SC/68A/CMP/19

Report of the Conservation Management Plan for Franciscana (Pontoporia blainvillei)

Miguel Iñíguez Bessega



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Report of the Conservation Management Plan for Franciscana (Pontoporia blainvillei)

Miguel Iñíguez Bessega (Coordinator) IWC Alternate Commissioner of Argentina

Period: May 2018 – April 2019.

Introduction

The IWC adopted the Conservation Management Plan for Franciscana (*Pontoporia blainvillei*) submitted by Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay (IWC/66/CC11). The overall objective of the CMP is to protect Franciscana habitat and minimise anthropogenic threats, in particular by-catch. The CMP (IWC-66-CC11) developed seven high priority actions, ranging from public awareness and capacity building through research to mitigation.

Actions

A Steering Committee and an Advisory Panel were established and its representatives were confirmed as follows:

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is integrated by Josefina Bunge (Argentina), Fabia Luna (Brazil), Carlos Rodríguez Brianza (Uruguay), the Chairs of the Conservation Committee (Lorenzo Rojas Bracho), the Scientific Committee (Robert Suydam), the CMP Standing Working Group (Suzi Heaton) and the IWC Head of Science (Greg Donovan).

Table 1 summarizes the outcomes done during the reported period for each identified action.

Table 1. Level of achievement of the actions identified for the CMP for franciscana.					
Keynotes: Not achieved (NA), Partially achieved (PA) and Fully achieved (FA)					
Actions	NA	PA	FA	Comments	
RES-1. Continue to Investigate Populati	ion Stru	cture			
RES-1.1. Refine population structure and boundaries		Х		-Samples acquired from strandings in the last three years along Franciscana distribution in Brazil and bycaught animals in observer programs in FMA II. -7 samples obtained from	
				Bahia Blanca (n=6) and Rio Negro estuary (n=1) in FMA IV.	
MON-1. Monitor Abundance, Trends and Bycatch					
MON 1.1. Conduct a survey to identify fishing villages where		Х		-Ongoing in FMA III. Starting in FMA II.	

including fisheries characteristics (e.g. type of nets, season of operation, fishing areas).Río Negro estuary information is collecting on the type of nets, season of operation, fishing areas and remove discarded fishing gears. Interviews are also done in the local communities to determine number of families using gillnets.MON 1.2. Estimate bycatch in the artisanal fisheries with observer programs if possible.xStarting in FMA II. Ongoing in part of FMA III. - In Uruguay, Franciscana bycatch by the industrial travul fishery was estimated for the first time, with mortality estimate dat ~100 individuals per year for the period 2009- 2012 (Franco-Trecu et al., 2019).MON 1.4 Beach monitoring to estimate bycatch.x- FMA III and III are being surveyed regularly and intensively in the last years. - Systematic monitoring to estimate bycatch.MON 1.4 Beach monitoring to estimate bycatch.x- FMA III and III are being surveyed regularly and intensively in the last years. - Systematic monitoring to estimate bycatch.MON 1.5. Standardize and re- calculate previous information on CPUE and mortality estimates.xMON 1.5. Standardize and re- calculate previous information on CPUE and mortality estimates.x	bycatch of franciscanas are likely,			- Ongoing in FMAIV. At the
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MON 1.5. Standardize and re- calculate previous information on CPUE and mortality estimates.XMark-recapture program realising Franciscana carcasses at sea ongoing in FMA III. Experiments using franciscana prototypes				Costeras, Universidad
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MON 1.5. Standardize and re- calculate previous information on CPUE and mortality estimates.xMark-recapture program realising Franciscana carcasses at sea ongoing in FMA III. Experiments using franciscana prototypes				IIMYC-UNMDP).
MON 1.5. Standardize and re- calculate previous information on CPUE and mortality estimates.xMark-recapture program realising Franciscana carcasses at sea ongoing in FMA III. Experiments using franciscana prototypes				-Monthly beach surveys are
MON 1.5. Standardize and re- calculate previous information on CPUE and mortality estimates.xMark-recapture program realising Franciscana carcasses at sea ongoing in FMA III. Experiments using franciscana prototypes				conducted at the Río Negro
MON 1.5. Standardize and re- calculate previous information on CPUE and mortality estimates.xMark-recapture program realising Franciscana carcasses at sea ongoing in FMA III. Experiments using franciscana prototypes				estuary to find stranded
MON 1.5. Standardize and re- calculate previous information on CPUE and mortality estimates.xMark-recapture program realising Franciscana carcasses at sea ongoing in FMA III. Experiments using franciscana prototypes				individuals and particularly
MON 1.5. Standardize and re- calculate previous information on CPUE and mortality estimates.xMark-recapture program realising Franciscana carcasses at sea ongoing in FMA III. Experiments using franciscana prototypes				those related to bycatch.
calculate previous information on CPUE and mortality estimates. FMA III. Experiments using franciscana prototypes	MON 1.5. Standardize and re-	х		Mark-recapture program
CPUE and mortality estimates. CPUE and mortality estimates. CPUE and mortality estimates. Carcasses at sea ongoing in FMA III. Experiments using franciscana prototypes	calculate previous information on			realising Franciscana
FMA III. Experiments using franciscana prototypes	CPUE and mortality estimates.			carcasses at sea ongoing in
franciscana prototypes	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			FMA III. Experiments using
				franciscana prototypes
released at sea staring in FMA				released at sea staring in FMA

