

# Contents

Editorial .....	iii
<b>REPORT</b>	
REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON THE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE HUMPBACK WHALES .....	1
<b>GENERAL BIOLOGY AND FEEDING GROUNDS</b>	
T.A. BRANCH – Humpback whale abundance south of 60°S from three complete circumpolar sets of surveys. . . .	53
P.B. BEST – A note on the age at sexual maturity of humpback whales .....	71
K. MATSUOKA, T. HAKAMADA, H. KIWADA, H. MURASE and S. NISHIWAKI – Abundance estimates and trends for humpback whales ( <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> ) in Antarctic Areas IV and V based on JARPA sighting data .....	75
J. ALLEN, C. CARLSON and P.T. STEVICK. – A description and summary of the Antarctic Humpback Whale Catalogue .....	95
C. COTTÉ and C. GUINET – The importance of a seasonal ice zone and krill density in the historical abundance of humpback whale catches in the Southern Ocean .....	101
E.R. SECCHI, L. DALLA ROSA, P.G. KINAS, R.F. NICOLETTE, A.M.N. RUFINO and A.F. AZEVEDO – Encounter rates and abundance of humpback whales ( <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> ) in Gerlache and Bransfield Straits, Antarctic Peninsula. ....	107
A.N. ZERBINI, A. ANDRIOLO, M.P. HEIDE-JØRGENSEN, S.C. MOREIRA, J.L. PIZZORNO, Y.G. MAIA, G.R. VANBLARICOM and D.P. DEMASTER – Migration and summer destination of humpback whales ( <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> ) in the western South Atlantic Ocean. ....	113
R. LEAPER, S. PEEL, D. PEEL and N. GALES – Exploring the assumptions of multi-stock assessment models for humpback whales ( <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> ) in the Southern Hemisphere: using Breeding Stocks D and E as an example. ....	119
<b>BREEDING STOCK A</b>	
A.N. ZERBINI, E.J. WARD, P.G. KINAS, M.H. ENGEL and A. ANDRIOLO. A Bayesian assessment of the conservation status of humpback whales ( <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> ) in the western South Atlantic Ocean. ....	131
E. WARD, A.N. ZERBINI, P.G. KINAS, M.H. ENGEL and A. ANDRIOLO. Estimates of population growth rates of humpback whales ( <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> ) in the wintering grounds off the coast of Brazil (Breeding Stock A) .....	145
<b>BREEDING STOCK B</b>	
S. STRINDBERG, P.J. ERSTS, T. COLLINS, G-P. SOUNGUET and H. ROSENBAUM. Line transect estimates of humpback whale abundance and distribution on their wintering grounds in the coastal waters of Gabon .....	153
<b>BREEDING STOCK C</b>	
K. FINDLAY, M. MEYER, S. ELWEN, D. KOTZE, R. JOHNSON, P. TRUTER, C. UAMUSSE, S. SITEO, C. WILKE, S. KERWATH, S. SWANSON, L. STAVEREES and J. VAN DER WESTHUIZEN – Distribution and abundance of humpback whales, <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> , off the coast of Mozambique, 2003. ....	163
P.J. ERSTS, J. KISZKA, M. VÉLY and H.C. ROSENBAUM – Density, group composition and encounter rates of humpback whales ( <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> ) in the eastern Comoros Archipelago (C2). ....	175
<b>ARABIAN SEA POPULATION</b>	
G. MINTON, T. COLLINS, K. FINDLAY, P. ERSTS, H. ROSENBAUM, P. BERGGREN and R. BALDWIN – Seasonal distribution, abundance, habitat use and population identity of humpback whales in Oman. ....	185
<b>BREEDING STOCK D</b>	
A. BRANDÃO and D.S. BUTTERWORTH – Concerning demographic limitations on the population growth rate of West Australian (Breeding Stock D) humpback whales. ....	201
S.L. HEDLEY, J.L. BANNISTER and R.A. DUNLOP – Abundance estimates of Southern Hemisphere Breeding Stock ‘D’ humpback whales from aerial and land-based surveys off Shark Bay, Western Australia, 2008. ....	209

C.G.M. PAXTON, S.L. HEDLEY and J.L. BANNISTER – Group IV Humpback whales: their status from aerial and land-based surveys off Western Australia, 2005 . . . . .	223
<b>BREEDING STOCKS E AND F</b>	
P.H. FORESTELL, G.D. KAUFMAN and M. CHALOUPKA – Long-term trends in abundance of humpback whales in Hervey Bay, Australia. . . . .	237
M.J. NOAD, R.A. DUNLOP, D. PATON and D.H. CATO – Absolute and relative abundance estimates of Australian east coast humpback whales ( <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> ). . . . .	243
D.A. PATON, L. BROOKS, D. BURNS, T. FRANKLIN, W. FRANKLIN, P. HARRISON and P. BAVERSTOCK – Abundance of East coast Australian humpback whales ( <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> ) in 2005 estimated using multi-point sampling and capture-recapture analysis. . . . .	253
D.A. PATON and E. KNIEST – Population growth of Australian east coast humpback whales observed from Cape Byron, 1998 to 2004. . . . .	261
C. GARRIGUE, T. FRANKLIN, R. CONSTANTINE, K. RUSSELL, D. BURNS, M. POOLE, D. PATON, N. HAUSER, M. OREMUS, S. CHILDERHOUSE, D. MATTILA, N. GIBB, W. FRANKLIN, J. ROBBINS, P. CLAPHAM and C.S. BAKER – First assessment of interchange of humpback whales between Oceania and the East coast of Australia . . . . .	269
C. GARRIGUE, R. CONSTANTINE, M. POOLE, N. HAUSER, P. CLAPHAM, M. DONOGHUE, K. RUSSELL, D. PATON, D.K. MATTILA, J. ROBBINS and C.S. BAKER – Movement of individual humpback whales between wintering grounds of Oceania (South Pacific), 1999 to 2004 . . . . .	275
<b>BREEDING STOCK G</b>	
F. FÉLIX, M. MUÑOZ, J. FALCONI, N. BOTERO and B. HAASE – Entanglement of humpback whales in artisanal fishing gear in Ecuador. . . . .	285
F. FÉLIX, D.M. PALACIOS, S.K. SALAZAR, S. CABALLERO, B. HAASE and J. FALCONI – The 2005 Galápagos humpback whale expedition: a first attempt to assess and characterise the population in the Archipelago . . . . .	291
F. FÉLIX, C. CASTRO, J.L. LAAKE, B. HAASE and M. SCHEIDAT – Abundance and survival estimates of the southeastern Pacific humpback whale stock from 1991–2006 photo-identification surveys in Ecuador . . . . .	301
S.J. JOHNSTON, A.N. ZERBINI and D.S. BUTTERWORTH – A Bayesian approach to assess the status of Southern Hemisphere humpback whales ( <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> ) with an application to Breeding Stock G. . . . .	309
Index . . . . .	ix