CONFERENCE PROGRAM



The Westin Resort **COSTA NAVARINO** Messinia, Greece **April 8 – 12, 2019**

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF ICMMPA





ICMMPA STEERING COMMITTEE

Naomi McIntosh, USA, Chair & Corresponding Officer, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Tundi Agardy, **USA**, Sound Seas

Brad Barr, USA, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Arne Bjorge, Norway, Institute of Marine Research

Douglas DeMaster, USA

Mike Donoghue, New Zealand

Scott Gende, **USA**, National Park Service

Erich Hoyt, UK, Whale and Dolphin Conservation

Miguel Iñíguez, Argentina, Fundación Cethus, Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC)

Phénia Marras – Aït Razouk, France, Agence française pour la biodiversité

Michiko Martin, USA, U.S. Forest Service

David Mattila, USA, Human Impact Reduction IWC

Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, *Italy*, Tethys Research Institute

José Truda Palazzo, Jr., Brazil, Truda Palazzo & Associates

Jorge Urbán Ramírez, Mexico, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur (UABCS)

Vincent Ridoux, *France*, University of La Rochelle

Lorenzo Rojas Bracho, Mexico, Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático (INECC)

Lisa Van Atta, USA, NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region Santa Rosa Office

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THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTED AREAS

The 5th International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas will evaluate the progress made over the last decade to meet ICMMPA's long-standing goal of bringing the MMPA community closer together.

A primary goal of this conference, held for the first time in the Mediterranean, is to focus on the challenges ahead to examine concrete and practical steps towards achieving effective place-based protection and management for marine mammals and to identify a path forward that will lead ICMMPA into its second decade.

Hosting the Conference in Greece will allow representatives from the wider region to participate, helping to build local and regional capacity in marine mammal area-based conservation. The Conference sessions will highlight the ecological uniqueness of the Mediterranean Sea and promote the need to safeguard it with respect to key emerging impacts, while identifying concrete steps towards advancing effective marine mammal conservation in key areas.

We wish to all ICMMPA participants, without which this key endeavor would not have been possible, to have a great ICMMPA5!

> Amalia Alberini Project Manager of ICMMPA5 WWF Greece

WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear ICMMPA5 delegate,

As we celebrate a decade of marine mammal protected areas (MMPA) collaboration, we are pleased to welcome you to the 5th International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas. This is a special occasion which combines the celebration of the ICMMPA's 10th anniversary and its hosting in the Mediterranean for the first time. This year, we will evaluate the progress made over the past ten years to meet the ICMMPA's long-standing goal of bringing the marine mammal scientific community closer together, to achieve greater impact in addressing the significant challenges of our time.

The 5th Conference creates a great opportunity for the global MMPA community to examine the specific challenges that marine mammal conservation is facing, in the light of emerging pressures by human activities, with a special focus on the Mediterranean Sea.

We have decided to join forces in co-hosting and bringing the 5th Conference in Greece, a country with long historical marine mammal heritage, but with limited conservation tradition. While there is an increasing impetus to protected habitats and species at the European level, there is still much to be done to put in place effective area-based management measures and to effectively protect marine mammals in the region, particularly in the eastern Mediterranean basin. Knowledge based tools such as the recent establishment of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) – a key achievement of the ICMMPA - is a first but important step that contributes in communicating the evidence and the need to conserve marine mammals to users and stakeholders, including managers and policy makers.

In April 2019, we will be in Greece to discuss and refine concrete and practical steps that contribute to achieving effective place-based protection and management of marine protected areas for the protection of marine mammals at different scales and geographies, and with a common global theme: "Identifying a path forward for the next decade of MMPAs".

Our hope is that the conference's outcomes will mark the beginning of a new era for the ICMMPA, for the Mediterranean region as well as for the world's oceans, with healthy biodiversity and sustainable human activities.

Sincerely, Demetres Karavellas, Director of WWF Greece Naomi McIntosh, ICMMPA Chair

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CONFERENCE HOSTS

The International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (ICMMPA), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Greece and the Conference Planning Committee have organized the Fifth International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas.





International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas

The ICMMPA is an informal group of international experts dedicated to the conservation of marine mammals and their habitats. Members of ICMMPA (pronounced eye-COM-pa) come from a wide range of geographic regions throughout the world, and possess expertise and experience within the disciplines of marine mammal biology, ecology and the design and management of marine protected areas and other marine planning initiatives. Current members include scientists, representatives of governmental marine resource management agencies, managers of marine mammal protected areas and representatives from non-governmental organizations.

WWF Greece

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Greece was established in 1995, and is the Greek national office of the WWF global network. To achieve its mission, WWF Greece focuses its efforts on safeguarding key biodiversity hotspots, conserving iconic Mediterranean species, reducing lifestyle induced footprint and forging a living economy. We know that one organization alone can't effect the change needed. That is why our work is strongly inclusive of our partnerships with governments and NGOs, local communities and multinational corporations, consumers and researchers.

Conference Planning Committee

The challenging task of formulating the conference theme, deciding on the sessions topics and working with the session conveners to develop the conference program, was shared by the following group of experts, who offered their time and expertise:

- Amalia Alberini, WWF Greece, Greece
- Brad Barr, International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, USA
- Lars Bejder, Marine Mammal Research Program, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA
- Spyros Kotomatas, WWF Greece, Greece
- Naomi McIntosh, International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, USA
- Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, IUCN-Marine Mammal Protected Area Task Force, Italy

GENERAL INFORMATION

Conference Venue

The 5th International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas will be held April 8 – 12, 2019 at the Costa Navarino Westin Resort and House of Events in Navarino Dunes, Costa Navarino, Messinia, Greece.

Registration Desk

The registration desk will be located at the Foyer of the Costa Navarino House of Events and will be open the following times: Sunday 7 April: 18.30 - 20:00 Monday 8 April: 8:00 - 8:30 Tuesday 9 April: 8:00 - 8:30 Wednesday 10 April: 8:00 - 8:30 Thursday 11 April: 8:00 - 8:30

Dress Standards

The recommended dress standard throughout the conference is casual.

Name Badges

All delegates, sponsors, exhibitors and speakers will be issued with a name badge at registration. Admittance to all sessions and social functions included in the registration fee will require presentation of your badge.

Conference Meals

Lunch will be served at the corridors outside Orion. The open space in the Agora of the House of Events and the tables of Da Luigi restaurant will be available for anyone who wants to sit outside.

Car Parking & Transport

Free parking is available at the hotel. Costa Navarino is easily accessible by road from Athens, with a driving distance of 280km (174mi) to Navarino. You can explore and enjoy more of Messinia by renting a car. You may contact the resort to find out more about car rental special rates for guests.

Private transportation is available from/to Athens International Airport and Kalamata International Airport.

Healthcare

Kalamata Hospital (T: +30 27210 46000) Pylos Health Center (T: +30 27230 22315) Kyparissia Health Center (T: 27610 24051)

Banks & Post Offices

Most nearby villages and all neighboring towns have banks and post offices. ATMs are also available within the Costa Navarino resorts. ATMs accept most international bank cards.

Conference Organizer

AKTINA Travel Group, Greece Email: info@aktinatravelgroup.com Web: http://www.aktinatravelgroup.com/

Onsite Contact

ICMMPA Green Initiative

ICMMPA recognizes the importance of preserving our natural resources for the benefit of our future environment. It is our mission to actively minimize our eco-footprint by finding ways to use energy and materials more efficiently. The following initiatives have been actioned toward a more sustainable conference:

- Reuse and recycling of packaging materials
- Electronic distribution of information to delegates including but not limited to the conference handbook
- Receiving electronic invoices and other business documents from suppliers whenever possible

• Business records are digitized to minimize hard copy document storage

Choice of Venue

Messinia is a region with one of the highest biodiversity ratings in Europe, in terms of both species and ecosystems. It is neighboring to the Calypso Deep, located in the Ionian Sea south-west of Pylos, Greece, which is the deepest part of the Mediterranean Sea, with a maximum depth of 5,267 m (17,280 ft) and serves as a hotspot for marine mammals in the eastern Mediterranean. Sustainability is embedded in the development concept of Costa Navarino; not only as a fundamental design factor, but also as a guiding principle that determines the development's actions from the planning phase through to the construction and operation of this new sustainable destination. For this purpose, Costa Navarino allocated more than 10% of the 550 million Euro budget for the first development phase to create the necessary infrastructure for sustainable operation. The preservation of biodiversity and the protection of the ecologically important habitats surrounding Costa Navarino is a key element of the development.

Disclaimer: The information presented in this book is correct at the time of publication.

OPENING SPEECHES

Monday April 8, 8:30 - 9:35

HSH Prince Albert II Monaco, Founder and President of Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

Karmenu Vella (video message), Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

Greek Officials (TBC)

Marco Lambertini, Director of WWF International

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Naomi McIntosh & Brad Barr





"Celebrating a Decade of MMPA Collaboration: identifying a path forward"

Monday April 8, 09:45 - 10:30, Meeting room Orion

Naomi McIntosh has worked with NOAA since 1994. Her current position as senior programs and policy advisor is with NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Papah? naumoku?kea Marine National Monument. Her work with NOAA focuses on addressing common and important issues to help protect important marine habitats through collaborative programs and partnerships. She is the Chair of the International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas and a member of the IUCN SSC-WPCA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force. In her previous positions with NOAA, she served as a senior advisor for regional and international programs and policy for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Pacific Islands Region and as the Superintendent of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (2003 – 2010). She has experience in marine resource protection, research and monitoring, education and outreach, media relations and community engagement in marine protected area management. She has a B.A. in Psychology and a Certificate of Completion in Environmental Studies from the University of Hawaii.

For more than four decades, **Brad Barr** has been actively engaged as a practitioner in the governmental side of marine and coastal protected areas management and preservation. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees at the Universities of Maine and Massachusetts, and his PhD from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. For the past 11 years, he has served as Visiting Faculty at the University Center of the Westfjords in Ísafjör∂ur, Iceland, teaching courses on marine protected areas, preservation of underwater cultural heritage resources, and Arctic Ocean governance. He is also an Affiliate Professor at the University of New Hampshire School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering, and has taught graduate courses at the World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden. He is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, serves on the IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force, and is a founding member of the International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas. He has published extensively on research focused on marine protected areas science and management, the identification and management of ocean wilderness, and place-based whaling heritage preservation.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Amalia Alberini & Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara





"Striving to conserve the seas and their life in a changing world: a dialogue across generations"

Tuesday April 9, 08:30 - 09:00, Meeting room Orion

Amalia Alberini has fairly recently joined the marine mammal conservation community as a young active advocate for environmental protection. She has a strong science background, while she has acquired experience in various disciplines including communications, education, field research, in situ conservation, and policy. She holds a BSc in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics at the University of Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris IV, France, and a MSc in Marine and Coastal Environmental Management at Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University in USA. Amalia has been close to the WWF Greece team since 2015 and today she is coordinating the 5th ICMMPA and is a member of the conference planning committee. At WWF Greece, she is a member of the marine program team, specializing in cetacean conservation in Greece. She loves spending time outdoors and becomes restless in large conferences!

Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara is a marine conservation ecologist with a PhD in marine biology from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego (1985). Founded in 1986 the Tethys Research Institute in Milano. Spearheaded the creation of the world's first high-seas marine protected area, the Pelagos Sanctuary, established in 1999 by a treaty amongst Italy, France and Monaco. He has served from 1999-2004 as the Italian Commissioner at the International Whaling Commission, and from 2002-2010 as Chair of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS. He has taught science and policy of the conservation of marine biodiversity at the University Statale of Milan from 2007 to 2016. Currently he is the CMS CoP-appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals (since 2014); Co-Chair of the IUCN Task Force on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (since 2013); and Deputy Chair, IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group (since 1997). For more details: www.disciara.org.

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Demetres Karavellas



"Valuing marine mammals through the centuries: a feasible goal or a Herculean feat?"

Wednesday April 10, 08:30 - 09:00, Meeting room Orion

Demetres Karavellas is a conservation leader who has worked with WWF in various posts for twenty five years. He has been active in the field and on key policy issues linked to natural resources, conservation of species and critical habitats, climate change and sustainable development, at national, regional and global level. He is the CEO of WWF Greece and is presently also chairing the WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative, a concerted network wide effort to conserve the valuable marine and coastal ecosystems and promote a sustainable blue economy for the region. He is also a member of the SDSN Leadership Council of Greece. He holds a BSc in Marine Biology from Queen Mary University and an MSc in Fisheries Biology & Management from Bangor University. He has a passion for the sea and has explored many marine sites around the world, but feels most at home in the waters of the Aegean Sea.



Claudio Campagna

"The mysterious language that bridges species with spaces"

Thursday April 11, 08:30 - 09:00, Meeting room Orion

Dr. Claudio Campagna works for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). He is Adjunct Professor at the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and invited research scholar at the Department of Philosophy at UCSC. He has an MD from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and a PhD in Biology from UCSC. He has been a field scientist working in Patagonia since the 1980, first on the behavior of marine mammals and then on conservation. Claudio founded the Forum of NGOs for the conservation of the Patagonian Sea, and has been member of Steering Committees of many conservation organizations, such as the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN, where he is also served as co-Chair of the Marine Subcommittee. In practicing nature conservation, he realized the importance of the discourse in shaping interventions. Since then, Claudio has been attempting to bring closer to conservation practitioners insights developed by philosophers such as Ludwig Wittgenstein, Philippa Foot and Michael Thompson. He divides his efforts between reflecting on the language of conservation, a project of the UCSC Center for Public Philosophy, in collaboration with Dr. Daniel Guevara, Chair of the Philosophy Department, and creating marine parks to protect biodiversity.

SATURDAY APRIL 6TH

Preconference Workshop

(by invitation only)

08:30-10:30	Pre-conference Workshop (by invitation only) A Joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop to evaluate how the data and process used to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) can assist the IWC to identify areas of high risk for ship strike Location: History
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-13:00	Pre-conference Workshop (by invitation only) A Joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop to evaluate how the data and process used to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) can assist the IWC to identify areas of high risk for ship strike (Continues) <i>Location: History</i>
13:00-14:15	Lunch
14:15-16:00	Pre-conference Workshop (by invitation only) A Joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop to evaluate how the data and process used to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) can assist the IWC to identify areas of high risk for ship strike (Continues) <i>Location: History</i>
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-18:30	Pre-conference Workshop (by invitation only) A Joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop to evaluate how the data and process used to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) can assist the IWC to identify areas of high risk for ship strike (Continues) Location: History

SUNDAY APRIL 7TH

08:30-10:30	Pre-conference Workshop (by invitation only) A Joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop to evaluate how the data and process used to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) can assist the IWC to identify areas of high risk for ship strike Location: History
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-13:00	Pre-conference Workshop (by invitation only) A Joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop to evaluate how the data and process used to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) can assist the IWC to identify areas of high risk for ship strike (Continues) Location: History
13:00-14:15	Lunch
14:15-16:00	Pre-conference Workshop (by invitation only) A Joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop to evaluate how the data and process used to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) can assist the IWC to identify areas of high risk for ship strike (Continues) Location: History
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-18:30	Pre-conference Workshop (by invitation only) A Joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop to evaluate how the data and process used to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) can assist the IWC to identify areas of high risk for ship strike (Continues) Location: History
18:30 - 20:00	Registration
20:00 - 22:00	Opening event Location: Anax

MONDAY APRIL 8TH

Main Conference

08:00-08:30	Registration
08:30-09:35	Opening speeches: HSH Prince Albert II Monaco, Founder and President of Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation Karmenu Vella (video message), Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission Greek Officials (TBC) Marco Lambertini, Director of WWF International <i>Location: Orion</i>
09:45-10:30	Keynote speech 1 Naomi McIntosh & Brad Barr. "Celebrating a Decade of MMPA Collaboration: identifying a path forward" Location: Orion
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-13:00	Workshop 1 The Inspiring Story of the Monk Seal – a critical assessment for the future in view of new challenges from increasing/expanding populations <i>Location: Orion</i>
	Workshop 2 Towards building a global networking mechanism of MPA managers & practitioners: Promoting ecological solidarity <i>Location: History</i>
13:00-14:15	Lunch*
14:15-16:00	Workshop 1 The Inspiring Story of the Monk Seal – a critical assessment for the future in view of new challenges from increasing/expanding populations (Continues) <i>Location: Orion</i>
	Workshop 2 Towards building a global networking mechanism of MPA managers & practitioners: Promoting ecological solidarity (Continues) <i>Location: History</i>
	Workshop 3 Mitigating the impact of shipping on cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea: Opening the dialog in search of feasible solutions Location: Astronomy / Synergy
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-18:30	Workshop 3 Mitigating the impact of shipping on cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea: Opening the dialog in search of feasible solutions (Continues) Location: Astronomy / Synergy
19:30-21:00	Side event 1 Supporting cetacean conservation in the Mediterranean (by invitation only) <i>Location: History</i>

*Offered by the National Operational Programme for Fisheries and Maritime of the Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Foods

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TUESDAY APRIL 9TH

08:00	Registration	
08:30-09:00	Keynote speech 2 Amalia Alberini & Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara "Striving to conserve the seas and their life in a changing world: a dialogue across generations" <i>Location: Orion</i>	
9:00-10:30	Panel 1 Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs): Transiting from Science to Management <i>Location: Orion</i>	
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-13:00	Panel 2 Oil and gas exploration in key marine mammal habitats: emerging challenges Location: Orion	
13:00-14:15	Lunch	
13.00-13.15	Lunch Short talk The WWF Global Cetacean Initiative: Enabling WWF and partners to do more for cetaceans. Location: Orion	
14:15-16:00	Knowledge Café 1 Next step for the managing of whale watching activities How to move from a voluntary commitment to an effective regulation? <i>Location: Logic</i>	
	Workshop 4 The identification of new ACCOBAMS Critical Cetacean Habitats (CCH): a collaborative threat-based management approach <i>Location: History</i>	
	Workshop 5 Conflict resolution in coastal MMPAs: focus on interactions between marine mammals and small-scale fisheries <i>Location: Astronomy</i>	
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	
16:30-18:30	Workshop 4 The identification of new ACCOBAMS Critical Cetacean Habitats (CCH): a collaborative threat-based management approach (Continues) <i>Location: History</i>	
	Workshop 5 Conflict resolution in coastal MMPAs: focus on interactions between marine mammals and small-scale fisheries (Continues) <i>Location: Astronomy</i>	
19:00-20:00	Side event 2 REMMOA large scale aerial surveys Location: Astronomy	

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10TH

08:00	Registration	
08:30-09:00	Keynote speech 3 Demetres Karavellas "Valuing marine mammals through the centuries: a feasible goal or a Herculean feat?" <i>Location: Orion</i>	
09:00-10:30	Panel 3 Conservation, controversy and courage in the Upper Gulf of California: fighting the vaquita vortex <i>Location</i> : Orion	
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-13:00	Panel 4 Beaked whale strandings: effect of underwater noise to marine mammals and the role of Protected Areas <i>Location: History</i>	
~~~~~~	Workshop 6 Improve enforcement and compliance within MMPAs - Can new technologies support effective management? Location: Astronomy	
13:00-14:15	Lunch	
14:15-16:00	Workshop 7 The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI): lessons learnt and future plans <i>Location: Astronomy</i>	
	Workshop 8 Incorporating marine mammal conservation needs in MPA management plans Location: History	
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	
16:30-18:30	Workshop 7 The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI): lessons learnt and future plans (Continues) <i>Location: Astronomy</i>	
	Workshop 8 Incorporating marine mammal conservation needs in MPA management plans (Continues) <i>Location: History</i>	

### THURSDAY APRIL 11TH

08:00	Registration	
08:30-09:00	Keynote speech 4 Claudio Campagna "The mysterious language that bridges species with spaces"" Location: Orion	
09:00-10:30	Panel 5 MMPAs in the Polar Regions: Habitat identification and protection in the presence of emerging threats and transformative change <i>Location: Orion</i>	
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-13:00	Workshop 9 Co-Management: Improving the governance and management effectiveness of MMPAs by empowering and actively involving stakeholders (with pre-registration) <i>Location: History</i> Workshop 10	
	Marine Mammals and MSP in the Context of Blue Growth Location: Astronomy	
13:00-14:15	Lunch	
14:15-16:00	Workshop 9 Co-Management: Improving the governance and management effectiveness of MMPAs by empowering and actively involving stakeholders (with pre-registration) (Continued) Location: History	
	Workshop 10 Marine Mammals and MSP in the Context of Blue Growth (Continues) <i>Location: Astronomy</i>	
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	
16:30-18:30	Round Table 1 IUCN MMPA Task Force Regional Groups First Informal Summit <i>Location: Logic</i>	
	Round Table 2 Creative models for sustainable financing of MMPAs Location: History	
18:30-19:15	Knowledge Café 2 Mini-Colloquium: The mysterious language that bridges species with spaces Location: Logic	
20:30-23:30	Closing event	

### FRIDAY APRIL 12TH

8:30-10:30	Panel 6 Presentation of sessions' key outputs Location: Orion
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10:30-11:00	Coffee break
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11:00-13:00	IUCN MMPA Task Force Meeting Closed meeting Location: Logic

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### Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs): Transiting from Science to Management

#### Tuesday April 9, 09:00 - 10:30, Meeting Room Orion

#### Conveners:

- Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force and Tethys, Italy
- Erich Hoyt, IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force and Whale and Dolphin Conservation, UK

#### **Session Overview:**

This panel will introduce the challenges the IMMA programme, as managed by the IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force (MMPA TF), is facing as it begins to address implementation of the growing IMMA regional map. Why is it so difficult to transition from science to management? What are the possibilities for using IMMAs as a spatial design and management tool for marine protected areas and other conservation actions? The Task Force has engaged in on-the-ground implementation exercises in Palau and in the Andaman Islands, and organized a workshop looking at the value of overlapping selected threats such as marine traffic and seismic survey concession blocks with the IMMA map for the Mediterranean. The Andaman Islands and Slovenia will be presented as case studies and the potential for problem-oriented implementation using the IMMA map will be discussed.

#### **Session Objectives:**

• Explore strategies for implementing IMMAs and expanding their use and value for conservation.

#### **Speakers:**

- Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force and Tethys, Italy
- Erich Hoyt, IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force and Whale and Dolphin Conservation, UK

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- Dipani Sutaria, Save our Seas Foundation, India
- Tilen Genov, Morigenos, Slovenia
- David Mattila, International Whaling Commission, USA
- Jon Day, James Cook University, Australia
- Vedran Nicolic, European Commission, DG Environment

### Oil And Gas Exploration In Key Marine Mammal Habitats: Emerging Challenges

This session is supported by WWF Greece

#### Tuesday April 9, 11:00 - 13:00, Meeting Room Orion

#### Conveners:

- Tundi Agardy, Sound Seas, USA
- Dimitris Ibrahim, WWF Greece, Greece

#### **Session Overview:**

This session, organized by WWF Greece, in collaboration with international experts, aims to bring together different stakeholders (scientific community, civil society, tourism industry and decision makers from the European, national and local level), to discuss the importance and ways on how to protect endangered cetacean populations from O & G impacts, one of the main major threats identified worldwide. The impacts of hydrocarbons exploration and exploitation on cetaceans will be presented to demonstrate the necessity of protecting key cetacean areas from hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation. A number of global examples will be showcased in which O & G development plans in cetacean hot spot areas have been overturned. This special session will focus on the Hellenic Trench-an area that has iconic habitats with threatened species, such as sperm whales, Cuvier beaked whales, bottlenose dolphins, and monk seals that will be massively impacted if current O & G plans materialize. During the session key challenges and opportunities of the change process to overturn current and future O&G plans will be identified. The output of the session will be the adoption of a draft resolution/declaration in support the protection of cetaceans from O & G developments in the Hellenic Trench by the plenary of ICMMPA.

#### **Session Objectives:**

- To bring to the international spotlight to the potential impacts of hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation to cetaceans in the Hellenic Trench.
- To build political momentum and mount political pressure to change the current government policies and industry plans.
- To establish a network of credible and outspoken voices from Greece and worldwide against hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation in Greece

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- Tundi Agardy, Sound Seas, USA
- Natacha Aguilar, Universidad de La Laguna, Canary Islands, Spain
- Dimitris Ibrahim, WWF Greece, Greece
- Alexandros Frantzis, Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, Greece
- Carlos Bravos, Allianza Mar Blava, Spain
- Jon Day, James Cook University, Australia
- Nicolas Entrup, Ocean Care, Switzerland

### Conservation, Controversy And Courage In The Upper Gulf Of California: Fighting The Vaquita Vortex

This session is sponsored by the Marisla Foundation

#### Wednesday April 10, 09:00 - 10:30, Meeting Room Orion

#### Conveners:

- Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho, Instituto Nacional de Ecologia y Cambio Climatico, Mexico
- Frances Gulland, Marine Mammal Center, USA

#### **Session Overview:**

The vaquita (Phocoena sinus) is the most critically endangered marine mammal species. Despite serious efforts by the government of Mexico to prevent its extinction, the vaquita population has continued to decline at a high rate. The international recovery team (CIRVA—Comité Internacional para la Recuperación de la Vaquita) has reiterated for years that if vaquitas are to survive, bycatch has to be reduced to zero and to achieve this there has to be an effective, permanent ban of all gillnets within the range of vaquitas, including the illegal ones used for the fishery of totoaba. Between 1997 and 2008 vaquitas declined by more than 50% with legal gillnet fisheries. Since 2011 and the resumption of illegal totoaba fishing the decline accelerated to over 40% per year despite increased legal protections and expanding the protected areas. Current population size is well less than 30 animals.

In this session we review the vaquita's biology, the impact of legal and illegal fisheries on its populations status, and the conservation actions to prevent its extinction, including the marine protected areas decreed, the attempt to bring them under human care (Vaquita CPR), what has failed and what lessons have we learned that might be of use to conservation of other critically endangered marine mammal species. It is worth emphasizing that vaquitas and river dolphins are apparently good candidates for protected areas since they have naturally small ranges and are non-migratory. Nevertheless, the only known extinction of a small cetacean occurred despite legally protected areas and vaquitas are close to the same fate raising questions about how to achieve effective protection.

#### **Session Objectives:**

• To critically assess the recovery efforts to save the vaquita and to draw key lessons learned that might be of use in the conservation efforts of other critically endangered marine mammal species.

- Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho, Instituto Nacional de Ecologia y Cambio Climatico, Mexico
- Frances Gulland, Marine Mammal Center
- Sarah Mesnick, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Armando Jaramillo-Legorreta, Coordinación de Investigación y Conservación de Mamíferos Marinos, Instituto Nacional de Ecología, Mexico
- Jorge Urban, Autonomous University of Baja California Sur, Mexico



### PANEL 4

### Beaked Whale Strandings: Effect Of Underwater Noise To Marine Mammals And The Role Of Protected Areas

#### Wednesday April 10, 11:00 - 13:00, Meeting Room History

#### Conveners:

- Miguel Iniguez Bessega, Fundación Cethus, Argentina and WDC
- Alexandros Frantzis, Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, Greece

#### **Session Overview:**

The family Ziphiidae is one of the most wide-ranging families of cetaceans, occurring from the ices edges at both poles, to the equator in all the world's oceans. However, of the 21 beaked whales species recognized, some of them are only known from less than 20 records or the occasional rare sightings at sea.

These species seems to show an extreme sensitivity to loud sounds, such as naval sonar and seismic surveys, which has caused an increase in the number of stranding events in regions such as the Mediterranean Sea (specially Greece), the Canary Island, the Southwest Atlantic, New Zealand, Japan, Puerto Rico and Bahamas among others.

Marine Protected Areas are known to play a key role in conservation. The main question is how protected areas could help to reduce or mitigate the effects of underwater noise on beaked whales.

#### **Session Objectives:**

- Evaluate the main threats for beaked whales
- Identify measures of mitigation
- Establish the role of protected areas for beaked whales
- Make recommendations to protect beaked whales..

- Miguel Iniguez Bessega, Fundación Cethus, Argentina and Whale and Dolphin Conservation, UK
- Alexandros Frantzis, Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, Greece
- Antonio Fernandez, Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain
- Erich Hoyt, IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force and Whale and Dolphin Conservation, UK
- Natacha Aguilar, Universidad de La Laguna, Canary Islands, Spain
- Nicolas Entrup, Ocean Care, Switzerland

### MMPA's In The Polar Regions: Habitat Identification And Protection In The Presence Of Emerging Threats And Transformative Change

This session is sponsored by the WWF Arctic Program

#### Thursday April 11, 09:30 - 11:00, Meeting Room Orion

#### Conveners:

- Brad Barr, International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, USA
- Melanie Lancaster, WWF Arctic Program, Canada

#### **Session Overview:**

The session will attempt to address the challenges for effective conservation of Polar marine mammal populations, and particularly the need for identifying and establishing MMPAs, and networks of protected areas, to facilitate and enhance this much-needed focused management framework in these regions. To accomplish this the following elements will be addressed through the presentations and panel discussion:

- existing status of marine mammals in the Polar Regions and emerging threats resulting from climate change and concomitant expanding human use
- existing and potential frameworks and tools for the development of protected areas and circumpolar networks of protected areas in the Arctic and Antarctic, their relevance to conserving threatened marine mammal populations and their critical habitats, and the status of these initiatives.
- the recent identification of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) in the Southern Ocean, the implications of this work for establishing MMPAs and networks of MMPAS, and lessons learned that might help guide and inform the process of identification of IMMAs in the Arctic.

#### **Session Objectives:**

- To expand awareness of the issue of providing effective conservation and management of marine mammals in the Polar regions
- To explore the potential for identifying and establishing individual and networks of MMPAs to provide a place-focused, precautionary management framework for achieving this goal, and the significant challenges facing this implementation
- To highlight the work of the IUCN MMPATF in their efforts to identify IMMAs for the Southern Ocean, the importance of this effort in supporting the robust identification of critical marine mammal habitat areas in this "data poor" region, how this might be critical information facilitating the establishment of MMPAs and networks of MMPAs, and lessons learned of relevance to identifying IMMAs in the Arctic
- To advance the idea of holding the 6th ICMMPA somewhere in the far North (or South) with a focus on these regions and issues as a Conference theme.

- Brad Barr, International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, USA
- Melanie Lancaster, WWF Arctic Program, Canada
- Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, IUCN-MMPA Task Force

### **Presentation Of Sessions' Key Outputs**

#### Friday April 12, 08:30 - 10:30, Meeting Room Orion

#### Conveners:

- Naomi McIntosh, International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, USA
- Lars Bejder, Marine Mammal Research Program, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA

#### **Session Overview:**

In this session the conveners of all conference sessions will present at the plenary the key results and outputs produced in their respective sessions.

#### **Session Objectives:**

- To disseminate to the ICMMPA community of practice the results and outputs of the conference
- To discuss on the key issues that emerged during the conference towards achieving effective place-based protection and management for marine mammals and on the path forward of the ICMMPA into its second.

Speakers: All sessions' conveners.



### The Inspiring Story of the Monk Seal – a critical assessment for the future in view of new challenges from increasing/ expanding populations

This session benefits from the support of the Prince Albert of Monaco II Foundation

#### Monday April 8, 11:00 - 16:00, Meeting Room Orion

#### Conveners:

- Manel Gazo, SUBMON, Spain
- Joan Gonzalvo, Tethys, Italy
- Harun Guclusoy, Dokuz Eylül University, Turkey
- Giulia Mo, Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), Italy

#### Session Overview:

Up until recently the Mediterranean and Hawaiian monk seals, the two extant monk seal species, separated by thousands of miles and millions of years of evolutionary history, sat precariously on the edge of extinction until efforts were made to facilitate their recovery. But the encouraging results achieved up to date do not warrant complacency, as the conservation of both species is not yet consolidated for the long-term. ICMMPA5 will bring together the monk seal communities of practice to exchange ideas, facilitate networking and promote collaboration across the oceans. Reflecting upon the conservation efforts and the creative solutions required to overcome current and emerging threats for the species can provide useful insights for the future.

#### **Session Objectives:**

The planned session aims at bringing together monk seal experts, conservationists, and policy makers from around the globe in a workshop setting to:

- facilitate cooperation amongst monk seal researchers and conservation practitioners around the globe
- assess the current ecological needs and the threats faced by the Mediterranean monk seal in view of the new challenges stemming from increasing or expanding populations
- discuss and contribute to the revision of the UN-MAP RAC-SPA Regional Conservation Strategy, towards implementing key priority actions for the Mediterranean monk seal in a coordinated manner at the global scale.
- identify the key elements and prerequisites that would promote the long-term sustainability of the conservation efforts and ensure impactful results.

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- Pablo Fernandez de Larrinoa, Fundación CBD-Habitat, Spain
- Rosa Pires, Parque Natural da Madeira, Portugal
- Panos Dendrinos, MOm, Greece
- Giulia Mo, Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA), Italy
- Joan Gonzalvo, Tethys, Italy
- Charles Littnan, NOAA, USA
- Cem Orkun Kıraç, SAD-AFAG, Turkey
- Meltem Ok, Middle Eastern Technical Unibersity, Turkey
- Melina Markou, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Research, Cyprus

# Towards building a global networking mechanism of MPA managers & practitioners: Promoting ecological solidarity

#### Monday April 8, 11:00 - 16:00, Meeting Room History

#### Conveners:

- Puri Canals, MedPAN & TransAtlantic MPA Network
- Susan Gallon, MedPAN
- Phénia MARRAS, French Biodiversity Agency

#### **Session Overview:**

Marine mammals depend on critical habitats throughout their seasonal movements, including breeding and foraging sites as well as the pathways between them. An efficient network of MPAs could contribute to their long term conservation by facilitating the implementation of management and conservation measures in key habitats of their life cycle, thus ensuring coherent management and strengthening ecological solidarity. During this workshop, the marine mammals protected areas (MMPA) managers from the Mediterranean sea, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic ocean will highlight how MMPA networks provide and organize their activities in every region. We will then focus on the prominence of MMPA managers networks and their capacity to mutualize means for sites management, although they enable a multiplier effect of key messages and common actions for MMPA policies implementation at several scales, from local to regional, national and macro-regional levels. The final discussion will address the aims and means in connecting at global level MMPA managers networks from different seas and oceans.

#### **Session Objectives:**

- Highlight the role of networks of managers to exchange best practices and experiences between MMPA and MPA managers on issues related to addressing marine mammal conservation needs
- Develop potential common activities & tools to promote linkages between MPAs within regional MPA networks
- Identify potential tools and fora to link MMPA and MPA networks at a global scale
- Examine international regulation tools to support and develop ecologically representative and connected system of MPAs
- Identify aims and means to enhance the sustainability and improve global networking mechanisms of MPA managers & practitioners

- Alain Barcelo, Port-Cros National Park, France
- Laurent Sourbes, MedPAN, France
- Gérald Mannaerts, Agoa Sanctuary, French Biodiversity Agency (AFB), France
- Jeffrey Bernus, Agoa sanctuary, French Biodiversity Agency (AFB), France
- Valentina Cappanera, Portofino MPA, Silvia Visca WWF Italia, Italy
- Puri Canals, MedPAN & TransAtlantic MPA Network, France
- Stéphanie Sorby, University of La Réunion, Reunion Island
- Constanza Favilli, Pelagos Sanctuary, Italy



### Mitigating the impact of shipping on cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea: Opening the dialog in search of feasible solutions

#### Monday April 8, 14:15 - 18:30, Meeting Room Astronomy / Synergy

#### Convener:

#### • Amalia Alberini, WWF Greece, Greece

#### **Session Overview:**

The Mediterranean is one of the most highly navigated seas worldwide, accounting for 30% of the global merchant shipping, while representing only 0.8% of the oceans' surface. At the same time, the Mediterranean is a hotspot of biodiversity, including marine mammals. At any moment, there are approximately 2,000 merchant vessels of over 100 tons in the Mediterranean, totaling 200,000 vessels crossing it annually, while the fin whale population is estimated at approximately 3,000 individuals. In the case of the Mediterranean Sea, several regional organizations work together towards mitigating shipping impacts to marine mammals. Despite efforts in providing scientific advice to the shipping industry, the shipping industry has not been involved in the design and decision-making process of establishing management measures contributing to the reduction of marine mammal interactions linked to maritime transportation activities.

An open discussion will be conducted actively engaging scientists, MMPA managers, and conservationists with shipping community members and policy makers in relation to possible mitigation measures to vessel related impacts addressing the cases of key Mediterranean areas (Pelagos, Balearics, and Hellenic Trench) and examining the feasibility of such measures. During the session, worldwide experience in working with the industry will be presented to provide lessons learned and guidance from best practices from key areas where mitigation measures have been successfully implemented. Additionally, the outcomes resulting from the IWC/IUCN/ACCOBAMSMMPA pre-conference workshop to investigate how such measures could be implemented in practice in hot spot areas (Important Marine Mammal Areas), the potential challenges encountered, and the opportunities that a multi-stakeholder cooperation approach could bring to mitigate shipping interactions to marine mammals will be presented and discussed.

#### **Session Objectives:**

- To develop feasible proposals for mitigating the interactions of shipping with marine mammals in the key Mediterranean areas examined
- To enhance the development and implementation of shipping mitigation measures through the active involvement of industry representatives that have already implemented shipping impact mitigation measures in high density marine mammal areas around the world.

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- Linwood Pendleton, WWF International
- Rochelle Constantine, University of Auckland, New Zealand
- Alexandros Frantzis, Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, Greece
- Thea Jacob, WWF France, France
- Russell Leaper, International Fund for Animal Welfare, UK
- David Matilla, International Whaling Commission
- Greg Silber, USA
- Simone Panigada, Tethys, Italy
- Denis Ody, WWF France, France
- Dave Wiley, Stellwagen Bank NMS, NOAA, USA
- Vedran Nicolic, European Commission, Belgium
- Stephanie Sorby, University of Reunion Island, Reunion Island



### The identification of new ACCOBAMS Critical Cetacean Habitats (CCH): a collaborative threat-based management approach

This session is organized and sponsored by the Agreement for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and adjacent Atlantic waters-ACCOBAMS

#### Tuesday April 9, 14:15 - 18:30, Meeting Room History

Conveners: Léa David, Eco-Ocean

#### **Session Overview:**

The aim of this session is to present the ongoing ACCOBAMS threat-based management approach which incorporates the concepts of both Cetacean Critical Habitats (CCH) and Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) and to propose appropriate management tools and mitigation measures.

For an appropriate management of main human activities in the ACCOBAMS area, main resulting threats for cetaceans will be presented as well as examples of existing legislative framework and proposed mitigation measures in some specific areas with their strengths and weaknesses.

Recommendations of the workshop will assist the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat in providing the Countries with advices on targeted and effective conservation measures.

#### **Session Objectives:**

This approach, which will allow the identification of new CCH, assists in providing the Countries with advice on targeted and effective conservation measures including:

- designation of new (or the extension of existing) MPAs with appropriate focused management actions;
- zoning within existing MPAs;
- corridors between MPAs;
- threat-specific mitigation measures for application throughout the region (shipping or noise directives, e.g., through IMO, impacts with fisheries) during marine spatial planning processes.

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- Maylis Salivas, ACCOBAMS Secretariat, Monaco
- Léa David, Eco-Ocean, France
- Aurélie Moulins, CIMA Research Foundation, Italy
- Simone Panigada, ASI Scientific Coordinator, Tethys Research Institute, Italy
- Alessio Maglio, SINAY, France
- Mailys Salivas, ACCOBAMS Secretariat, Monaco
- Ibrahim Ben Amer, UNEP/MPA-RAC/SPA, Tunis
- Julie Belmont, ACCOBAMS Secretariat, Monaco
- Pauline Gauffier, Conservación, Información y Estudio sobre Cetáceos, Spain
- Ayaka Öztürk Amaha, Istanbul University, Turkey
- Fabrizio Atzori, Marine Protected Area of Capo Carbonara, Italy



### **Conflict resolution in coastal MMPAs:** focus on interactions between marine mammals and small-scale fisheries

This session is supported by the project "Transforming Small Scale Fisheries" of WWF Greece

#### Tuesday April 9, 14:15 - 18:30, Meeting Room Astronomy

#### Conveners:

- Arne Bjørge, Institute of Marine Research, Norway
- Spyros Kotomatas, WWF Greece, Greece

#### **Session Overview:**

The interactions between marine mammals with fisheries (in the form of depredation, bycatch, accidental entanglements, deliberate killings, etc.), especially small scale fisheries, is one of the key threats with great impact on the conservations of numerous marine mammal species around the globe. This session will highlight the problem and present successful conservation initiatives and case studies from around the world on the following key areas of intervention:

- Area based fishery management measures (within and beyond MPAs)
- Technical measures to minimize by catch and/or depredation through the use of alternative gear
- Compensatory schemes
- Developing alternative livelihoods for fishermen

#### **Session Objectives:**

- To assess the effectiveness of such mitigation measures to resolve conflicts and in achieving co-existence of marine mammals and small scale fisheries
- To develop recommendations on effectively implementing mitigation measures in the above areas of intervention

- Arne Bjorge, Institute of Marine Research, Norway
- Vagelis Paravas, Expert consultant, Greece
- Spyros Kotomatas, WWF Greece, Greece
- Gianna Minton, International Whaling Commission and Coordinator of the WWF Global Cetacean Initiative, WWF International, UK
- Umair Shahid, WWF Mozambique, Pakistan
- Sarah Mesnick, NOAA, USA
- Tim Collins, Whale Conservation Society, UK (TBC)



### Improve enforcement and compliance within MMPAs -Can new technologies support effective management?

#### Wednesday April 10, 11:00 - 10:00, Meeting Room Astronomy

#### Conveners:

- Lars Bejder, Marine Mammal Research Program, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA
- Spyros Kotomatas, WWF Greece, Greece

#### **Session Overview:**

Effective surveillance and compliance is one of the most challenging issues in the managing of marine protected areas, especially within MMPAs, due to the difficulty in monitoring the impact of human activities marine mammals. The purpose of this workshop is to critically examine how the use of emerging new technologies (i.e. UAVs, GPS monitoring technology on board fisheries and whale watch vessels, passive acoustic monitoring, etc.) that has proliferated over recent years is or can actually improving the effectiveness of surveillance and compliance within MMPAs.

During the workshop, case studies will be presented on successful applications of new technologies within MMPAs to:

- monitor compliance and manage fisheries,
- monitor marine mammal populations, and
- monitor and manage human activities.

Following the presentations of case studies the discussion amongst the participants will focus on critically evaluating the potential, but most importantly the actual contribution of such tools in improving efficiency and effectiveness of surveillance and compliance systems within MPAs at different temporal and spatial scales.

#### **Session Objectives:**

Assess the contribution of such tools in improving the effectiveness of surveillance and compliance systems within MPAs at different spatial and temporal scales

- Lars Bejder, Marine Mammal Research Program, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA
- Spyros Kotomatas, WWF Greece, Greece
- Sophie Baudel, Collecte et Localisation par Satellite (CLS/Service Argos), France
- Armando Jaramillo Legorreta, Coordinación de Investigación y Conservación de Mamíferos Marinos, Instituto Nacional de Ecología, Mexico
- Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho, Instituto Nacional de Ecologia y Cambio Climatico, Mexico
- Rochelle Constantine, University of Auckland, New Zealand (TBC)



### The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI): lessons learnt and future plans

This session is organized and sponsored by the Agreement for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and adjacent Atlantic waters-ACCOBAMS

#### Thursday April 11, 14:15 - 18:30, Meeting Room Astronomy

#### Conveners:

#### Simone Panigada, ASI Scientific Coordinator, Tethys Research Institute

#### **Session Overview:**

The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) developed the "ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative" (ASI), a pilot programme aimed at establishing an integrated and coordinated monitoring system for cetaceans throughout the ACCOBAMS area. It is conducted by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat assisted by a Steering Committee, in coordination with Mediterranean Sea riparian countries and in line with their commitments to the implementation of European and regional policies, in particular the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (EU) and the Ecosystem Approach process (Barcelona Convention UNEP/MAP, Bucharest Convention). Under this initiative, an unprecedented large-scale synoptic survey combining aerial (visual component) and ship-based (visual and passive acoustic monitoring – PAM) methods has been carried out during the summer 2018 across the whole Mediterranean and Contiguous Atlantic area, involving a large international team alongside local scientists. The aim of this session is to present and discuss the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative and its up-to-date results and lessons

learned. Issues ranging from fund raising, logistical aspects, scientific background, results, and implications, geo-political constraints, capacity building, training and public awareness, conservation implications and future plans will be presented and thoroughly discussed. The ultimate goal of the session will be to evaluate the overall feasibility of such ambitious, multi-species, multi-countries, multi-cultural, regional programmes and delineate a road-map for the use of the collected data and the potential of long-term systematic replicas.

#### **Session Objectives:**

- Local, ongoing small-scale projects will be considered, with an aim to evaluate the proper means so that such projects can contribute to the overall assessment at the regional scale and build local scientists' capacity to develop and conduct robust research
- Effort to liaise with international commitments and policy bodies, such as those of the MSFD and the EcAp, will be discussed, to ensure that the ASI collected data would be considered towards addressing international requirements, such as long-term, systematic monitoring.
- Assess how the ASI could contribute to the design and establishment of the area-based management approach to promote marine mammals conservation in the Mediterranean Sea and how these results could be integrated to the existing management measures already in place.

#### **Speakers:**

- Simone Panigada, ASI Scientific Coordinator, Tethys Research Institute, Italy
- Julie Belmont, ACCOBAMS Secretariat, Monaco
- Ibrahem Benamer, UNEP/MAP-RAC/SPA, Tunis
- Mehdi Aissi, UNEP/MAP-RAC/SPA, Tunis
- Sophie Laran, Université de La Rochelle, France
- Vincent Ridoux, Pelagis, France

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# Incorporating marine mammal conservation needs in MPA management plans

#### Thursday April 11, 14:15 - 18:30, Meeting Room History

#### Conveners:

- Susan Gallon, MedPAN-The network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean
- Francis Staub, EU project "Transatlantic MPA Network"
- Gérald Mannaerts, CARIMAM Network, Agoa Sanctuary, French Biodiversity Agency

#### **Session Overview:**

Marine mammals are protected worldwide by a wide variety of marine protected areas, most of them organizing their management actions through a dedicated management plan. Speakers invited to this workshop will highlight the importance of this document and its role in the conservation of marine mammals. Trough national and regional overviews and case studies we will identify strength and limitation of current status of marine mammals in existing management plan.

#### **Session Objectives:**

To identify a path forward to better incorporate marine mammals in management plans of MPAs.

- Philippe LeNiliot, Parc Naturel Marin d'Iroise, France
- Benjamin Guichard, French Biodiversity Agency (AFB), France
- Harun Güçlüsoy, Dokuz Eylül University, Turkey
- Valentina Cappanera, Portofino MPA, Italy
- Carole Perron, Parc Naturel Marin des Estuaires Picard et de la Mer d'Opale, France