				II.
MON 1.6. Facilitate access to the Virtual Monitoring System data and the official data of registered vessels held by the Government of Brazil to universities and other research organizations.	X			
MON 1.7. Quantitatively assess the effect of changes in fishing effort on bycatch and the fishermen socio- economics		X		Ongoing research program in FMA III and starting in FMA II.
MON 1.8. Estimate abundance and trends		X		-Aerial surveys to estimate abundance at FMA I done and are underway in FMA II and III. -FMA IV. Aerial survey to estimate abundance will be done by September 2019 and the results will be submitted to the 68B IWC SC. This project is partially funded by the IWC.
MON 1.9. Evaluate use of alternate, more economic, methods to assess trends in abundance (e.g. passive acoustics monitoring).		X		Some acoustics experiments underway by Andriolo.
MON 1.10. Define the maximum allowable fishery related mortality (e.g. PBR, MALFIRM).	X			Data on abundance and other population parameters are being collected and processed.
MON 1.11. Model population viability analysis.	X			A considerable amount of life- history and bycatch data is being collected for FMA II and III.
MIT-1. Mitigate Bycatch				
MIT 1.1. Evaluate methods to reduce bycatch (e.g. development of alternate fishing methods, reduce fishing effort) and organize meetings with stakeholders to evaluate the most practical ways to implement/adjust monitoring and mitigation actions.	X			
MIT $\overline{1.2.}$ Increase enforcement in priority areas for the conservation of the franciscana and no-take zones.		X		-FMA IV. At Balneario El Condor, Río Negro estuary still remains the ban on the use of gillnets from 15 th November to 15 th March each year.
MIT 1.3. Reinstate the list of threatened species in regional and national levels in Brazil.			Х	-National List of Endangered Species reviewed in 2018. Franciscana still classified as

			aritically and an aread in
			Drazil Deview of the National
			Brazii. Review of the National
			Action Plan for the
			conservation of Franciscana
			planned to occur in July 2019.
			- Management Plans of MPAs
			in Uruguayan:
			- Humedales del Santa
			Lucía (NA)
			- Laguna Garzón (NA)
			- Laguna de Rocha (FA)
			- Cabo Polonio (FA)
			- Cerro Verde e islas de
			La Coronilla (FA)
			- Parque Nacional Isla
			de Flores (NA) (**)
			(*) The Franciscana dolphin is
			a focal conservation object in
			Laguna de Rocha and Cerro
			Verde e islas de La Coronilla:
			and is associated with a focal
			object in Cabo Polonio
			Although in those cases it is
			established by Decree that
			specific programs will be
			specific programs will be
			established and implemented,
			currently no specific actions
			are being implemented in
			relation to marine objectives
			other than: the coastal bottom
			trawl fleet is excluded within
			7 nm from the coast (this
			applies for the entire
			Uruguayan coast); SNAP
			supports research and the
			control of the artisanal fishing
			allowed in the MPAs.
			(**) This area was
			incorporated as a MPA in the
			National System of Protected
			Areas (SNAP) in February
			2018.
			(SNAP, DINAMA,
			MVOTMA)
MIT 2 Develop or Implement Prote	cted A	reas.	
MIT 2.1. Create conservation areas in		Х	Albardão and Baia de
Baia de Babitonga and Albardão.			Babitonga still under
			consideration. Albardão not

				yet declared a protected area
				as planned for 2018.
MIT 2.2. Develop a protection area in	Х			
Estuário del Rio Negro.				
MIT 2.3. Create and implement the	Х			
Management Plan for existing MPAs				
in Argentina (Bahía Samborombón;				
Arroyo Zabala; Pehuencó-Monte				
Hermoso; Bahía Blanca, Falsa y				
Verde; Bahía San Blas; Punta				
Bermeja – La Lobería; Caleta de los				
Loros; Bahía de San Antonio) and				
Uruguay (Humedales del Santa Lucía,				
Laguna Garzón, Laguna de Rocha,				
Cabo Polonio y Cerro Verde e islas de				
La Coronilla).				
MIT-3. Encourage the Implementation	on of th	e Natio	nal Act	tion Plan to Reduce the
Interactions of Marine Mammals wit	h Fishe	ries (PA	AN) in	Argentina.
MIT 3.1 Evaluate and monitoring		х		Ongoing project at Buenos
the implementation of the use of				Aires province.
acoustic alarms (pingers) in gillnets.				
MIT 3.2 Evaluate and monitor the	Х			
replacement of gillnets by alternative				
current fishing gears by those of lower				
impact.				
MIT 3.3 Evaluate socio economic	Х			
impact of the implementation of				
mitigation measures.				
PAC-1. Develop a Strategy to Increas	e Publi	c Awar	eness o	of the Franciscana
PAC 1.1. Design and implement a		Х		-A workshop on
public awareness campaign about the				Communication on
franciscana and their conservation				Franciscana was hosted by
problems.				WWF in Sao Paulo in 2018.
PAC 1.2. Design an educational		Х		- A Franciscana Day is being
program about the franciscana.				planned for Brazil.
PAC 1.3. Create a steering group to		Х		Coordinators: D. Danilewicz,
coordinate actions PAC 1.1 and PAC				F. Sucunza, P.H. Ott, R. M.
1.2.				Gama (GEMARS), M.
				Cremer and R. L.
				Paitach (Univille).
				-FMA IV. An ongoing
				educational program is
				developed by Fundación
				Cethus at K10 Negro estuary.
DAC 1 4 Duild agree iter of an alf				
rAC 1.4. Build capacity of specific	X			
DAC 2 Include the Error increases).	lataral	andM		nol Digonagiona
PAC 2.1 Concepto discussions	lateral		unnate	rai Discussions
rAU 2.1 Generate discussions		X		-mora Arganting Dar-il and
within the framework of CMS				among Argentina, Brazil and

			Uruguay to submit a
			Concerted Action to CMP.
PAC 2.2 Generate memoranda of	х		
understanding among universities and			
research institutes of Argentina,			
Uruguay and Brazil within the			
framework of applicable agreements			
to establish common research			
programs			