



Whales in a Changing Ocean

NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA • 4-6 APRIL 2017

Overview

Goals:

The conference aims to:

- assess emerging threats to whales from changes occurring in our oceans
- review the ecosystem and economic value of whales in the Pacific Islands
- promote best practice whale watching throughout the region and explore innovative programmes underway around the world
- provide an update on the status and trends of whales in the Pacific Islands region
- bring together government representatives and senior officials to discuss future collaborations on the conservation of whales in the region, as a precursor to the review of SPREP's marine species programme
- prepare a regional perspective for upcoming international fora, including the United Nations Oceans Conference in June.

Day	Focus and Purpose
Day 1	Welcome and commissioning the challenge for the conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and hosting • Building participant relationships • Building and understanding of the nature of the changing oceans challenge • Ministers confirming the themes and challenge for the conference using feedback from the conference
Day 2	Deeper understanding of threats and opportunities Solution building
Day 3	Solution building Priorities for action Confirming the Tofua'a Declaration



Whales in a Changing Ocean

Day 1 - Welcome and commissioning the challenge for the conference

		Theme	Presentation
	MC		Paula Ma'u CEO, MEIDECC
8:30	Seating of guests and participants		
8:50	Arrival of Guest of Honour		
9:00	Opening prayer		Rev. Tevita Ngungutau Tapueluelu Faifekau FWC of Tonga, Fasi-moe-afi
9:10	Welcome		Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni Deputy Prime Minister of Tonga
9:20	Keynote address		Guest of Honour (TBC)
9:30	Choir item		Tupou Tertiary Institute
9:35	Vote of thanks		Hon. Semisi Sika Minister for Tourism
9:40	Vote of thanks		Kosi Latu Director-General, SPREP
9:45	Benediction		Rev. Tevita Ngungutau Tapueluelu Faifekau FWC of Tonga, Fasi-moe-afi
			Paula Ma'u
9:45	SPTO-SPONSORED MORNING TEA Christina Gale, SPTO 5 minute talk Whales as a tourist attraction: what this is going to look like 10, 20, 50 years in future; opportunities/risks, especially if practices/attitudes continue as they are; what needs to be put in place?		
10:15	Kosi Latu Director-General, SPREP	SPREP's Year of the Whale and the significance of this conference SPREP's role and the Marine Species Programme	
		Theme	Presentation
10:40	Opening comments Ministers and representatives NGOs, community leaders and industry	Opening comments and conference expectations	5 minutes from each outlining Status what they are doing hopes/expectations are from the conference
12:30	LUNCH		
1:30	Keynote speaker Nick Gales	Whales in the 21st century	
2:00	Keynote speaker Scott Baker	Status and trends of whales and dolphins in Oceania	
2:30	Fiafia Rex Oma Tafua, Niue	Pacific island perspectives	
2:40	Tiare Holm Palau Conservation Society		
2:50	Aline Schaffar Pew Charitable Trusts, New Caledonia		
3:00	AFTERNOON TEA		
3:15	Conference commissioning		Co-convenors: Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni and Kosi Latu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key emerging threats

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for collaborations (including with the IWC and other intl conventions) • Conservation management plans (including SPREP Whale and Dolphin Action Plan) • Whale sanctuaries • Implementing the goals of Year of the Whale
3:30		Ministers to meet to confirm the direction and the commission and focus for the Conference	
		Conference participants to work on the process and approach required for a successful conference	
5:15		All participants share core themes and focus for the declaration and the challenge for the conference	
6:00	Session close		
7:00	RECEPTION/DINNER HOSTED BY TONGAN GOVT		

Day 2 - Building a deeper understanding of threats and opportunities

Working on key themes

		Theme		
9:00 9:05	Opening for the day Introduction of the theme convenors	Welcome back and process for the day		
9:25	Keynotes: International linkages	David Mattila IWC Secretariat		
9:50		Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara IUCN Marine Mammals Protected Areas Task Force		
10:20	Participant questions and comments			
10:40	MORNING TEA			
11:00	Threats and opportunities - Whales in a Changing Ocean			
	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	
11:00	Erich Hoyt The Global Status and True Value of Whale watching	David Mattila Entanglement and by-catch in fisheries	Angela Martin Whales and climate change	
11:30	Mark Orams Economic value of whalewatching in Vava'u	Dave Paton	Anton van Helden Historical and cultural values of whales	

		Known and potential impacts of deep sea mining and oil/gas exploration	
12:00	Reflections and insights summary session		
12:30	LUNCH Side event: Aline Schaffar of the Pew Charitable Trusts presenting on the artists' exhibition 'Des baleines et des hommes' at the Tjibaou Gallery in Noumea		
		Theme	Presentation
1:30	Reminder of process for solution building		
1:40	Theme Briefing	Convenors to provide 5 minutes to outline the core focus of each theme	<p>Whale-watching – what is the best way forward? <i>Co-convenors: Michael Lueck and Mark Orams</i></p> <p>Collaborations - future scientific research/conservation measures addressing emerging issues/threats <i>Convener: Scott Baker</i></p> <p>Addressing emerging threats – what tools and legal frameworks are needed for integrated management. What are the gaps? Individual/industry/national/regional actions required <i>Co-convenors: Natalie Barefoot and Tiare Holm</i></p>
1:55	Participants move to the rooms to start each theme		
		Theme	Presentation
2:00	Defining the critical issues and opportunities	Each Theme: Whale watching Scientific Research Addressing emerging threats – legal frameworks	<p>Process Introduction of participants (10 mins) Initial theme framing by Convenor (5 mins) Small group conversations to identify the long list of issues and opportunities to be considered by the theme (25 mins) Summary and prioritisation of issues (20 mins)</p> <p>Output: Summary of the priority issues and opportunities for the theme</p>
3:00	AFTERNOON TEA		
3:25	Developing action, responses and proposals for action	Each Theme: Whale watching Scientific Research Addressing emerging threats – legal frameworks	<p>Process Paired and small group conversations to identify current solutions or approaches in the Pacific and or internationally Summary of current approaches Develop goals/objectives for next 3- 5 years to give a focus for the development of potential actions or research Brainstorm a long list of potential responses and the</p>