- Tilen Genov, Morigenos & Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, Slovenia
- Hélène Labach, Groupement d'Intérêt Scientifique des Mammifères Marins de Méditerranée (GIS3M), France
- Aviad Scheinin, Morris Kahn Marine Research Station, University of Haifa, Israel
- Geiner Golfin Duarte, National Parc Isla del Coco, Costa Rica (TBC)



### **Co-Management: Improving the governance and management effectiveness of MMPAs by empowering and actively involving stakeholders (with pre-registration)**

To attend this session you will need to pre-register. Participants will be limited to 30, so priority will be on a "first come" basis. To register, please send an e-mail to s.kotomatas@wwf.gr and/or to annehugginswalton@gmail.com, explaining why you are interested in participating.

#### Thursday, April 11, 11:00 - 16:00, Meeting Room History

#### Conveners:

- Anne Walton, Integrated Ocean Management, USA
- Yaprak Arda, WWF Turkey, Turkey
- Spyros Kotomatas, WWF Greece, Greece

#### **Session Overview:**

The ICMMPAs held over the last 10 years have provided a unique forum that brings together MPA managers, decisionmakers, scientists and other stakeholders to exchange information, strengthen partnerships, and co-design the way forward to improve MPA management and marine mammal conservation.

Despite efforts conducted at the international level, many challenges towards achieving effective place-based protection for marine mammals through the establishment and management of MMPA remain. A key component for improving the design, governance, and management of MPAs is the participation and active involvement of users and key stakeholders of these areas. Various initiatives have been taken around the world ranging from:

- participatory processes in the design of MMPAs, including the development of conservation measures
- establishment of MMPA co-management governance and management structures

• active participation of key stakeholders in the implementation of area-based management measures for marine mammals The objective of this session, which will be structured as an "interactive and participatory workshop", is to use three distinctly different case studies highlighting stakeholder engagement models used by MPAs that are managing impacts on marine mammals.

The focus will be on the "challenge" or "issue" the stakeholders have been assembled by the MPA management authority to address. We will look closely at the structure, the process and the types of engagement used - and how these factors contributed to the success and/or failures of the process itself. And, ultimately we want to understand how this translates in terms of actually advancing protection for marine mammals.

#### **Session Objectives:**

To identify the key processes and elements necessary to successfully involve stakeholders and to assess the benefits of involving them in the design and management of MMPAs towards achieving marine mammal conservation.

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- Katherine Audrey, Whales of Guerrero Research Project, Oceanic Society, USA
- Spyros Kotomatas, WWF Greece, Greece
- Benjamin (Ben) Haskell, NOAA/Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

### Marine Mammals and MSP in the Context of Blue Growth

#### Thursday April 11, 11:00 - 16:00, Meeting Room Astronomy

#### Conveners:

- Tundi Agardy, Sound Seas
- Catherine Piante, WWF France

#### **Session Overview:**

The EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive and how it could influence the Mediterranean as well as other similar guidance around the world will provide the basis for the session. A deliberately provocative plenary panel will address the current trajectory of MSP in EU waters, and the extent to which conservation concerns are being addressed. The panel will then be followed by expert presentations from various parts of northern Europe, Atlantic, and Mediterranean. Following these short presentations will be an outcome-oriented workshop to develop specific recommendations on how to promote the uptake of marine mammal information into planning and the management that results, including the need to involve the right audience from both the scientific community and the different levels of administration.

#### **Session Objectives:**

- To advance the discussion on how marine mammal conservation can be accommodated in marine spatial plans, in light of MSP processes that are driven by a Blue Growth agenda.
- The expected output is a strategy and an action plan to specifically influence MSP processes unfolding in the European Seas, as well as those MSP processes that look to the EU as a model for MSP for sustainable development.

- Tundi Agardy, Sound Seas
- Vedran Nikolic, European Commission, DG Env.
- Helene Labach, Groupement d'Intérêt Scientifique des Mammifères Marins de Méditerranée (GIS3M)
- Catarina Frazao Santo, University of Lisbon
- Elena Gissi, University of Venice
- Duncan Vaughan, Natural England (TBC)



### **ROUND TABLE 1**

### IUCN MMPA Task Force Regional Groups First Informal Summit

#### Thursday April 11, 16:30 - 18:30, Meeting Room Logic

#### Conveners:

Giuseppe Notarbartolo d Sciara, IUCN MMPA Task Force and Erich Hoyt, IUCN MMPA Task Force and Whale and Dolphin Conservation

#### **Session Overview:**

For the first time, the IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force (TF) Chairs will bring together the TF Regional Coordinators (RCs) to brainstorm about experiences in their respective regions, the challenges they've encountered, opportunities for putting the IMMAs to use in marine conservation on the ground, and how best to prepare for the next regional IMMA iteration.

To date, RCs have stepped forward for the Mediterranean, Pacific Islands, North East Indian Ocean/South East Asian seas, and the Extended Southern Ocean regions; it is expected that by April 2019, RCs for the Western Indian Ocean/Arabian Seas region will also have been appointed.

Tasks for RCs (currently listed on https://www.marinemammalhabitat.org/about/regional-groups/) include:

- a) assembling the regional group by co-opting and involving the region's marine mammal place-based conservation experts, covering all relevant species, subregions and other aspects as needed (MPA and MSP experts, various threat experts, etc.), and maintaining the group's membership list;
- b) preparing for initial and follow-up regional workshops by encouraging the expert group to submit areas of interest (AoI) and other information under the guidance of the IMMA Coordinator;
- c) assisting in logistical and other support for regional IMMA workshops and follow-up actions, such as the drafting and approval of informative IMMA Factsheets made in collaboration with the IMMA Secretariat;
- d) supporting the transition from science to management within IMMAs by addressing consideration and uptake of IMMAs by regional stakeholders, e.g., during relevant marine spatial planning or by examining the need for establishing marine mammal protected areas (MMPAs);
- e) continuing to collect ecological knowledge on the region's marine mammals during the interim period following the initial IMMA workshop, before the eventual follow-up workshop, by providing guidance for the modification of existing IMMAs and/or the submission of new AoI, as appropriate;
- f) implementing, to the extent possible, an early warning system (EWS) to help detect arising changes in the conservation status of the region's marine mammals, warranting management and conservation attention or intervention; and
- g) ensuring that all the relevant occurrence data deriving from the workshops are contributed to global databases (such as OBIS SEAMAP).

This will be an informal round table meeting, but it is open to observers who want to learn more about the inner workings of the TF and the regional IMMA programme.

#### **Session Objectives:**

The meeting will provide an opportunity for discussing and refining the above-listed tasks and to chart the work ahead to provide the optimal support to the conservation of marine mammal habitats in the years to come.

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### **ROUND TABLE 2**

### **Creative models for sustainable financing of MMPAs**

#### Thursday April 11, 16:30 - 18:30, Meeting Room History

#### Moderator/Scene Setting: Mark J. Spalding, The Ocean Foundation

#### **Session Overview:**

Expect a lively discussion about the missing element for nearly all MMPAs, sustainable finance. We know why the money is missing. We are going to talk about what is wrong and why, and how to fix government appropriations and priorities. As well as how to meet the needs of MMPAs via creative models for sustainable financing.

- Mark J. Spalding, The Ocean Foundation, USA
- Brad Barr, International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, USA
- Naomi McIntosh, International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, USA
- Tundi Agardy, Sound Seas, USA
- Alizée Angelin, Vertigo Lab, France (TBC)

### **KNOWLEDGE CAFÉ 1**

### Next step for the managing of whale watching activities... How to move from a voluntary commitment to an effective regulation?

The session is organized and supported by the French Biodiversity Agency

#### Tuesday April 9, 14:15 - 16:00, Meeting Room Logic

#### Conveners:

Benjamin Guichard, French Biodiversity Agency (AFB) and Alain Barcelo, Port-Cros National Park

#### **Session Overview:**

Whale watching has been developing rapidly in the last ten years, and many attempts have been made to better manage this activity and control its impacts on marine mammal populations. It has been thoroughly discussed at every ICMMPA since its second edition in 2011, and ICMMPA4 whale watching workshop concluded that both guidelines & regulation approach and MMPAs approach were necessary. The knowledge café will present advances on both approaches and discuss how they can be combined for better management.

#### **Session Objectives:**

- Present the new IWC WW Handbook that has been developed to help ensure that government or industry decision makers have access to the information they need to support them in the sustainable management of whale watching
- Identify MMPAs case studies that could have an additional value to the IWC WW handbook
- Produce a short synthesis on barriers/information and capacity needs in different regions to ensure best practice (from voluntary to regulation)

- Gianna Minton and David Mattila, International Whaling Commission, UK
- Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho, Instituto Nacional de Ecologia y Cambio Climatico, Mexico
- Jorge Urban, Autonomous University of Baja California Sur. Mexico
- Alain Barcelo and Marion Peirache, Port-Cros National Park, France
- Gérald Mannaert, Agoa Sanctuary, France
- Philippe Le Niliot, Iroise Marine Nature Park, France
- Erich Hoyt, IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force and Whale and Dolphin Conservation, UK
- Lauren McWhinnie and Molly Fraser, University of Victoria, Canada
- Naomi McIntosh, International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, USA

### **KNOWLEDGE CAFÉ 2**

# Mini-Colloquium: The mysterious language that bridges species with spaces

#### Thursday April 11, 18:30 - 19:15, Meeting Room Logic

#### Conveners:

- Claudio Campagna, Wildlife Conservation Society, Argentina
- Daniel Guevara, University of California Santa Cruz, USA

