

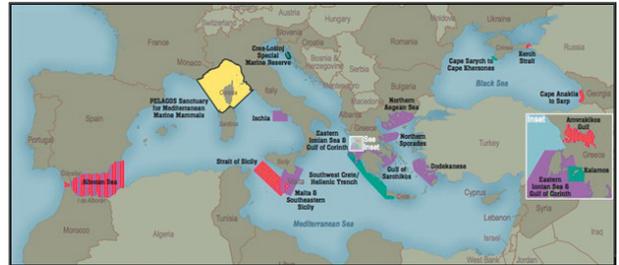


The First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas

PROSPECTUS

INTRODUCTION

Worldwide, more than 375 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have been specifically designated for or include populations of marine mammals (Hoyt, 2005). MPAs have been identified as a critical tool for managing ocean resources, yet their effectiveness is challenged by the highly mobile nature of marine species. Marine mammals may use key habitat within MPA boundaries, but they typically spend significant time elsewhere, often at great distances and in the waters of other countries. The establishment of MPA networks has been proposed as a strategy for managing highly mobile marine mammals (Hoyt, 2005; Notarbartolo di Sciara, 2007). In addition to formal relationships between MPAs, there is also a need for managers charged with protecting marine mammals to improve communication. Most marine mammal MPA practitioners work in isolation in all corners of the world from the Chilean fjords to Pacific islands, often “re-inventing the wheel,” as there has been no effective forum for marine mammal MPA managers, scientists, and educators to share their knowledge and experiences. Recently, an international group of marine mammal and MPA experts formed a steering committee that met in Hawai‘i to address this need. The result is this proposal for the First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas.



Marine Mammal protected areas of ACCOBAMS.

CONCEPT

The primary focus of the First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas will be on highly mobile cetaceans with the theme of “making connections.” This focus will facilitate both the formal and informal connections between MPAs that share common species, populations, threats, and other issues. Presentations on specific themes or issues of common concern will be offered to a broad audience. Training sessions on key topics that practitioners can implement immediately will also be offered on a space available basis. Smaller breakout or invitational workshop sessions will make use of the opportunity to advance key issues of interest to all. While final decisions are being made by the planning committee, the following has been proposed:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Symposium	1/2 DAY	1/2 DAY			1/2 DAY
Panel	X	X			
Workshop			X	X	
Training			X	X	
Field Trip			X	X	
Poster	X	X	X	X	
Video Night			X	X	

Themes and workshops:

- Establishing linkages and maintaining communication between MPAs
- Lessons learned (both successes and failures)
- Tools for establishing, evaluating, and adapting marine mammal MPAs
- The role of research, education, and enforcement
- The role of traditional culture in design and implementation
- The effectiveness of existing and/or possible new international mechanisms for formal coordination
- Marine mammals as sentinel, umbrella, and ambassador species
- The design and implementation of effective management plans

Training sessions:

- Species identification and tools for monitoring populations and human impacts
- Practical tools for developing a management plan
- Fund raising and grant writing to help MPA managers
- Evaluating the effectiveness of educational programs

Co-Hosts:



NOAA's
National Marine
Fisheries Service
Office of
International
Affairs



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES™
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
HUMPBACK WHALE

VENUE AND TIMELINE

NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) will host the conference in partnership with NOAA Fisheries, the State of Hawai'i, and other interested parties. The conference will be held March 29 to April 3, 2009 at the Grand Wailea Resort in Maui, Hawai'i. More information on conference room rates will be available via the conference website.

SCOPE

As the first global event of its type, and in order to truly fulfill its potential, all presentations, workshops, and training sessions will be simultaneously translated. Travel of MPA practitioners from developing countries will also be supported whenever possible. It is estimated that 200-300 participants will attend and close to half will need some travel support. Along with the cost of the venue and other logistics, a target budget of \$500k (US) has been identified, a small portion of which may be recovered in registration fees. This budget is similar to that of an international conference on marine debris that was recently hosted in Hawai'i.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Brad Barr (USA), NOAA-NMSP, 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 AFSC, 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-NMSP; National Education Coordinator

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

Naomi McIntosh (USA), NOAA-NMSP; Director, HIHWNMS

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, Pacific Islands Regional Office, Protected Resources



FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.ICMMPA.org

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NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary
On behalf of the Steering Committee, First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas