



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

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Members of the Scientific Committee

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c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

In memoriam - Perrin & Ridgway

The International Whaling Commission was saddened to hear of the recent passing of two giants in the world of marine mammal science.



Dr. Perrin

photo courtesy of the Perrin family



Dr. Ridgway

photo courtesy of the National Marine
Mammal Foundation

Dr. Bill Perrin passed away on 11 July 2022 at the age of 83 in San Diego, California. As a young researcher, Bill led ground-breaking research on the impact of the dolphin-set tuna purse seine fishery on dolphin populations in the Eastern Tropical Pacific. The issues he raised relative to this fishery influenced legislators who shortly thereafter passed the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act, a fundamentally important step forward in marine mammal stewardship. In addition, Bill's rigorous work on the taxonomy, life history, population ecology and behaviour of cetaceans set the standard for scientific excellence. Bill was the visionary who inspired the publication of and was an editor for the Encyclopaedia of Marine Mammals,

Chair: Andrej Bibic (Slovenia)

Vice-Chair: Amadou Télivel Diallo (Republic of Guinea)

Executive Secretary: Rebecca Lent

a classic go-to reference for all of us. Bill was an active participant and contributor to the work of the IWC Scientific Committee for many years, particularly on the issue of bycatch. He was also one of the founding members of the Society for Marine Mammalogy and the Society's third president.

Dr. Sam Ridgway passed away on 10 July 2022 at his home on Point Loma in California. He was one of the founders of the US Navy's Marine Mammal Program in 1960 and was the founding President of the National Marine Mammal Foundation beginning in 2007. As a veterinarian-scientist, Sam laid the foundations of marine mammal medicine and discovered many of the remarkable physiological adaptations of these animals. Sam was a major contributor to the marine mammal literature, with more than 350 peer-reviewed publications, books, and book chapters. His book *Mammals of the Sea*, published 50 years ago, remains a valuable reference for veterinarians and biologists. We are particularly pleased to note that Sam received his PhD in Neurobiology at the University of Cambridge, here in our hometown. He served on the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission Scientific Advisory Committee and several Committees of the National Academy of Sciences.

The IWC is grateful for the achievements of these marine mammal scientists throughout their careers, and in particular their mentoring and influence on the many scientists who followed in their footsteps.

Our deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Dr. Perrin and Dr. Ridgway.

The IWC Secretariat