

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great sadness that I share the news of the passing of Doug Coughran. Doug was a passionate and effective contributor to the IWC on issues of disentanglement of great whales and euthanasia of stranded whales. In both these realms Doug reached across all elements of the IWC and made significant and lasting contributions to animal welfare, safety, training, collaborative networks and information sharing.

Doug has a proud legacy in Western Australia where his 36-year career as a wildlife officer, specialising in marine wildlife, led to the development of successful operational and research partnerships right across Australia and the world. Over the years Doug was involved in the rescue of more than 70 entangled baleen whales, and the skill he displayed on the water was complemented by the insights he brought to 18 co-authored research papers. He was a conservationist and manager whose expertise and empathy allowed him to implement a new process for the humane euthanasia of large whales; knowledge he freely shared with us all at the International Whaling Commission.

His achievements were formally recognised in 2010 when he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his development and delivery of national and international training for the disentanglement of large cetaceans.

Doug's commitment to marine wildlife management and conservation was second only to that to his family; his wife Dawn and their sons Jason and Brendon.

I would be happy to pass on any messages from the IWC to Doug's family and work colleagues.

My best regards,

Nick