBA, N. (9), LÓPEZ, A. (10), PANIGADA, S. (11), GANNIER, A. (12), SIMILÄ, T. (13), KINGSLEY, M. (14), LIRET, C. (15), GORDON, J. (16), ROGAN, E. (17), STEINER, L. (18)

(1-18) PO Box 9518, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands

Photo-identification is one of the least intrusive ways to study stocks and populations of cetaceans. The European Commission funded a three year project from 2001 to 2004, to design and construct a database system of cetacean photos, to design a method for feature based retrieval and to set up a network of scientists involved in photo-id. The project was one of the initiatives to develop infrastructure for marine research as part of the Fifth Framework Programme. XX parties from YY countries participated in the project. More than 50 000 photos were collected and digitised and programmes were written for retrieval by trailing edge of fluke, dorsal fin or patches. The database and the tools are now available for the research community.