



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments
and Members of the Scientific Committee

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New Chair and Vice-chair for the Southern Ocean Research Partnership

The Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) of the IWC's Southern Ocean Research Partnership is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Chair, Dr Giancarlo Lauriano (Italy). Giancarlo will be supported by a newly appointed Vice-chair, Dr David Lundquist (New Zealand).

We extend our enormous gratitude to Dr Helena Herr (Germany) for her tenure as IWC-SORP SSC Chair May 2019 to October 2022. Helena's hard work, vision and enthusiasm maintained and guided IWC-SORP through the difficult pandemic years and ensured that our scientific endeavours and achievements continued despite the associated challenges. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Helena in her ongoing capacity as Theme Leader for the *Recovery status and ecology of Southern Hemisphere fin whales* theme.

For more information about IWC-SORP please go to <https://iwc.int/scientific-research/sorp>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide additional information about the IWC-SORP initiative.

Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary

Elanor Bell
IWC-SORP Coordinator

Giancarlo Lauriano
Chair of IWC-SORP SSC