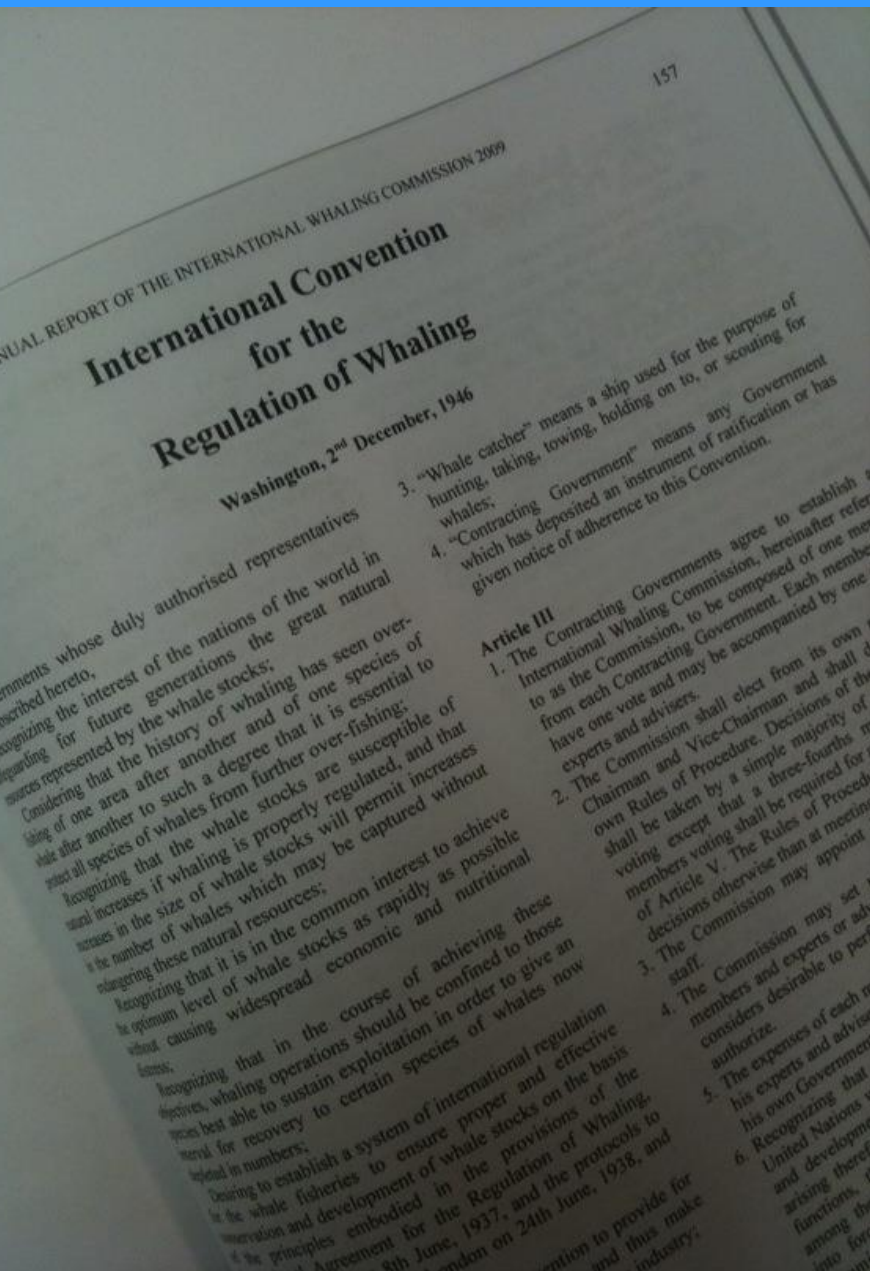


INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION



- *'...to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry'*
- Regulations to be *'...based on scientific findings'*



Member Countries (88)



Moratorium

- At the 1982 annual meeting the Commission adopted a proposal to set commercial catch limits to zero, beginning in 1986
- Still in force today although a few nations have continued to whale through exceptions built into the Convention
- Very strong views on whaling remain at the Commission today

Shift in focus at the IWC

- Conservation of whales is also in the Convention
- Other threats to whales have increased and become a major focus of the Commission
- Most of these are now addressed through separate Working Groups under the IWC's Scientific and Conservation Committees

