

The First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas

The First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (ICMMPA) was held in Maui (March 30 – April 3, 2009). More than 200 marine mammal scientists, marine protected area (MPA) managers and other experts from 40 countries agreed that this gathering in Hawai'i was long overdue and an extremely valuable exchange of science and management practices, as well as an unprecedented opportunity for networking. Results and recommendations from the event will be presented in a variety of venues, and conference proceedings will be produced and posted on the conference web site. In addition, the meeting attendees made consensus recommendations to the steering committee to continue the momentum built by conference workshops and presentations, in order to address common challenges and share solutions for the management of marine mammals around the globe. All attendees agreed that, while they may pose a particular challenge, highly mobile cetaceans are iconic and an obvious choice for linking marine protected areas.



A traditional Hawaiian blessing and hula opened the conference.

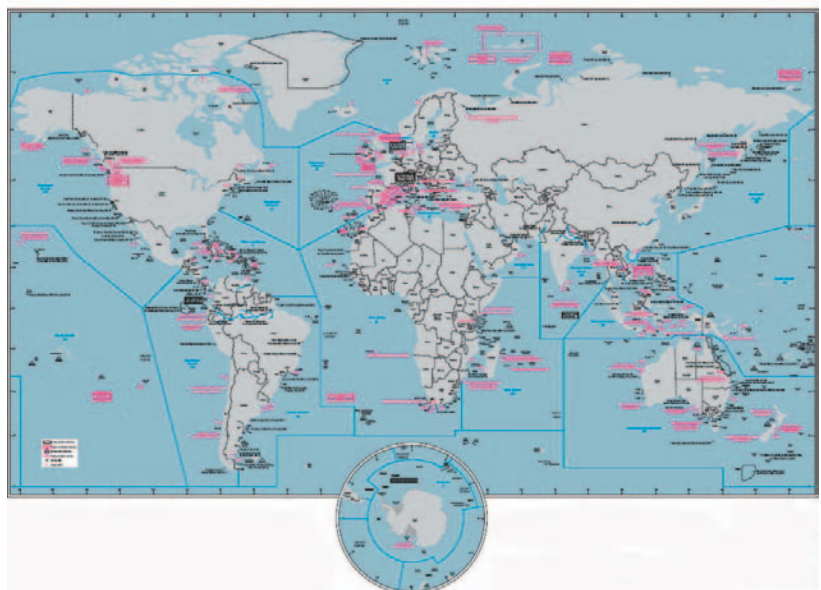
Several major announcements were also made during the event, including the exploration of a bilateral "sister Sanctuary" agreement between NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) and the Komandor Islands State Biosphere Reserve in the Russian Aleutian Islands. Also discussed was an expansion of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' memorandum of agreement with the National Park Service to include a bilateral agreement with Glacier Bay National Park in Alaska and HIHWNMS. In addition the newly formed French Agence des Aires Marines Protégées announced that they would explore hosting the next ICMMPA planned for 2012 and would seek the continued engagement of all interested governments, non-government organizations and individual experts, such as the existing steering committee.



Over 200 people from 40 countries attended the ICMMPA.

"Although there are over 500 existing or proposed Marine Mammal Protected Areas in at least 90 different countries (Hoyt, 2005), the ICMMPA was the first dedicated gathering of marine mammal and MPA experts and practitioners."

*- Naomi McIntosh, HIHWNMS
Sanctuary Superintendent*



STEERING COMMITTEE

Brad Barr (USA), NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), Senior Policy Analyst

Lui Bell (Samoa), SPREP, Marine Species Officer

Arne Bjorge (Norway), Director, Institute of Marine Research, University of Oslo; Chair of IWC-Scientific Committee

Douglas DeMaster (USA), Director of Alaska Fisheries Science Center, US Deputy Commissioner to the IWC

Mike Donoghue (New Zealand), Department of Conservation, International Relations Unit; Alternate Commissioner to IWC; represents NZ at CMS, CCAMLR; South Pacific Whale Research Consortium

Erich Hoyt (Scotland, UK), Senior Research Fellow, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society; Author, Marine Protected Areas for Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises

Miguel Iniguez (Argentina), Fundación Cethus; Alternate Commissioner to IWC

Dave Johnston (USA), Research Scientist, Duke University Marine Laboratory

Michiko Martin (USA), NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Education Coordinator

David Mattila (USA), NOAA ONMS; Science Coordinator HIHWNMS, US delegation to IWC Scientific Committee, Technical adviser, SPREP; Co-chair N. Pacific humpback whale SPLASH Project

Naomi McIntosh (USA), NOAA ONMS; HIHWNMS Sanctuary Superintendent

Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara (Italy), Chair ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee; Deputy Chair, IUCN/SSC Cetacean Specialist Group; IUCN WCPA Marine Regional Coordinator for Mediterranean

José Truda Palazzo, Jr. (Brazil), Alternate Commissioner to the IWC from Brazil

Margi Prideaux (Australia), International Strategic Policy Director, WDCS; CMS-WDCS Programme Leader; Director, Cetacean Conservation

Vincent Ridoux (France), Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins, Head of Delegation IWC Scientific Committee

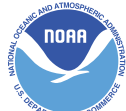
Lorenzo Rojas Bracho (Mexico), Marine Mammal Program Coordinator, Instituto Nacional de Ecología; Head of Delegation to IWC Scientific Committee, Commissioner to IWC from Mexico

Lisa Van Atta (USA), NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office, Protected Resources

SPONSORS

Co-Hosts:

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
NOAA Fisheries, Office of International Affairs



SUPPORTERS

Premiere Level:

Australian Government, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts



Australian Government

**Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts**

Benefactor Level:

The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), International Whaling Commission, Marine Mammal Commission (USA), National Park Service (USA), NOAA Marine Debris Program, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Regional Office, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Protected Resources, NOAA Marine Protected Areas Center, Pacific Whale Foundation, Pelagos Unit in Monaco, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society

Find out more online at www.icmmpa.org