
Editorial

Welcome to this the final issue of Volume 11 of the *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*.

2009/2010 have been challenging years for the Journal with respect to both printing companies and personnel (congratulations to the two mothers!). These have now been overcome and the Journal has also developed a completely online submission and review system that will begin to be used from June 2011¹. A total of 31 papers have been published in Volume 11 covering a wide range of subjects related to the conservation and management of cetaceans. There have been a total of over 100 authors from Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa and North and South America. The first supplement to Volume 11 included the full report of the Scientific Committee held in Santiago, Chile in May 2008 and the results of six intersessional workshops. The second supplement to Volume 11 included the full report of the Scientific Committee held in Funchal, Madeira, Portugal in May/June 2009 and the results of eight important intersessional workshops. The author and subject index for Volume 11 can be found at the end of this issue.

The present issue contains 11 papers covering a wide range of subjects related to conservation.

Without knowledge of abundance and trends, it is difficult if not impossible to assess the status of populations and prioritise the anthropogenic activities that may impact upon them. Many of the papers in this volume contribute to developments in both practical and theoretical ways to the development of better estimates or produce estimates themselves. 'Distance'-based line transect methods are amongst the most commonly used in the cetacean community. Gillespie *et al.* and Leaper *et al.* provide companion papers examining the practicalities of integrating data collection on such surveys with an emphasis on better estimation of distance and angle – the key parameters needed for distance-based estimation methods. Schwarz *et al.* examine the implications of two alternative field approaches (closing mode and passing mode) for dolphin surveys in the eastern tropical Pacific whilst Kleppe *et al.* examine the implications of the choice of hazard probability function on effective strip width. Koski *et al.* review the possible use of unmanned aerial systems to provide quantitative information on cetacean abundance in offshore areas.

Two papers provide abundance estimates: Garrison *et al.* examine the habitat and abundance of cetaceans in the continental slope waters off the US southeastern Atlantic coast while Lauriano *et al.* provide estimates of abundance of striped dolphins in the Mediterranean Pelagos Sanctuary.

Anthropogenic activities that may affect population status range from direct harvesting to whalewatching. Frost and Suydam provide information on the subsistence harvest of white whales in Alaska while Montero-Cordero and Lobo provide information on the effect of tourist vessels on the behaviour of pantropical spotted dolphins off Costa Rica. Before designing appropriate methods to estimate abundance and trends it is important to understand the distribution of cetaceans in the area. Minton *et al.* provide the results of surveys undertaken in the coastal waters of the Sultanate of Oman that can provide baseline data for future conservation efforts in the region.

The final paper in the volume provides a major review of the 28 species of toothed whales found within the boundaries of the IWC's Southern Ocean Sanctuary, incorporating data and information from many different studies in the area including the IWC's research cruises carried out under the IDCR and SOWER programmes over a period of 30 years.

Finally, I would like to thank the 50 scientists that have acted as anonymous reviewers for the papers published in Volume 11 (M. Andre; R. Angliss; R. Baldwin; L.T. Ballance; J. Bannister; S. Berrow; P.B. Best; J. Brandon; M. Bravington; R.L. Brownell; D. Butterworth; J. Calambokidis; A. Canadas; C. Carlson; J.G. Cooke; P. Corkeron; P. Ensor; J. Forcada; C.M. Fortuna; T. Gerrodette; A. Gilles; G. Givens; P. Hammond; L. Harwood; S. Hedley; M.-P. Heide-Jorgensen; S. Ingram; R. Kenney; J. Laake; F. Larsen; J. Lawson; R. Leaper; W. McFee; G. Notarbartolo Di Sciara; N. Øien; D. Palka; S. Panigada; D. Pike; A. Punt; A. Read; R. Reeves; S. Reilly; J. Savelle; T. Schweder; L. Thomas; P. Thompson; K. Van Waerebeek; R. Waples; R.S. Wells; J. Zeh). 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 considerably poorer. A full list of the reviewers and their affiliations can be found at: http://www.iwcoffice.org/publications/contents_reviewers.htm#review.

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¹ <http://www.iwcoffice.org/publications/JCRM.htm>