Other issues affecting whales

- Accidental capture and entanglement in fishing gear is biggest immediate threat (bycatch)

Also

- Ship strikes
- Effects from whale watching
- Other environmental effects, e.g.
 - Climate change
 - Habitat degradation
 - Noise
 - Pollution





PCCS



IWC: Global Whale Entanglement Response Network

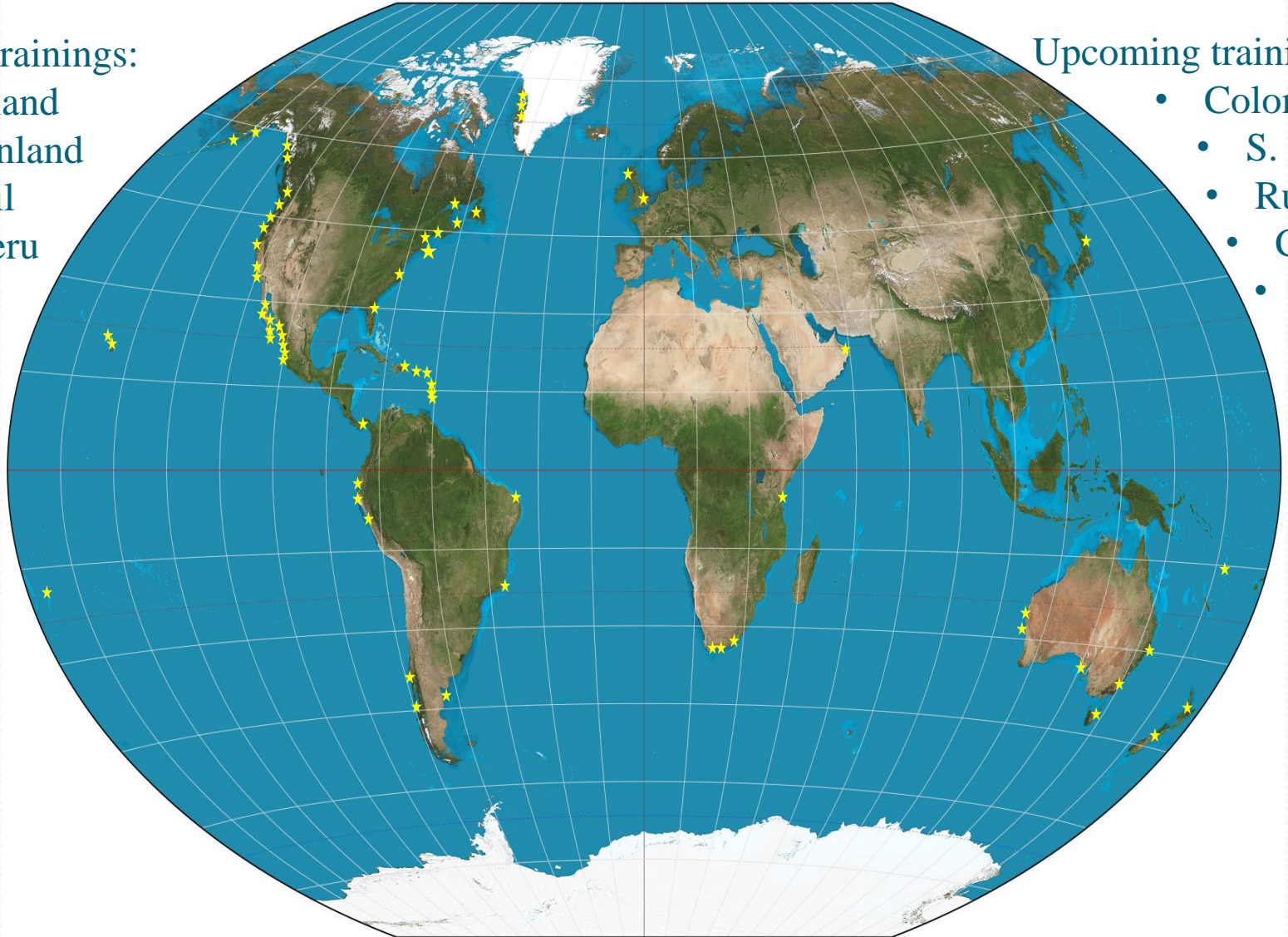
~1,000 trainees from 40 countries

Recent trainings:

