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july'16

NEWSLETTER


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SANTO ANTONIO | MACEIO

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OBJECT OF THE MONTH



The Whaling in Madeira was an activity that involved many men, in which versatility of tasks and teamwork were fundamentals. The whaling crews and the whalers were divided into three categories: Rower, Striker or braider and Baleeira Master. These functions were directly linked to the capture of large cetaceans in the sea, were the same crew performed different tasks on the ground in the dismantling process of whales.

40 years of Madeiran Whaling were marked by the courage and strength of these men who braved the dangers of the sea, never forgetting the spirit of mutual aid that weighed on the success of the activity.

Denomination

Frame

Material

Photografic Paper

Property

Madeira Whale Museum

Inventory Number
DEIMER-I_003-SD_1

Location
Madeira Whale Museum
Canical

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history

Whalling Crew

The sea and maritime resources always plays very important roles for the island populations. Madeira is not an exception and in 1941 begun, on this island, a new fishing activity with the particularity that the main targeted specie was different in his size and strength – the whales.



The introduction of whaling in Madeira counted with the experience of Azoreans whalers, who were the first men working in this activity in Madeira. The Madeirans adventurers learnt and adapted quickly to the large cetaceans hunting technics and in short time the crews were manly formed by Madeirans.

The whaler profession was not for everybody. Hunting large animals, day after day, was an arduous task, with much effort and motivation needed and many choose this job searching for a better life, in a time that hunger and poverty was a part of the daily routine.

history

Whalling Crew

The courage, strength and persistence, between others, were the mandatory characteristics for the whalling crews that after the hunting had begun, quitting was not an option. The whaling crews or whalers were divided into three categories: Rower, Striker or Braider and Baleeira Master. The new whalers began working in this activity as rowers and just after their experience had been guaranteed they could move to a higher category and up to the top of the career, Baleeira Master, who was not available to everyone.



Although the categories denominations were indicative of the tasks they did at sea, it was the same team that performed the different tasks on the ground in the whales cutting process. These tasks were not assigned randomly, and the masters and strikers experience allowed them to stay in charge of the animals butchering, the rowers took care of the different tissues, such as blubber, into the autoclaves for the respective processing.

BIOMETORE project

The Madeira Whale Museum will participate with Biologist Inês Cunha in two high sea campaigns in the investigation ship “Noruega” during the next months of August and September, whose objective is to study the oceanography, biology and the human activities in the seamounts of Gorringe, Seine and Josephine, located on the north of Madeira Island.

The observer will be accountable for the visual detection of cetaceans, turtles, birds and other large pelagics who eventually be spotted and the register of the associated data. He will also be using hydrophones chains for the acoustic detection of cetaceans, like sperm whales, Blainsville Beaked Whales, dolphins and Tropical Pilot Whales.



Acoustic equipment (hidrophone and automated power supply system) packed and ready to ship to Portugal, and after to the “Noruega” for the Biometore project campaign.



This participation will be performed in the OOM (Madeira Oceanic Observatory) context that the Madeira Whale Museum collaborates, and will count with other institutions scientists, regional or national, among which the Madeira University, IPMA, IMAR and CIIMAR.

These campaigns take place in the framework of the project Biometore, sponsored by EEA Grants, and which ARDITI is a partner, besides the scientific institutions involved.

The BIOMETORE project will supply important information for the integrated knowledge and management of deep sea ecosystems from the two main seamounts of the North Atlantic, particularly in the implementation context of the DQEM () in Portugal.

For more informations about the project – <http://www.biometore.pt>

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Teacher's professional Development

A better learning quality for students is a fundamental question in education. It's not enough that students memorize concepts and reproduce them in paper. Those concepts need to be put in practice, contributing, between others aspects, for the sustainability of the environment and for a better life quality.



This improvement in an educative level must pass by teachers and their professional development. This way, there are available to teachers formation activities that could focus on culture or specific themes relatable to the teachers recruitment group.

In this context, the Madeira Whale Museum performed in this school year, activities relatable to the teacher's formation that was been developed in different formats:

Teacher's professional Development

Workshop – “Marine Pollution” in the context of the Eco-Schools Encounter (October 2015);

Lectures – “The museum education and cultural heritage preservation” in the context of the II Encounter of Local and Regional History and “Natural Sciences – new contexts of learning, another evaluation” during the IV Pedagogic Days of Gonçalves Zarco Secondary School (January and February 2016, accordingly);

Tertulia – “Education and Culture” developed during the activities of the Madeira Teacher's Union (April 2016);

Formation Activities – planed and developed in the Museum's space: “Cetaceans of the Madeiran Archipelago – from investigation to education” (November 2015) and “Whales and Dolphins of Madeiran Archipelago – and educative approach” (July 2016).