#### **Session Overview:**

In his key-note, entitled "The mysterious language that bridges species with spaces", Claudio Campagnia will be exploring the pros and cons of "bridging" languages. He will be presenting his thoughts on how many ways of conserving species and spaces can be integrated under the same value language? Today, species conservation is predominantly about the intrinsic and instrumental values of life forms; spaces are about processes and ecosystem services. Species go extinct, spaces are degraded. Species inspired "Save the Whales," spaces "Save the 'ecology." Would two "conservations", or many, help or weaken the final cause? The ICMMPA sits at the interphase of two conceptual universes.

#### **Session Objectives:**

In this session, Claudio Campagna and Daniel Guevara would further engage with the participants having an informal discussion to explore the philosophical/conservation implications and to expand on some of the issues stemming from the key-note presentation.



### The WWF Global Cetacean Initiative: Enabling WWF and partners to do more for cetaceans.

#### Tuesday April 9, 13:00 - 13:15, Meeting room Orion

Organizer: WWF Global Cetacean Initiative

#### **Session overview:**

WWF is launching an exciting new initiative to promote the conservation of whales and dolphins around the globe. The global Cetacean Initiative focuses on whales and dolphins in marine environments, and will include three main pillars of activities:

- 1) improved monitoring and mitigation of bycatch in fishing gear;
- 2) reduction of underwater noise and collision risks from shipping; and
- 3) improved protection critical cetacean habitats used for feeding, breeding, resting or migration.

For each pillar, the Cetacean Initiative aims to:

- collaborate at an international level to determine where WWF can add the most value to efforts of other international NGOs and IGOs;
- provide evidence and tools that WWF offices and other conservation partners can use to convince governments and industries of the need to tackle threats and provide alternatives to harmful practices; and
- engage in advocacy through targeted awareness raising and communication campaigns with governments and industries.

By harnessing the collective experience of WWF offices around the world, and collaborating with other conservation partners we feel certain that we can make a difference. WWF is seeking collaborations for the initiative, and as such, the brief presentation and follow-up discussion will provide an opportunity to learn more about the strategy and actions planned under the initiative, and to explore areas of cooperation with other relevant partners and stakeholders.

#### **Presenter:**

#### Gianna Minton,

International Whaling Commission and Coordinator of the WWF Global Cetacean Initiative, WWF International, UK

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### **SIDE EVENT 1**

### Supporting cetacean conservation in the Mediterranean

#### (by invitation only)

The event is organized and sponsored by WWF Greece

#### Monday April 8, 19:30 - 21:00, Meeting Room History

Organizers: WWF Greece

#### **Session Overview:**

In this event, WWF Greece will present to key bodies its new initiative to build, as part of WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative, a new strategic plan of actions that aims to significantly improve cetacean conservation in Greece, a cetacean hotspot in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, through 3 key pillars of work:

- Filling the key gaps in scientific knowledge through a coordinated approach with concrete conservation outputs
- Designing management measures to address marine environmental impacts of multi- sectoral human activities and actively promoting their adoption by the competent authorities
- Developing and implementing specific and targeted conservation actions through engagement of key stakeholders utilizing all available means, including policy, advocacy, in-situ conservation, capacity building, awareness and education.

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### **SIDE EVENT 2**

### **REMMOA** large scale aerial surveys

This special event is open to all conference participants.

The event is organized and sponsored by the French Biodiversity Agency

Tuesday April 9, 19:00 - 20:00, Meeting Room Astronomy

Organizers: French Biodiversity Agency

#### **Session Overview:**

The Remmoa aerial observations project aims in identifying the distribution of marine mammals and other marine megafauna and developing a monitoring strategy for tropical pelagic ecosystems. Cycle 2 of the Remmoa project is one of the flagship actions of the French Biodiversity Agency implemented with the Pelagis Observatory, a joint research unit of La Rochelle University and CNRS. The Remmoa project covers a decade of surveys across three oceans accounting for as much as four million Km². It is a study area of unprecedented scale for a nature observation project, including most of the French tropical overseas territories and waters of countries belonging to the Indian Ocean Commission. The results provide major discoveries for science and precious information to guide marine biodiversity preservation strategies and change regulations. Repeating these surveys therefore appears essential for learning more about the patterns of these species over time and understanding how environmental factors affect these animals, especially in the current context of climate change and growing anthropogenic pressure. Beyond the scientific and technical results, Remmoa is also a wonderful human adventure including participation of local organisations, the development of a global network of observers, involvement of locals and awareness-raising with school children.

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At the end of the event, a light buffet will be offered to the participants

### **PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

#### (by invitation only)

A Joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop to evaluate how the data and process used to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) can assist the IWC to identify areas of high risk for ship strike

#### Saturday April 6 and Sunday 7, 08:30 - 18:30, Meeting room History

The Scientific Committee (SC) of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has agreed that the identification of "high risk areas" for ship strikes is a key step in developing mitigation actions (IWC/SC/67a 2017, p. 71). The Ship Strike Standing Working Group (SSSWG) of the Conservation Committee has also recognized the importance of identifying "high risk areas" in their Five Year Strategic Plan (IWC strategic plan to mitigate ship strikes, 2017, item 2.3). They have also recognized that the IUCN Task Force on Marine Mammal Protected Areas has undertaken an initiative to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) around the World, and that the identification of these IMMAs would likely assist the IWC effort. The SC and the SSSWG have encouraged cooperation with the IUCN Task Force on this (IWC/SC/67a 2017 p. 71). The IUCN Task Force has completed three regional IMMA workshops, including the Mediterranean Sea (October 2016), the South Pacific Islands (March 2017) and the North East Indian Ocean and South East Asian Seas (March 2018). The workshop will focus on reviewing the IMMAs identified in the Mediterranean for their utility in identifying high risk areas for ship strikes, and as such ACCOBAMS has joined as a partner. In reviewing IMMAs in the Mediterranean, the workshop will develop the criteria that could be applied to IMMAs in other Oceans, and perhaps any spatially identified significant marine mammal habitat as well (e.g. MMPAs, Critical Cetacean Habitats, PSSAs, EBSAs....etc.)

The workshop will seek to bring experts together from the IWC SC, IUCN, ACCOBAMS, CMS, IMO, Pelagos Sanctuary and shipping industry if possible, in order to:

- Develop criteria for categorization and prioritization of an IMMA, or other spatially explicit area, as a "high risk area" for ship strikes
- Evaluate the IMMAs now identified in the Mediterranean Sea, in order to determine the utility of this approach
- Test the utility of the regional approach suggested by the SSSWG
- Enhance engagement with other International partners with similar goals (e.g. identifying high risk areas and mitigating ship strikes there).

As time and participant expertise allows, and as determined by the Steering Committee for the workshop, the agenda may also include:

- Reviewing appropriate mitigation strategies that might arise out of the determination of each high risk area identified, and the best avenue to accomplish those
- Explore the feasibility of using some of the criteria developed to evaluate other types of spatially explicit marine protected areas for marine mammals.

It is anticipated that the key outcomes and recommendations of the workshop will also be summarized for the ICMMPA5 session on shipping and MMPAs. The report of the workshop will also be submitted for discussion to IWC SC 68a and possibly the CC in Spring 2019. It will also be provided to the WCPA and SSC of IUCN, the MMPA TF being a joint tool under the WCPA and SSC. Results of the workshop will also be disseminated to other IGOs (e.g. CMS, ACCOBAMS, IMO) as appropriate.

### **TOURS & ATTRACTIONS**

#### CHORA - PYLOS - GIALOVA (VOIDOKILIA)

Date: Thursday 11 April 2019 Cost: Adult 55€, Child 30€ / per person Departs: TBA Return: TBA

Morning departure from the hotel lobby for a trip to the west side of Messinia. Visit the Nestors' Palace in Chora, the best well preserved palace which has been discovered so far. Later departure to Pylos and visit its castle, Niokastro (means new castle). Free time for rest. Visit Gialova, a village 15 km away from Pylos and especially the magical beach of Voidokoilia, for lunch and swim. Free time.

We return to the hotel early in the evening.

Included: Bus transportation, guide, entrance fees.

#### **OLIVE EXPERIENE IN MADAINA**

Date: Thursday 11 April 2019 Cost: Adult 50€, Child 25€ / per person Departs: TBA Return: TBA

Morning departure from the hotel and bringing you the best olive oil experiences: learn about harvesting by a local farmer or adopt an olive tree; whatever you decide you will be rewarded with your own fabulous extra virgin olive oil. This tour is designed to guide you to the olive oil harvesting and to learn more details about the history of the olive and olive oil through the years. You will spend half a day among olive trees and stay in beautiful surroundings (olive groves are often full of wild flowers and butterflies), you will receive a warm welcome from owners keen to share with you their way of life and gain the satisfaction of helping them by buying local products. You will discover that nothing tastes nicer than fresh extra virgin olive oil. This half day, includes an olive oil snack with traditional Messinian products in a olive oil farm in Madaina. Then you will visit the olive oil mill close to the village in order to learn more details about olive harvesting.

Finally we return to the hotel, full of experiences and knowledge of Greek countryside.

Included: Bus transportation, guide, traditional Messinian snack with local products.

### **COSTA NAVARINO MAP**



- 1. 1827 Lounge & Bar
- 2. Anax Lounge & Bar
- 3. Armyra by Papaioannou
- 4. Barbouni
- 5. Branco Bar
- 6. Da Luigi
- 7. Eno teca

- 8. Flame Bar & Restaurant
- 9. Inbi
- 10. Kafenio & Deli
- 11. Kayak Ice Cream Boutique
- 12. Lagoon Bar
- 13. Morias
- 14. Nargile

- 15. Pero
- 16. Perovino
- 17. Souvlakerie
- 18. Taverna
- 19. The Diner
- 20. The Romanos Pool Bar
- 21. Westin Pool Bar

### **MAP MESSINIA - SITES OF INTEREST**



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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