- Thailand
- Greenland
- Brazil
- N. Peru

Upcoming trainings:

- Colombia
- S. Peru
- Russia
- Chile
- UK









IWC and ship strikes: Web database (over 1,000 entries)

Ship Strikes Page 1 of 3

International Whaling Commission

WHALES AND SHIP STRIKES

WHALES AND SHIP STRIKES

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WHALES AND SHIP STRIKES

A problem for both whales and vessels

The IWC and ship strikes

Quantifying the problem

Images courtesy of Howard de Vries and Howard de Vries

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci.com/shipsstrikes.htm>

4/1/2012

SHIPSTRIKES DATABASE

When and Where

1 Date of incident/discovery

2 Description of date if not accurately known

3 Large Area

4 Detailed description of location

5 Latitude

6 Longitude

7 Other Info




<http://data.iwcoffice.org/ShipStrike/default.aspx?ID=1119>

4/1/2012

IWC AND SHIP STRIKES: OUTREACH

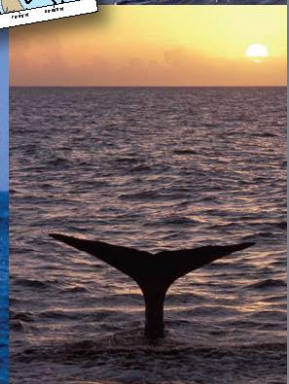
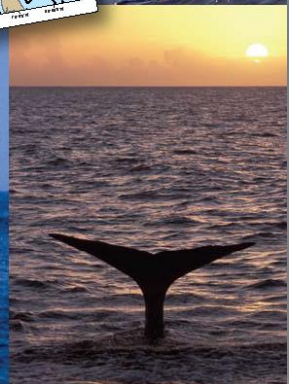
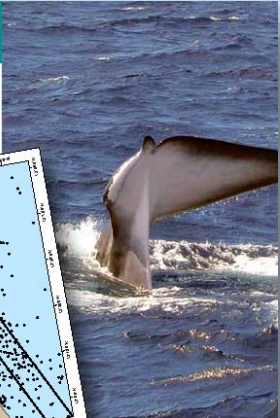
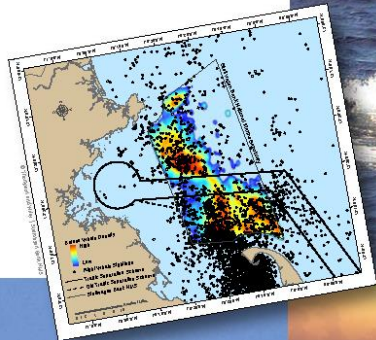
Reducing risk of collisions with whales

WHALES: avoiding collisions prevents damage to ships, and injuries to passengers, crew and whales.



Photos © IFAW

The approaches to Boston harbour cross an important area for right and other whales. Risk has been reduced by moving shipping lanes slightly to avoid high density areas.





IWC and ship strikes: Special workshops

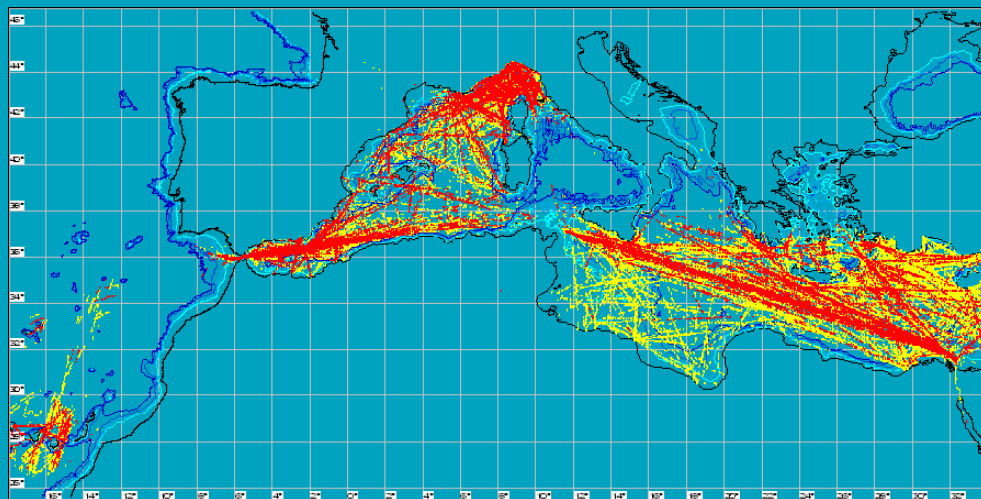


Workshop on Reducing the Risk of Collision between Vessels and Cetaceans

Beaulieu-sur-Mer, France, 21-24 September 2010

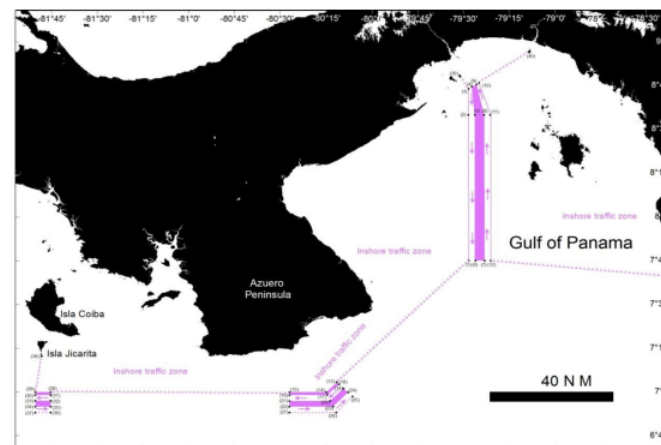
Joint IWC-SPAW Workshop to Address Collisions Between Marine Mammals and Ships with a Focus on the Wider Caribbean

Panama Canal, Panama, 21-24 June 2014



ANNEX 2

INTEGRATION OF PROPOSED ROUTEING MEASURES ON THE PACIFIC COAST OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA



Current Human Induced Mortality

- Direct hunting roughly 1,300 per year (large whales)
- Read et al (2006) estimated over 300,000 cetaceans die annually as bycatch (possibly 3% of population annually)
- Ship strikes difficult to quantify. Equal to entanglement in some areas (e.g. NA right whales)



A REVIEW OF WHALE WATCH GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

GUIDELINES FOR WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION
IFAW, SPREP, Operation Cetaces, FFEM, DEWHA

Protecting whales and dolphins

These guidelines have been developed by and for Pacific Island Governments and Industry to ensure the conservation of cetaceans across one of their largest and most important breeding grounds. The guidelines aim to minimize the impact of whale & dolphin watching activities and promote respect for the cultural values of whales, dolphins to Pacific Island peoples.

Observe local regulations

These guidelines provide a regional best practice standard; however it is important to observe specific national guidelines and regulations for whale & dolphin watching in the Pacific Islands, which are designed for local conditions and species. Commercial operations, filming and research in most islands require permits from local authorities.

Disturbance

Cetaceans may be disturbed by the presence of people, boats or aircrafts. Changes in the behaviour of whales and dolphins need to be

IWC WHALE WATCHING: PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES (1996)

- (1) manage the development of whalewatching to minimise the risk of adverse impacts**
- (2) design, maintain and operate platforms to minimise the risk of adverse effects on cetaceans, including disturbance from noise**
- (3) allow the cetaceans to control the nature and duration of ‘interactions’**



International
Whaling
Commission

Five Year
Strategic Plan
for Whalewatching

2011–2016



November 2011

IWC Strategic Plan

- Objectives
 - Research
 - Assessment (Monitoring)
 - Capacity Building
 - Development
 - Management
- 18 separate actions in total
- Updating for 2018-2024 now



Whale Watching Handbook

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Whale Watching Handbook

The IWC is the international forum for the conservation and management of whales and dolphins. It has recognised the economic and educational importance of whale watching since 1975, and the need to ensure whale watching is conducted responsibly.

This Handbook is designed to support managers, regulators, operators and anyone interested in whale watching. It is a flexible and evolving tool incorporating international best practice, educational resources and a summary of the latest, relevant scientific information.



