



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

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

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c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

In Memoriam – Mike Donoghue



The Secretariat is sad to inform members of the IWC community that Mike Donoghue has passed away.

Mike was a participant and supporter of the IWC over many years and in several different roles, firstly as the Alternate Commissioner for New Zealand and a member of the Scientific Committee.

Chair: Amadou Télivel Diallo (Republic of Guinea)

Vice-Chair: Nick Gales (Australia)

Executive Secretary: Rebecca Lent

Mike went on to build new collaborations between IWC and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) where he was an adviser on Threatened and Migratory Species. He encouraged SPREP members to participate in IWC entanglement response training, research into migration routes, responsible management of whale watching and possible impacts of climate change. In 2022, Mike helped initiate the first review of small cetaceans of the Pacific and introduced many new experts to the Scientific Committee, as always, encouraging collaboration throughout the marine community.

Most recently, Mike gave extremely helpful advice to the IWC Secretariat in making contact with stakeholders in the Western Pacific, as part of preparations for bycatch mitigation collaboration with the FAO Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Common Oceans II project.

Mike was respected and widely liked across the whole IWC community, described as a pleasure to deal with and 'always fun.' He will be much missed and on behalf of the Commission, we send sincere condolences to Mike's family and his many friends around the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Lent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary