

Propositions

1. The high prevalence of *Aspergillus sp.* infections recently observed in stranded harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) in Dutch coastal waters is caused by immunodepression due to (a) recently introduced chemical pollutant(s). (*this thesis*)
2. There is no evidence that parasitic infections predispose for bacterial pneumonias in harbour porpoises. (*this thesis*)
3. Parasitic pneumonia in harbour porpoises is caused by an inappropriate inflammatory reaction. (*this thesis*)
4. Morbillivirus infections are less virulent in white-beaked dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*) than in harbour seals (*Phoca vitulina*), striped dolphins (*Stenella coeruleoalba*) or bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), plausibly because the virus infection is endemic in the first species contrary to in the latter species. (*this thesis*)
5. *Staphylococcus aureus* in marine mammals can be caused by faecal pollution from terrestrial animals. (*this thesis*)
6. Counting is a crucial element of conservation science.
(Hallmann CA et al. (2017) More than 75 percent decline over 27 years in total flying insect biomass in protected areas. PLoS ONE 12(10))
7. Ocean acidification as a consequence of CO₂ pollution is neglected while its effects might be just as deleterious as climate change.
(Henehan MJ et al. (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Nov 2019, 116 (45) 22500-2250420 Rapid ocean acidification and protracted Earth system recovery followed the end-Cretaceous Chicxulub impact)
8. Good mental welfare is the result of a healthy diet of negative and positive emotions.
(Boissy A et al., 2007 Assessment of positive emotions in animals to improve their welfare. *Physiology & Behavior* 92: 375-397)
9. Ecologists need to set targets for biodiversity maintenance that the public understands and politicians can handle. Deltaplan Biodiversiteitsherstel 2018 (https://greenportdb.nl/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/A5-boekje_Deltaplan-DEF.pdf)
10. Politicians gain credibility when they take science into account, scientists lose credibility when they take politics into account. (Outbreak Management Team corona pandemic Netherlands 2020)
11. The walrus has the most noble character of all. (personal observation)