Responsible Management

Policies and guidance

Regulations

Case studies



Industry Support

Responsible practices

Operator resources

Success stories



Preparing for a Trip

What to expect

Where can I go

What can I see



Training and Education

Capacity building

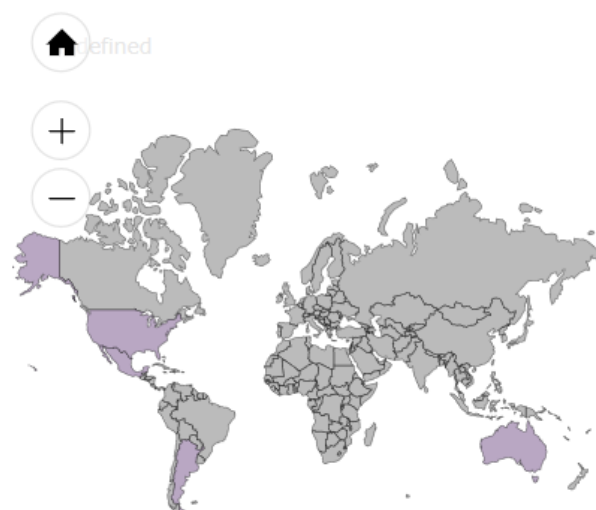
Regional Action

Outreach materials

When planning your trip, look for operators that:

- Follow regulations and best practice guidelines;
- Have taken steps to reduce their impact on the environment;
- Allow the animals to control the nature and duration of the interactions;
- Remain an appropriate distance from the animals to minimise disturbance;
- Do not chase or harass animals;
- Keep vessel noise to a minimum;
- Provide you with information and educational materials; and

Map



JS map by amCharts



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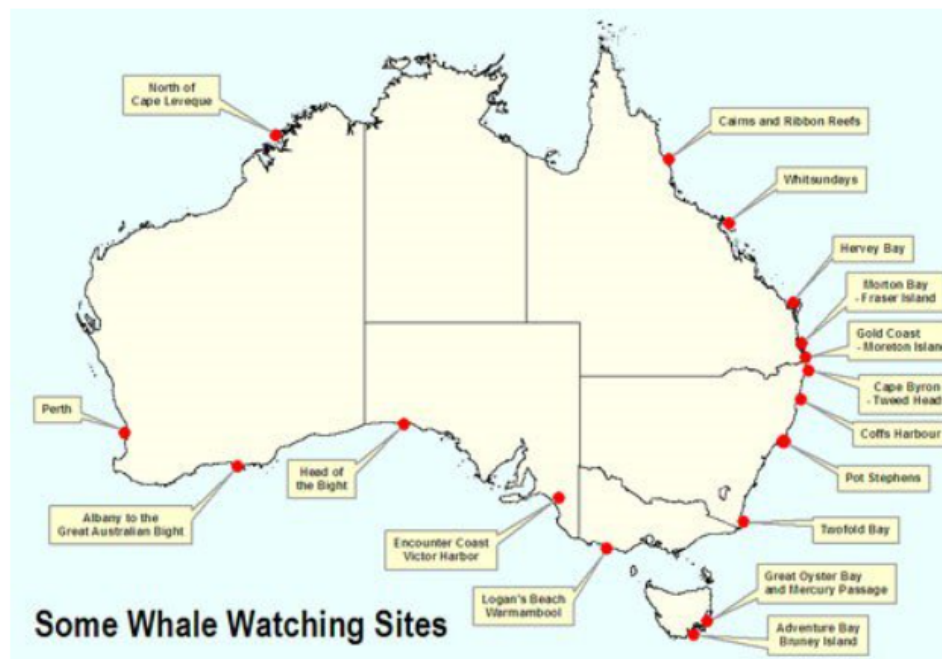
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of whales and dolphins. It is important not to disturb whales and dolphins in their natural environment.

Map of whale watching sites around Australia



Whale watching sites around Australia

Check the map of Australia to see some of the great whale watching locations around Australia



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Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*

Distribution

Humpback whales occur worldwide in all major oceans. They are primarily found in coastal and continental shelf waters, although they also feed around seamounts and may pass through deep waters during migration (Reeves *et al.*, 2002).

