

# Annex X

## Remembrances

The Committee was saddened to learn of the death of nine scientists who had supported the Scientific Committee.

### **SERGEY BLOKHIN**

Sergey Blokhin was a pioneer of marine mammal science in Russia. If you know about gray whale biology and natural history, then you know Sergey by way of his research. He was naturally curious and fascinated by nature, qualities that transitioned to his fastidious collection of data on gray whales hunted by Chukotka whalers in the Russian Far East. Sergey died in April 2024. If Sergey was in the room today, he would say: 'David, cut the shit now, enough, there is work to be done'. Rest in peace friend, nasdarovya! *David Weller*

### **ANDREW BRIERLEY**

Andy started his career researching the population genetics of squid, before moving to the British Antarctic Survey where he began his work on krill. He made a tremendous contribution to our understanding of krill and its role within the Southern Ocean ecosystem, particularly through the use of active acoustics. It was this work that made him an obvious choice to join the Expert Panel in 2015 to review the NEWREP-A special permit proposal. He subsequently became a member of the Committee and especially contributed to the work on ecosystem modelling.

Andy had moved to St. Andrews in 2001 and became a Professor in 2008. He led the Pelagic Ecology Research Group at the Scottish Oceans Institute and was Director of Research for the School of Biology from 2021.

Andy was a great companion on long watches at sea monitoring underway instruments and would always find some form of entertainment. When it got too rough to work, we would have competitions to see who could stay on one leg the longest and I remember Andy hopping back and forth across the lab in time with the rolling of the ship.

As well as his academic achievements, Andy will be remembered for his humour and also as an athlete. His personal best for a marathon was 2 hours 42 minutes, while his cycling and running led him to compete in many triathlons. He qualified for and competed in the Ironman World Championships five times.

Andy was someone who was so intellectually and physically robust that he seemed indestructible. Sadly, that was not the case and Andy died 19 February 2024 at the age of 56, following diagnosis with a brain tumour in November last year. He will be greatly missed. *Russell Leaper*

### **PETRA DEIMER**

Petra Deimer (1948-2024) attended the Scientific Committee almost every year from 1983 to 2012. She was best known for her work on sperm whales in Madeira, where her doctoral thesis was on sperm whale anatomy. Initially working with Madeiran whalers, she helped them switch to whale watching and helped found the whaling museum there. She published several popular science books on whales and other marine mammals in her native Germany, where she promoted public participation in cetacean science including through the recording of sightings by yachtspeople. She was also an expert on parrots, and her book on parrot breeding was translated into a dozen languages. Over the years,

she and her husband welcomed several Scientific Committee colleagues to their home near Hamburg, but at least one was forced to retreat by a parrot which considered that it had priority use of the spare room, much to the amusement of Petra and her husband. *Justin Cooke*

### **CRAIG GEORGE**

On 5 July 2023, Dr. John Craighead 'Craig' George died in a rafting accident in Alaska. He was only 70 years old. The IWC lost a long-time member of its Scientific Committee. While contributing to many items on the SC agenda, Craig also demonstrated an eagerness to listen to other's backgrounds and perspectives, a willingness to humbly share his own views and experiences, and an interest in promoting a warm sense of community among SC scientists.

Craig worked for the North Slope Borough in Alaska and collaborated extensively with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and its whaling captains from the early 1980s until 2023. He first attended a meeting of the SC in 1987 and continued almost every year through to 2023. He authored or co-authored more than 185 papers for the SC or other Commission subgroups. Craig's focus was on Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort bowhead whales, but he was also intensely interested in ecology, physiology, and anatomy of whales. Many of his contributions about bowhead whales can be found in the recent book, 'The Bowhead Whale *Balaena mysticetus*: Biology and Human Interactions,' that he co-edited with Hans Thewissen.

Craig was successful in part due to his dedication to merging scientific knowledge with indigenous or traditional knowledge. A sign of his respect from the whaling captains is his election as an honorary whaling captain. The deep respect the whalers had for Craig created many new opportunities for other scientists to collect data and conduct studies on bowhead whales, thereby improving our understanding of bowhead whale ecology and providing for breakthroughs in diverse scientific areas which also helped to inform management decisions.

Craig was also one of the nicest people you could ever meet. At most SC meetings he had his guitar in hand and was perhaps at his happiest when playing music with a group of scientists late into the night. His family, many friends, and indeed the IWC will miss his many contributions to science and the ways he enriched all our lives through his kindness, respect and music. *Robert Suydam*

### **SIMON NORTHRIDGE**

Professor Simon Northridge passed away in his garden, in Scotland, just two days after his 64<sup>th</sup> birthday. Simon was the Head of the School of Biology at The University of St. Andrews. Simon moved to St. Andrews when the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) relocated there in 1995. His work focussed on marine ecology, particularly marine mammals and their interaction with the fishing industry.

Simon had a degree in Zoology with a supplemental in Anthropology from Oxford University, UK, and his interest in both biology and humans was core to his research throughout his life. Simon first attended his first IWC SC in 1995 and during his near thirty years involvement with SC, he participated both as a UK National Delegate as well as an Invited Participant. He served on the Bycatch Expert Panel since its inception, and also provided his expertise to ICES, serving as the first Chair of the Study Group for Bycatch of Protected Species (SGBYC) in 2008 and, then in 2010, he co-chaired a joint NAMMCO/ICES workshop on bycatch monitoring. Throughout his career, Simon pursued research that led directly to measuring marine mammal bycatch with the aim of advising authorities on how best to reduce it.

Simon contributed his expertise to the Committee, both at annual meetings and in workshops organised throughout the world. Simon conducted the first workshop in in Asia on the identification of bycatch both in stranded animals and from imagery and his contribution to capacity building in the region continued through more workshops and his willingness to assist researchers through online engagement. Simon was a true collaborator, he worked with environmental groups, management

authorities, the fishing industry and international agencies, and endeavoured to understand their multiple viewpoints. Simon will be remembered for his eagerness to collaborate and his drive to decrease bycatch and, personally, for his warmth, his dry sense of humour and his easy smile. Simon was enormously respected by all he met and his contributions to the Committee spanned decades. We shall miss his knowledge and his openness. *Lindsay Porter*

### **GIANNI PAVAN**

Gianni Pavan, professor of Bioacoustics and Ecology at the University of Pavia, Italy and Director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Bioacoustics and Environmental Research (CIBRA), born in Pavia, Italy in 1960, passed away on the 26th of May 2023.

He was a member of the Italian Delegation at the Scientific Committee in 2004, 2006 and 2009, and substantially contributed to the discussions of the Environmental Concerns Subcommittee regarding noise issues.

Since obtaining his Degree in Natural Sciences on computer analysis of birdsong in 1983, Gianni began pioneering the development of 'computational bioacoustics' in Italy. He focused on developing and setting up dedicated tools and software for studying bioacoustics and ecology of cetaceans and birds. In the last 20 years, he has increasingly dedicated himself to studying soundscapes as acoustic environment, including infrasonics and ultrasound.

He was Chairman of IBAC (International Bio Acoustic Council), member of the Steering Committee of the 'Centro Studi Cetacei', founding member of the 'Centro Studi Cetacei e Tartarughe Marine', member of the editorial committee of the magazine, Bioacoustics, founder and director of the National Database on Cetacean strandings on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea, member of the ACCOBAMS-ASCOBANS Joint Working Group on Marine Noise.

He collaborated at national level with the National Institute of Nuclear Physics, the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, the Universities of Parma, Padova, Turin, Milan, Rome, the Center for Cetacean Studies, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Museum of Natural History of Milan, the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, the Regional Agency for Environmental Protection of Tuscany, the Tethys Research Institute. Internationally, he has collaborated with NATO NURC, ONR (US), Columbia University and LDEO (US), NMFS (US), Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (US), St. Andrews University (UK), University of Toulon South Var (LSIS) (FR), OceanCare, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS.

Gianni was a brilliant and passionate researcher in the field of marine bioacoustics and a leading expert in acoustics of cetaceans, participating to several international and national projects and supervising numerous BSc, MSc, and PhD students. He was a remarkably kind man and a passionate and committed conservation scientist, deeply attached to his profession and always available with all his colleagues. *Caterina Fortuna*

### **ROGER PAYNE**

Roger Searle Payne passed away on 10 June 2023 At the age of 88 years. He was an American biologist and environmentalist famous for his 1967 discovery showing that the complex vocalisations humpback whales make are rhythmic repeated patterns and therefore can be classified as songs. He was a member of the US delegation to the Commission meeting (1971-72) and a member of the Committee (1983 and 1989). Payne founded Ocean Alliance in 1971, which is an organisation with the mission 'to protect whales and their ocean environment through research, scientific collaboration, public education, and the arts'. He was also an assistant professor of biology at Rockefeller University and, concurrently, a research zoologist at the Institute for Research in Animal Behavior (IRAB), run by Rockefeller University and the Wildlife Conservation Society. *Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas*

## **MIKE TILLMAN**

On 19 July 2023, Dr. Michael F. Tillman died after a long fight with various illnesses. He was 80 years old. Mike's heritage was that of an Alaska Native and he was just the second Alaska Native to obtain a PhD in the USA.

Much of Mike's international professional life revolved around the IWC. His first meetings were in 1974 as a member of the US delegation to both the SC and the Commission. Mike undertook and encouraged studies to assess the status of whale stocks that were still exploited to strengthen the advice of the SC to the Commission. Mike brought a strong quantitative component to the work of the SC and chaired several subcommittees and workshops as well as being elected its Chair from 1983 to 1985. With his strong support, a number of members of the US delegation followed Mike as Chair of the IWC SC over the last 35 years. Mike's intellectual rigor, firm but fair chairing, and dry sense of humour were his trademarks. He received a presidential appointment to be US Deputy Commissioner to the IWC in 1994 and served until 2004. At times during this period, he also served as the Acting US Commissioner to the IWC. He served as a member of the US delegation to the IWC until 2018.

Mike became deeply involved in aboriginal subsistence whaling (ASW) activities starting in 1977 as part of the US delegation at a Special IWC Commission meeting where the US Government presented a proposal for a small take of bowhead whales in 1978. At this meeting, and all subsequent meetings in which ASW issues were discussed, Mike was a champion for recognising the need for the IWC to take formally into account the nutritional and cultural needs of Alaskan Eskimos that lived along the northern and northwestern coast of Alaska.

Mike was a good friend to many involved with the IWC community. His leadership and dedication to the stewardship of cetaceans, and his focus on the importance of the nutritional needs of Alaska Eskimos was recognised and respected by all. His participation at meetings of the IWC will be missed, but his contributions will not be forgotten. *Doug DeMaster*

## **HIDEYOSHI YOSHIDA**

Dr. Hideyoshi Yoshida passed away on 4 May 2023 at the age of 57 whilst attending SC69A in 2023 in Bled, Slovenia. He worked for 35 years as a whale research biologist. Dr. Yoshida's doctoral thesis at Nagasaki University was on the finless porpoise in the coastal waters of southwestern Japan and in 2001 he published the paper 'Population Structure of Finless Porpoises (*Neophocaena phocaenoides*) in Coastal Waters off Japan Based on Mitochondrial DNA Sequences' in the *Journal of Mammalogy*. International researchers have referred to this paper over 80 times in their own research papers on finless porpoises. Dr. Yoshida provided the scientific community with the basic facts to better understand the different populations of finless porpoise in Japan and their conservation status so that this species can continue to be an important part of the coastal ecosystem in southwest Japan.

In the late 1990s, Dr. Yoshida moved the large cetacean section of the National Research Institute of the Far Seas Fisheries to Shimizu, Shizuoka. In 2000, he began to attend SC meetings as a Japanese delegate and contributed particularly to the IA Subcommittee and to SOWER/POWER programmes. He also contributed to international collaborations with West African countries, Caribbean countries and Russia on whale sighting surveys.

Dr. Yoshida's other important work was on baleen whales. In 1999 he published the study 'Phylogenetic relationships of Bryde's whales in the western North Pacific and adjacent waters inferred from mitochondrial DNA sequences' in *Marine Mammal Science*. This paper was essential to the understanding of the population structure of coastal Bryde's whales and the paper must be referenced by anyone working on populations of Bryde's whales anywhere in the world. *Koji Matsuoka*