

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Tundi Agardy

Tundi Agardy is internationally renowned in marine conservation, with extensive field and policy experience in African, Asian, Caribbean, Mediterranean, North American regions. She currently heads Sound Seas, an independent policy group specializing in coastal planning and assessment, marine protected areas, fisheries management, and market-based conservation. Formerly Global Marine Program Senior Director at Conservation International and Senior Scientist for WWF, she has assisted NGOs, government agencies, and multilateral organizations in conservation planning, projects, and program evaluation. She received her Ph.D. and M.M.A. from University of Rhode Island, was postdoctoral fellow at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and attended Wellesley and Dartmouth Colleges.

Lisa Ranahan Andon

Deputy Executive Director/Grants Program Manager, Ms. Andon joined the Micronesia Conservation Trust in 2004 after nine years at the Pohnpei State Government serving as an Executive Assistant for the Economic Development Authority and as an Historic Preservationist for the Division of Historic Preservation and Cultural Affairs (HP&CA). She earned her BA in American Studies from Grinnell College in 1992 and came to Pohnpei as a Peace Corps Volunteer the same year. During her service, she taught English as a Second Language and Math at the Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training School and worked part-time at the HP&CA. She completed an MA in American Studies with a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation and concentrations in Pacific Islands Studies and Cultural Resource Management at the University of Hawaii, Manoa in 1999.

Lisa Van Atta

Lisa Van Atta is the Assistant Regional Administrator for the Protected Resources Division of NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) in Honolulu, where her work focuses on implementation of the U. S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) throughout the Pacific Islands Region. Prior to joining PIRO, Lisa worked as an ESA attorney in NOAA's Office of General Counsel in Seattle.

Mabel Augustowski

Mabel Augustowski has been working for about 15 years with MPAs, in Brazil and other countries. At the Environmental Department of Sao Paulo State Government, Brazil, she has been a MPA manager for more than 6 years and her work is currently focused on integrating conservation research into MPA management. She is also the Coordinator of the Bryde's Whale Project/Brazil, which provides important information to National Policy, and is developed by CEMAR – Marine Conservation Research Center, a non-governmental organization. She also coordinates Region 9 (South Atlantic) for IUCN/WCPA Marine in Brazil.

Brad Barr

Brad Barr is a Senior Policy Advisor in the Director's Office of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. He is also the former manager of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.



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Dan Basta

Daniel J. Basta is the Director for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Mr. Basta leads the federal program whose mission is to protect and conserve 14 specially designated areas off both coasts of the United States, portions of waters off Hawaii and American Samoa and a portion of Lake Huron. Trained as an environmental engineer, he joined the NOAA in 1979. Mr. Basta has 30 years experience in environmental quality and natural resources management throughout the United States and abroad, including Europe, Australia, Mexico, China, and Canada. He has expertise in the integration aspects of complex assessment and management issues and possesses a detailed knowledge of a variety of subjects and technical disciplines, e.g., natural system modeling, resource economics, demography, land use planning, systems analysis, living marine resource assessment, and information science and technology. Mr. Basta has been published widely, including textbooks on modeling, atlases of U.S. coastal and ocean regions, reports and books on environmental problems at the national, regional and international levels, and articles in journals and other publications. Before returning to graduate school to focus on environmental and natural resources management, he worked as an engineer in the aerospace industry.

Lars Bejder

Lars Bejder is a Research Fellow at Murdoch University Cetacean Research Unit in Australia. He has worked on the issue of time/area closures for spinner dolphins and tourism. In the short-term this might alleviate stress on these animals. Lars believes that to achieve long-term success that this model would need to be supplemented with a commercial operator permitting system.

Lui Bell

Lui Bell is the Marine Species Officer for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), with headquarters in Apia, Samoa". He is responsible for the regional marine species programme that includes regional action plans for sea turtles, dugongs and whales & dolphins.

Deborah Benham

Deborah Benham is a Project Officer with the Dolphin Space Programme. The Dolphin Space Programme is an accreditation scheme for wildlife tour boats in the Moray Firth, Scotland. It is overseen by a steering group comprising Visit Scotland, the Wildlife Tour Boat Operators' Society, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, the Northern Constabulary, Grampian Police, The Highland Council, Inverness Harbour Trust, the Maritime Coastguard Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Arne Bjørge

Arne Bjørge is the head of department at the Division of Research Ecology, Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, Norway. Along with many other positions with international organizations, he is the elected Chair of the Scientific Committee of the IWC.



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Idelisa Bonnelly

Born in the Dominican Republic Idelisa Bonnelly completed her post-graduate biology studies at the US New York University. Professor emeritus of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo Idelisa collaborated in the establishment of the Biology School and organized the first research center of marine biology (CIBIMA) during the early 60's. Founder of the DR Academy of Science, now presides the Dominican Marine Studies Foundation (FUNDEMAR). For her contribution to the conservation of the marine environment and for the establishment of the marine mammals Sanctuary was included in the PNUMA Global 500 list in 1988, other recognitions: Woman in Science Merit Medal, 1986; Laudatio Academica 2007; National Ecology Award 2007.

Ana Cañadas

Ana Cañadas is the Research Director of Alintak. She is currently working on predictive modeling of habitat and gap analysis to guide the design of pelagic Areas. She has focused much of her studies on the odontocetes around the Alborán Islands and within the Spanish Mediterranean.

Maria Elizabeth Carvalho da Rocha

Maria Elizabeth Carvalho da Rocha was an advertising professional and was invited by the Brazilian government to be chief of staff of the MPA Southern Right Whale Environmental Protection Area due to her 20 years of activism on socio-environmental movements at the Santa Catarina State coast. She has worked with communitarian organization through the formation of communitarian councils, municipalities councils and local Agenda 21 forums. She works with environmental education for participatory management methodologies and she is chief of Southern Right Whale EPA for the last six years.

Cristina Castro

Cristina Castro has been working within the Machalilla National Park in Ecuador. She has extensive experience in humpback whale photo identification, environmental education, and bycatch issues. Additionally, she has explored the idea of coastal zoning along the Ecuadorean coast through agreements with local users.

Gonzalo Cid

Gonzalo Cid is an international affairs specialist for the International Program Office at NOAA's National Ocean Service. He has a background in marine science and his recent experience includes work and research on economic agreements and marine conservation; land-based source of marine pollution; and indicators for evaluating marine protected area management effectiveness. Gonzalo holds a Masters degree in biological oceanography and a Ph.D. in marine policy.



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Doug DeMaster

Dr. Douglas DeMaster is the current Science and Research Director for the Alaska Region within NOAA Fisheries in the United States. He received a Ph.D. in 1978 in the field of applied quantitative ecology and has over 75 peer-reviewed publications regarding marine mammal ecology and conservation biology. DeMaster served as the President of The Society for Marine Mammalogy between 1998 - 2000, and has adjunct appointments at the University of Washington's School of Aquatic Fisheries Science and the University of Alaska's School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences. DeMaster is the Deputy US Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission (IWC), and has regularly attended the meetings of the IWC's Scientific Committee since 1988. He served as the Chair of the Scientific Committee of the IWC between 2003 and 2005. Since 2006, DeMaster has served as the Acting-US Commissioner to the IWC.

Kirstin Dobbs

Dr. Kirstin Dobbs is presently involved in developing the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report. She has a PhD in wildlife and fisheries sciences from Texas A&M University (1996) and was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship from the Institute of International Education (1990). During her 10+ years at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority she has worked on a range of marine park management issues including species conservation, heritage, Indigenous partnerships, fishing, permitting, planning, marine wildlife tourism and has served on national committees focussed on marine biodiversity decline, marine turtle and whale recovery, and Indigenous partnerships to ensure sustainable hunting of dugongs and marine turtles. She is a member of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group and the World Commission on Protected Areas. Her international experience has focussed on marine species conservation and management issues focussed in the Indian Ocean/Southeast Asian region, Pacific Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. In October 2007, she signed, on behalf of the Australian Government, an MOU for dugong conservation and management under the Convention on Migratory Species. She has extensive experience with government (Australian, Queensland) policy development in relation to threatened and protected species conservation and management issues and community/stakeholder liaison with tourism, fisheries, Traditional Owners and non-governmental organisations.

Mike Donoghue

Mike Donoghue is a Senior International Relations Adviser with the New Zealand Department of Conservation, dealing mainly with conventions that have a marine focus, including IWC, CMS and CCAMLR, and with marine conservation issues in the Pacific Islands region. He is also a Principal Investigator of the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium.



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John H. Dunnigan

John H. Dunnigan is the Assistant Administrator for NOAA's Ocean Service. He has broad experience in marine science and policy and in the service of marine resource conservation.

Mr. Dunnigan has been associated with NOAA throughout his career, beginning as a NOAA Congressional Affairs intern in 1972. Since 2002, he has overseen NOAA's efforts promoting fishery conservation and management programs aimed at achieving the optimum sustainable yield from U.S. fisheries on an annual basis. He has played a key role in guiding NOAA policy under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. While serving as director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Dunnigan also served as director of the NOAA Ecosystem Goal Team, one of the four mission goals in the agency. He has led efforts to develop long-term, multi-year policy direction as NOAA works to implement an ecosystem approach to its management of the nation's marine resources. He joined NOS as the Assistant Administrator in January 2006.

Karin Forney

Karin Forney is with the Protected Resources Division of NOAA Fisheries, based in Santa Cruz, California. As a cetacean expert, she has extensive experience in aerial survey work, environmental modeling, fishery bycatch estimation, and stock assessment

Christine Gabriele

Christine Gabriele is a Wildlife Biologist at Glacier Bay National Park where her work focuses on humpback whale population monitoring and underwater sound monitoring to understand and reduce the effects of vessel traffic on whales. Chris is also a founding member of the non-profit Hawai'i Marine Mammal Consortium, conducting whale and dolphin research off the Big Island each winter.

Steve Gittings

Dr. Steve Gittings is Science Coordinator for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and is leading efforts to develop a system-wide monitoring program. His is former manager of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary and has a background is in coral reef and hard bottom ecology.

Leila Hatch

Dr. Leila Hatch is a Marine Ecologist at NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary where she conducts research and assists in developing policy to better understand and mitigate the impacts of underwater noise within marine protected areas.



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Sidney J. Holt

Sidney Holt was educated at Reading University, England. He has held academic positions at St John's College, Cambridge, England; University of California at Santa Cruz; University of Rhode Island; University of Malta. He is the author of 400 scientific papers, book chapters and popular articles, especially in the fields of fisheries science and management, conservation, protection of marine mammals, especially whales. The classic *On the Dynamics of Exploited Fish Populations*, co-authored with Raymond Beverton was first published in 1957. It has become the most widely cited fisheries book ever published and has recently been reprinted. Beverton and Holt's great work laid a foundation for fisheries science in the second half of the twentieth century. Sidney Holt was also one of the fathers of ASFA. The Research Programs Section of the FAO Fisheries Division's Biology Branch, of which Sidney was Chief before his appointment as Director of the Fisheries Resources and Operations Division of the then new Department of Fisheries, produced Volume 1 Number 1 in April 1958 under its original title: *Current Bibliography for Fisheries Science*. Sidney served 25 years in the U.N. (including the FAO and IOC; Advisor to UNEP; UN Adviser on Mediterranean Marine Affairs, in which capacity he founded and served as first Director of the International Ocean Institute, Malta). Since his formal retirement Sidney has served on delegations to the International Whaling Commission and to CITES. Sidney Holt has worked extensively with several Non-Governmental Organizations concerned with conservation and animal welfare. Apart from continuing to write and campaign he advises the Third Millennium Foundation, and serves as Executive Director of the International League for the Protection of Cetaceans, which he founded 18 years ago. In recognition of his many years of activity (which resulted, among other things, in the creation of the Southern and Indian Ocean Whale sanctuaries), Sidney has been awarded the Gold Medal of the World Wildlife Fund, appointed to the Royal Netherlands Order of the Golden Ark, listed by UNEP in its Global 500, and received the Blue Planet Award of the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Sascha Hooker

Sascha Hooker represents the Sea Mammal Research Unit. She studies the interaction between marine mammal foraging behaviour and the surrounding environment, and how this can inform conservation planning in the ocean. Currently this work involves Antarctic fur seals, grey seals and harbour seals, but she previously conducted her PhD research on the foraging ecology of northern bottlenose whales in "the Gully" off eastern Canada.

Erich Hoyt

Erich Hoyt is the Senior Research Fellow and Critical Habitat/ MPA Program Lead with WDCCS, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. His 17 books include *Marine Protected Areas for Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises* (Earthscan, London, 2005). He has served as an advisor on marine protected areas (MPAs) to ACCOBAMS, the cetacean agreement in the Mediterranean and Black seas, and is a member of the IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group and WCPA High Seas Task Force. He also directs the Far East Russia Orca Project in Kamchatka and the Russian Cetacean Habitat Project. A Canadian-US citizen, he lives in Scotland.



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David Hyrenbach

Born in Spain, David Hyrenbach completed his Ph.D. at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and worked as a research scientist at the Duke University Marine Laboratory, before moving to Oahu to teach at Hawaii Pacific University. David's research focuses on two main questions: (1) how does oceanographic variability in time and space shape the distribution and community structure of pelagic vertebrates, and (2) how do these habitat associations influence the efficacy of spatially-explicit management strategies for their conservation.

Miguel Iniguez

Miguel Iniguez is the President and Founder of Fundacion Cethus, Argentina. Consultant of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) International, publishing papers based on his work on Commerson's dolphins and killer whales, among other subjects, and is Alternate Commissioner of Argentina to the IWC

Spyros Kotomatas

Spyros Kotomatas was born in Athens, Greece in 1962. At the age of 6 he decided that he wanted to study the ecology of cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) in Africa. Towards this goal, he studied biology at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he continued to receive his PhD in population biology. His thesis work, instead of dealing with wildlife, was a laboratory investigation of theoretical population regulation models of flour beetles (*Tribolium* spp.) under unfavourable environmental conditions. Upon his return in Greece in 1991, he managed to work on endangered species, as the Scientific Coordinator of MOm, the Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal. Since 2007 he has been the Director of MOm. He has been involved in a variety of research and conservation projects in Greece and the Mediterranean and participated in a number of publications on the Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus*. He has been especially involved in the design, establishment and operation of MPAs in Greece and has served as a member of the National Committee for Protected Areas of Greece.

Christophe Lefèbvre

Born in 1952, Christopher Lefèbvre holds a Doctor in geography and is an associate professor at the University (Université du littoral de la Côte d'Opale). Christophe is also a Delegate on European and international affairs at the French marine protected areas Agency. He was formerly a delegate of the French coastal Conservancy for 25 years, and Chairman of the National Council of protection of nature, European IUCN Councilor.

Ed Lyman

Ed Lyman manages all emergency responses for whales in distress for NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. He is one of the most experienced whale disentanglers in the world, having freed several different species in two oceans. He has provided over 40 authorized rescue trainings and workshops for approximately 300 people throughout the U.S. North Pacific. In the summer he follows "Hawai'i's" whales to Alaska where he works with our Fisheries partners to train and respond to entangled whales in that region.



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Craig MacDonald

Craig MacDonald is Superintendent of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (2000-present), which is headquartered in Scituate, Massachusetts. In that capacity, he oversees sanctuary policies and resource management planning, facilities management, and diverse projects including biodiversity conservation, marine mammal research, seafloor habitat studies, use assessments and maritime archaeology. In his previous position, Dr. MacDonald was the Ocean Resources Development Manager for the State of Hawaii (1985-2000) and during much of that time also was an Adjunct Professor of Ocean Policy at the University of Hawaii. He holds graduate degrees in oceanography and marine biology, completed postdoctoral study in fisheries science, and is a certified public administrator. He has conducted research in the Caribbean and worked extensively throughout Asia and the Pacific Islands on diverse projects involving the integration of ocean resources management and development. He has been on the board of directors of several national and international marine science and policy organizations, served on numerous governmental advisory bodies, and is a Fellow of the Marine Technology Society.

Rubaiyat Mansur Mowgli

Rubaiyat Mansur Mowgli is the Local Principal Researcher at BCDP/WCS. Since February 2002, when he participated in the first Sundarban Cetacean survey, Rubaiyat Mansur Mowgli has developed a deep passion for cetaceans and is now fully dedicated to their study and conservation. He is responsible for coordinating and conducting BCDP cetacean research activities in the coastal waters and the Swatch-of-No-Ground of Bangladesh. Every year he spends the winter months in the Bay of Bengal studying and documenting the cetacean diversity, participates in surveys, co-leads training courses and BCDP field-work, analyses data and writes scientific reports.

David Mattila

David Mattila is the Science and Rescue Coordinator for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. He has been a coordinator of two Ocean-wide, international collaborative studies of humpback whales: the SPLASH project in the North Pacific and the YONAH project in the North Atlantic. He has also worked extensively with large whale entanglement, helping to develop rescue techniques, set up trained rescue networks and gather information that will hopefully lead to prevention. He is also on the US delegation to the IWC, and an advisor to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (Mexico, US, Canada).

Naomi McIntosh

Naomi McIntosh is the Superintendent of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. Naomi oversees the management of over 1,300 square miles of one of the world's most important humpback whale wintering, breeding, and calving habitats. She has experience in marine resource protection, research and monitoring, education and outreach, media relations, and engaging the public in sanctuary management issues. Naomi offers experiences from an MMPA that was designed to accommodate the principles of adaptive management as the needs and issues within the sanctuary changed over time.



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Patty Miller

Patty Miller is the programs coordinator for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary's Kihei Education/Visitor facility. The site hosts classroom and in-the field opportunities for students and a variety of programs for the public. Patty's background is in education, has taught in the classroom, worked as the marine resource teacher for the State of Hawaii and produced and taught an interactive science program for students that was broadcast over television.

Sue Miller-Taei

Sue Miller-Taei is the Marine Programmes Manager in the Pacific for Conservation International. Currently based in Apia, Samoa, she has long experience working on marine protected area issues in the Pacific Islands Region

Kauahi Ngapora

Kauahi Ngapora has lived in Kaikoura (New Zealand) all his life. At 31 years of age, New Zealand Maori with tribal affiliations to Waikato North Island and Ngati Kuri Kaikoura, he has been with Whale Watch Kaikoura for 16.5 years where his career started as a care giver emptying spew buckets. He worked his way through the ranks from tour guide, skipper, sea operations manager, operations manager and now Chief Operating Officer and spent 10 of these years out at sea watching and interacting with many different species of marine mammals.

Giuseppe Notarbartolo di-Sciara

Giuseppe Notarbartolo di-Sciara is Chair of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS since 2002; Regional Coordinator for the Mediterranean and Black Seas, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas - Marine (since 2000); and Deputy Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission - Cetacean Specialist Group (since 1991). He started off his career as a species-oriented marine ecologist, progressively moving towards space-based marine conservation science. His specific interests concern large marine vertebrates, such as marine mammals, sharks and manta rays. In 1986 he funded the Tethys Research Institute (www.tethys.org) in Milano, Italy, which he directed for 10 years. He is now honorary president of Tethys. In 1991 he proposed the creation of the Pelagos Sanctuary for Mediterranean Marine Mammals, which was established in 1999 by Italy, France and Monaco. In 1996 Giuseppe was nominated president of the Central Institute for Applied Marine Research (ICRAM: www.icram.org) in Rome, the governmental research body responsible for providing scientific and technical support to national marine conservation and management policy, where he served for seven years. Between 1999 and 2003 he served as Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner for Italy at the International Whaling Commission. He was the Chair of the European Cetacean Society from 1993 to 1997. Giuseppe currently teaches a course on the science and policy of the conservation of marine biodiversity at the University of Milan.



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Jose Tr. Palazzo Jr

Jose Tr. Palazzo Jr is one of the longest-serving IWC national delegates, Palazzo has attended Annual Meetings from 1984 onwards, served as Head of the Brazilian Scientific Delegation to the IWC from 2000 to 2005, and as Alternate Commissioner since 1997, having coordinated the studies leading to the proposal for a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary by Argentina, Brazil and South Africa.

Simone Panigada

Simone Panigada is Chair of the European Cetacean Society and Vice President of the Tethys Research Institute. Simone has been focusing his interest on assessing the anthropogenic impacts, like ship strikes, threatening cetaceans in the Mediterranean, and in particular in the Pelagos Sanctuary. He chairs a steering group established within ACCOBAMS to assess and identify conservation and mitigation measures for ship strikes in the Mediterranean Sea, in liaison with the Ship Strikes Working Group (SSWG) of the IWC.

Irini Papanicolopulu

Irini Papanicolopulu is Senior Researcher in international law at the University of Milano-Bicocca (Milan, Italy), conducting research on issues relating to law of the sea and ocean governance, protection of the marine environment, humanitarian law and other fields of public international law, as well as lecturing in international law of natural resources and international humanitarian law. She also consults with the Italian ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Ministry of the Environment and the ACCOBAMS Secretariat. She holds a degree in law from the University of Milano-Bicocca and a doctorate in international law from the University of Milan. Her past working experiences include working as a legal advisor for the Italian Ministry of the Environment. She has presented papers in international and national conferences and workshops, she has published a monography and a number of articles in peer-reviewed national and international journals (mainly on law of the sea and protection of the marine environment) and has edited three collections of essays. Recent articles deal with the protection of the marine environment during armed conflicts and with underwater noise.

Nik Pavlov

Nikolay Nikolayevich Pavlov is the Director of Komandorskiy State Nature Biosphere Reserve in Russia. He holds an academic degree in biology (wildlife management) from Irkutsk State Agricultural Institute. Nikolay Pavlov previously worked as a state inspector to control marine mammal habitats and fishery. He spent every field season taking part in marine mammal monitoring expeditions. As the Director of the reserve he spends most of his time managing the area, arranging logistical support, organizing yearling scientific research, patrolling the territory and developing ecological education.



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Donna Petrachenko

Donna Petrachenko is the First Assistant Secretary of the Marine Division within the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) and Australia's Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission. Ms Petrachenko came to the then Department of the Environment and Heritage in 2003 from the Canadian Public Service as Assistant Deputy Minister – Special Envoy for Asia Pacific. She formerly held senior positions within Fisheries and Oceans Canada and senior positions within Parks Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage including Director General and Regional Executive Director – delivering all aspects of programs with Parks Canada for 25 national parks, national park reserves and 25 national historic sites including the Rocky Mountain World Heritage site. Ms Petrachenko has a Master of Arts, Public Administration from Carleton University, Ottawa and is a full Professorial Fellow at the University of Wollongong's Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS). Her achievements include development of policies in marine biodiversity conservation and implementation of integrated marine and coastal planning and sustainable fisheries management.

Jason Philibotte

Jason Philibotte is a Coastal Management Specialist for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. Jason has had significant experience leading MPAs in the Pacific and Caribbean through the management planning process

Rosa Pires

Rosa Pires works at the Parque Natural da Madeira Service. Her research focuses on the conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal and the management of protected areas in Madeira.

Randall Reeves

Randy Reeves is a consultant based in Hudson, Quebec, and chairman of the IUCN/SSC Cetacean Specialist Group. He has worked on a wide range of species and issues in marine mammal science and conservation and is currently on the Committee of Scientific Advisers of the Marine Mammal Commission.

Vincent Ridoux

Vincent Ridoux is a Professor with the Institute of Littoral and Environmental Sciences, University of Rochelle. He focuses his studies on the Ecology and conservation of the marine mammals, and the use of habitats and resources by top marine predators.



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Lorenzo Rojas Bracho,

Dr. Rojas-Bracho heads the Coordination for Marine Mammal Research and Conservation, National Institute of Ecology, in Mexico and established and Chairs the vaquita International Committee for the Recovery of Vaquita. He has authored or co-authored over 40 scholarly articles, book chapters and technical reports on marine mammals. He has been invited to chair, participate and be part of different international committees, workshops and working groups related to the management and conservation of marine mammals, among them International Whaling Commission (IWC)'s Scientific Committee Environmental Concerns Standing Working Group; he is a member of IUCN's Cetacean Specialist Group, The Red List Authority, and the Committee of Scientific Advisors and Nominations and Elections Committee from the Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM). He is currently Mexico's Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission.

Terri Rowles

Dr. Teri Rowles is the Director of NOAA Fisheries' National Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program. As such she oversees all responses to marine mammal strandings, entanglements, unusual mortality events. She is also on the US delegation to the Scientific Committee of the IWC, and sits on many inter-Agency and international advisory groups, working groups and review committees, including those for harmful algal blooms, skin lesions, and pollution impacts to marine mammals.

Ricardo Sagarminaga

Ricardo Sagarminaga is the President and General Coordinator of the ALNITAK Marine Research and Education Centre, an NGO registered in Spain. Specialized in research and conservation of sea turtles since 1983, and member of the group of experts on sea turtles for the European Commission in 1987, his work has specialized mainly on the issue of loggerhead turtle bycatch in surface longlines in the SW Mediterranean through diverse project (LIFE02NAT/E/8610, P Tecno). After restoring the classic fishing vessel Toftevaag and converting her for research in 1989 – 1990, he has been skipper of this vessel in diverse projects dedicated to the monitoring of cetacean, sea bird and turtle populations and the design of MPAs in the SW Mediterranean. Currently he is the coordinator of the working group on cetacean, birds and sea turtles of the IUCN Initiative for the Sustainable Development of the Alboran Sea and coordinator of the MITIGA laboratory for the development of technological measures for the mitigation of risk in the context of the LIFE+ project INDEMARES for the development of a Spanish offshore MPA network under the framework of the EU Habitat Directive.

Michael Simpkins

Michael Simpkins studied the behavior and population biology of arctic seals for his PhD, then shifted to management and policy work at the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission. He is currently coordinating the development of an International Marine Mammal Action Plan for the NOAA Fisheries Office of International Affairs.



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Liz Slooten

Liz Slooten is from the Dept. of Zoology, University of Otago. She studies the biology of Hector's dolphins and sperm whales, in particular focusing on assessing the effectiveness of current and potential protected areas, along with working to understand the impact of human activities like fishing and ecotourism.

Jorge Urban-Ramirez

Jorge Urban-Ramirez coordinates the Marine Mammal Research Program. at the University of Baja California Sur in La Paz, Mexico. He is also on the Mexican delegation to the IWC.

Alessandra Vanzella-Khouris

Alessandra Vanzella-Khouris is a Programme Officer with UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme, with over 20 years work experience on coastal and marine conservation issues in Latin American and the Caribbean.

Anne Walton

Anne Walton is coordinator for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries International MPA Capacity Building Program. After nearly ten years of coordinating management planning for west coast sanctuaries, Anne has taken her experience to SE Asia, Latin America, the Coral Triangle and Mediterranean, working with networks of MPAs on all aspects of planning.

Trevor J Ward

Dr Trevor Ward is a marine ecologist specializing in performance assessment systems for marine ecosystems and biodiversity. Currently at The Ecology Centre, University of Queensland, Dr Ward was formerly leader of CSIRO's national marine environmental science program, and he currently holds adjunct teaching and research appointments at three Australian universities as well as operating a Perth-based consulting practice. His most recent appointments include membership of Western Australia's Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, and Visiting Professor to the Ecology Centre at the University of Queensland. His current projects include auditing of marine parks in Western Australia, management of the lagoon systems of Rarotonga, Cook Islands, and development of efficient and effective optimisation systems for biodiversity conservation.



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Lindy Weilgart

Lindy Weilgart has been specializing in underwater noise pollution and its effects on cetaceans for the past 16 years. Her M.Sc. (Memorial Univ. of Newfoundland), Ph.D. (Dalhousie), and post-doctoral studies (Cornell) were all in the field of cetacean acoustic communication in the wild. She has studied whales for 27 years, primarily sperm whales. Lindy has served as invited expert on several panels, workshops, and committees concerned with underwater noise impacts (e.g. Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, International Whaling Commission, etc.). She has met with members of NATO, the European Parliament, the European Commission DG Fisheries, and the United Nations to discuss ocean noise issues, given many lectures on this topic and others, and published numerous peer-reviewed papers. She is currently a Research Associate in the Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, Canada, as well as employed as Scientific Advisor by the private foundation Okeanos. She is also Scientific Advisor for the International Ocean Noise Coalition.

'Aulani Wilhelm

'Aulani Wilhelm is the Superintendent for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, the largest single conservation area under the U.S. flag and one of the world's largest marine protected areas. The Monument is co-managed by NOAA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Hawai'i. Prior to this, she served as the manager of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, providing continuity of management and operations for the protection of the marine waters of the region since 2001. Preceding her work at NOAA, Wilhelm served for six years at the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, where she was involved in numerous terrestrial and marine planning and policy initiatives.

Rob Williams

Rob Williams represents the Marine Mammal Research Unit, University of British Columbia. He focuses his research on estimating wildlife abundance and distribution; and assessing impacts of human activities on behaviour and energetics of marine mammals. In particular, he has developed innovative methods to address some of these issues for killer whales in Robson Bight.

