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IMS hydroacoustic data offer a wide range...

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The highly sensitive hydrophones also pick up signals which originate from marine animals. Whales in particular have a very wide range of vocalizations, including some at low frequencies that can be readily detected by IMS stations. The nature of the sounds, their duration, pattern, and frequency content, can be used to identify the whale species (figure 2, page 16). On this basis, it is possible to obtain information on the position and migration patterns of individual whale species. This information could be used to research whale populations and their seasonal migration patterns.

The scarcity of hydroacoustic monitoring facilities and the high quality of the IMS data make it particularly valuable for scientific research. It remains a political decision by the Member States if this data and the International Data Centre's near real-time processing capabilities will be used to supply information related to national disasters and to enhance research in the above mentioned fields. The tragic events of 26 December 2004 which cost the lives of more than three hundred thousand people gave new impetus to the discussion on the potential usage of verification data for civil and scientific purposes (see cover article, page 1 and 17). ■

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Calendar of Meetings 2005

Preparatory Commission:

24th Session	27 – 30 June 2005
25th Session	14 – 18 November 2005

Working Group A:

27th Session	6 – 10 June 2005
28th Session	3 – 7 October 2005

Working Group B:

24th Session	14 Feb. – 4 March 2005
25th Session I	23 May – 3 June 2005
25th Session II	29 August – 9 Sept. 2005

Advisory Group:

24th Session I	18 – 23 April 2005
24th Session II	17 – 20 May 2005
25th Session	12 – 16 September 2005

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