J. CETACEAN RES. MANAGE. (SPECIAL ISSUE) 3, 1–50, 2011

3

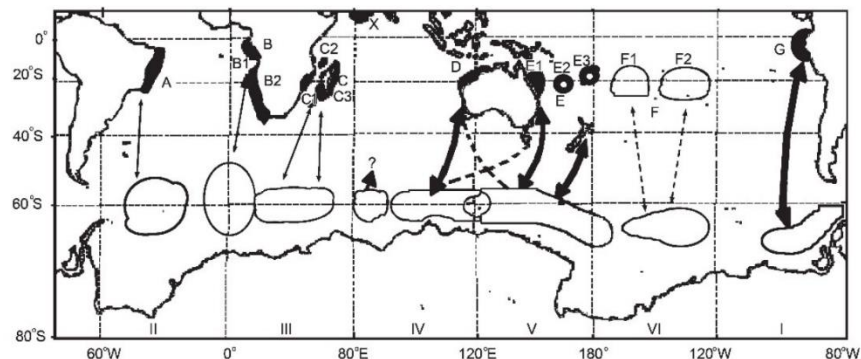


Fig. 1 – Hypothetical stock structure and breeding-feeding ground connectivity of Southern Hemisphere Humpback whales (from IWC, 2011). The areas and subareas identified reflect approximate, rather than necessarily exact, boundaries. A dotted line represents hypothetical connection, thin lines represent a small number of documented connections between areas from resights using Discovery marks, photo-id or genetics, or satellite tracked whales, and thick lines represent a large number of documented connections between areas from resights using Discovery marks, photo-id or genetics, or satellite tracked whales.

Introductory Information (Size, weight, etc)

The Humpback whale is a large iconic species, best known for its acrobatic displays and its songs. Its migration is one of the longest of any mammal, travelling from summer feeding grounds in higher latitudes to tropical mating and calving grounds.



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Current practices and regulations

Over fifty countries and various regional organizations have produced guidelines or regulations for whalewatching. These have been drawn together in a [compendium](#). Whilst issues can vary between species and locations, there are common strands of good practice that can inform and complement new and existing management measures.

General principles for cetacean watching

For further information on Scientific Committees recommendations on responsible whale watching, including general principles; management considerations; vessel design and maintenance; angles and distances of approach; and swimming and diving with cetaceans in the wild, please see [Suplement 15](#), [Annex M](#), [Appendix 2](#), [Page 390-292](#)

Key management considerations

There are a number of ways for managers to ensure whale watch operations are sustainable. These include:

- Limits on vessel numbers, speeds, approach distances and time spent with whales;
- Zoning or time /area closures;
- Training schemes;
- Licensing or permitting;
- Enforcement and compliance mechanisms for all vessel types;
- Introduction of regulations, guidelines or codes of conduct
- Monitoring and data collection
- Setting conservation objectives

Case Studies

Argentina

Case Study: Península Valdés, Chubut, Argentina



Mexico

Case Study: El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve, Mexico

In January 1972, Laguna Ojo de Liebre became the world's first Marine Protected Area (MPA) specifically set up to protect cetaceans (Hoyt 2005a). Established by the Mexican

Stellwagen

Case Study: Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary



Regional Coordination/Collaboration

- IWC convened whale Watching workshops
 - South Africa (2004)
 - Argentina (2010)
 - Caribbean Environment Programme (2011)
 - Australia (2013)
- Technical assistance
 - Oman (2014)
 - Indian Ocean Rim Association (2016)

Conservation Management Plans

- Tools to coordinate science and management expertise
- First endorsed by the Commission in 2010
- Now 4 CMPs: WNP gray whales, WSA southern right whales, ESP southern right whales, and franciscana dolphins

Conservation focused groups at IWC

- WG on Whale watching
- WG on Conservation Management Plans
- WG on Ship Strikes
- WG on Welfare
- WG on Bycatch (with associated expert panel)
- IWC Global Whale Entanglement Response Network
- IWC Expert Panel on Strandings/Disease

The IWC's contribution



- It's recognized as a global authority on whales, whaling and whale conservation
- It has a tremendous body of scientific research
- ...and it is rapidly developing partnerships with other organisations to share its scientific and policy recommendations for cetacean conservation

IWC: its story of change

'It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the one that is most adaptable to change'



- Originally conceived as an economic regulator, and in reaction to overexploitation of a resource
- Soon needed to develop expertise in sustainability
- And then had to respond to increased public scrutiny and changing public values regarding whales in many countries
- Now re-positioning itself as a respected authority in all issues affecting the management, health and status of cetaceans



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION