



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and  
Members of the Scientific Committee  
**IWC.ALL.459**

**3rd Decadal Review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SOS)**

In 2024, the IWC's Scientific Committee will undertake the 3rd 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. At SC69A, a partial update of this research summary was presented (SC/69A/SAN01).

It is essential to continue this update process. Therefore, the convenors of the Sanctuaries working group (SAN) kindly request additional 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. This online form will remain live during the remainder of the intersessional period 23/24.

Submissions received by 31 March 2024 will be included in a final paper summarising SOS and IOS research that will be submitted to the SOS Review Panel. Early submissions are strongly encouraged to ensure that the convenors and report compiler have sufficient time to incorporate them.

Please direct any enquiries to:

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

Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho: [Irojasbracho@gmail.com](mailto:Irojasbracho@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  
Head of Science, Conservation and Management