



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and  
Members of the Scientific Committee  
IWC.ALL.442  
*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Decadal Review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SOS)**

In 2024, the IWC's Scientific Committee will undertake the 3<sup>rd</sup> decadal review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SOS).

An important component of this process will involve an assessment of the scientific research undertaken within the SOS and the contiguous Indian Ocean Sanctuary (IOS).

As part of the last decadal review, a paper (SC/66B/SAN01) was compiled that summarised as much of the research undertaken in the SOS as possible up to and including 2016.

Although the 3<sup>rd</sup> decadal review is not until 2024, it is essential to start the process early. Therefore, the convenors of the Sanctuaries working group (SAN) are commencing the process of updating this paper now.

In readiness, we kindly request details from all members of the SC about research that they have conducted (or are aware of being conducted) within the SOS and contiguous Indian Ocean Sanctuary since 2016.

An **online form** (<https://forms.office.com/e/qWDVfn2xf0>) has been created to capture high level information about research projects and voyages, the type and volume of data collected, the outputs generated and other details about research in the SOS and IOS.

Submissions received by **31 March 2023** will be included in an updated paper to be presented at the upcoming meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC69A).

The online form will remain live during the intersessional period 23/24 to capture additional research conducted between 2023 and 2024. A final paper summarising SOS and IOS research will be submitted to the panel established to review the SOS in 2024.

Please direct any enquiries to:

Chris Parsons: [CParsons@defenders.org](mailto:CParsons@defenders.org) (convenor)

Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho: [lrojasbracho@gmail.com](mailto:lrojasbracho@gmail.com) (co-convenor)

or Elanor Bell: [elanor.bell@aad.gov.au](mailto:elanor.bell@aad.gov.au) (report compiler)

Thank you for taking the time to submit the relevant information as soon as possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Staniland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Iain Staniland  
**Lead for Science**