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## Editorial

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Welcome to this the final issue of Volume 8 of the *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*.

Despite certain logistical problems in timing, 2006 has been another successful year for the Journal. A total of 32 papers have been published this year covering a wide range of subjects related to the conservation and management of cetaceans. There have been a total of 104 authors from Europe, Asia, Africa and North and South America. This year's Supplement included the full report of the Scientific Committee held in Ulsan, Korea as well as the results of five important intersessional workshops. The author and subject index can be found at the end of this issue.

An essential part of providing wise management advice is the incorporation of scientific uncertainty into the assessment process. The IWC Scientific Committee has played a pioneering role in this work and I am pleased to include a paper that uses a new technique for incorporating uncertainty into the assessment of the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock of bowhead whales which are subject to aboriginal subsistence whaling (Brandon and Wade). There has been considerable recent interest in the topic of man-made noise (such as that created by certain types of naval sonar and seismic activities) and its actual and potential effects on cetaceans; two of the papers in the present volume (Stone and Tasker; Wang and Yang) consider aspects of this important conservation issue. Assessing the status of cetaceans and the potential impact of human activities requires *inter alia* good estimates of abundance and this issue includes a paper providing the first abundance estimates of fin and sei whales in an area of northwest Scotland that is also an area of expanding oil industry operations (Macleod *et al.*) and another providing the first aerial survey abundance estimate for humpback whales off Brazil (Andriolo *et al.*). Understanding distribution, movements and stock structure is also of great importance to management and conservation and this issue includes a number of relevant studies, including papers illustrating the

value of collaborative photo-identification studies for showing movements between feeding and breeding grounds (Stevick *et al.*, and Rock *et al.*), a paper providing the first comprehensive look at the distribution in Antarctic waters of the poorly studied spectacled porpoise (Sekiguchi *et al.*), a note on the first record of a dwarf minke whale from Chilean waters (Acevedo *et al.*), a paper evaluating the use of data from whalewatching operations for examining the distribution of killer whales (Hauser *et al.*) and a paper examining the use of stable isotope analysis to provide insights into the seasonal distribution and habitat use of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale (Summers *et al.*).

Finally, I would like to thank the 48 scientists that have acted as anonymous reviewers for the papers published in Volume 8 (Baker, C.S.; Ballance, L.T.; Bannister, J.L.; Barlow, J.; Barros, N.B.; Best, P.B.; Bravington, M.; Buckland, S.T.; Calambokidis, J.; Carlson, C.; Clapham, P.J.; Clark, C.W.; Cañadas, A.; Cooke, J.; DeMaster, D.; Fernandez, A.; Gales, N.; George, J.C.; Gerrodette, T.; Hammond, P.S.; Jefferson, T.A.; Jepson, P.D.; Katona, S.; Laake, J.L.; Larsen, F.; Leaper, R.; Martin, A.R.; Moore, S.E.; Natoli, A.; Northridge, S.; Nowacek, D.; O'Hara, T.; Raftery, A.; Rankin, S.; Read, A.J.; Reeves, R.R.; Reilly, S.B.; Schweder, T.; Secchi, E.R.; Siciliano, S.; Stone, G.; Strindberg, S.; Tanabe, S.; Van Waerebeek, K.; Wells, R.S.; Whitehead, H.; Zeh, J.E.; Zerbini, A.). Without their diligence and hard work, the papers in the *Journal*, and more importantly the contribution they make to the wise management and conservation of cetaceans, would be considerable poorer. A full list of the reviewers and their affiliations can be found at: [http://www.iwcoffice.org/publications/contents\\_reviewers.htm#review](http://www.iwcoffice.org/publications/contents_reviewers.htm#review).

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