

# **Report of the Scientific Committee**

**Bled, Slovenia, 24 April-6 May 2018**

## **Annex AA Obituaries**

**This report is presented as it was at SC/67b.  
There may be further editorial changes (e.g. updated references, tables, figures)  
made before publication.**

**International Whaling Commission  
Bled, Slovenia, 2018**



# Annex AA

## Obituaries

The Committee was saddened to learn of the death of four scientists known to the Scientific Committee.

### **GREG KAUFMAN**

Greg Kaufman, a longstanding member of the Scientific Committee, passed away earlier this year. He first attended in 2006 when he took part in the Workshop on the Comprehensive Assessment of Southern Hemisphere Humpback Whales. He was an active member of the sub-committee on whale watching and the Whale Watching Working Group of the Conservation Committee.

In 1980 Greg founded the Pacific Whale Foundation as a non-profit research, conservation and education organisation and began land-based observations and boat-based photo-ID studies of humpback whales. In addition, he began the first photo-ID studies of humpback whales in Australia. To fund research, conservation and education programmes, Greg became involved in commercial whale watching on Maui and he pioneered the use of trained naturalists and low-impact eco-trips. He helped launch a newly developed whale watching industry in Japan and the Pacific Whale Foundation provided support for operator training workshops, photo-ID research and education programs for local children in Ecuador. Greg also travelled to Oman and Chile to identify ways Pacific Whale Foundation could support critical projects underway in both of those locations.

Greg was instrumental in the development of the Hervey Bay Marine Park in Australia and was an early champion of the Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary in Hawai'i. He was appalled at the federal and state supported efforts to set up a high-speed super ferry service between the main Hawai'ian Islands in 2007, as it was obvious to him it was just a matter of time before the mammoth vessels would wreak havoc on the recovering humpback whale population. In part because of the public protests he ignited, and in part because of an unsustainable business model, the enterprise was shut down. He also led a campaign that resulted in Maui County legislation that bans dolphins in captivity on any of the county's four islands.

Greg had a capacity to ask the question no one thinks to ask. In the late 1970s Greg attended the annual meeting of a national marine mammal conservation organisation in California. After what he described as a long and boring meeting the discussion turned to funding ideas. One of the representatives mentioned there was a local baker who wanted to make and sell whale-shaped cookies and donate 5¢ per cookie to the organisation if the baker could use its name. Immediately the group broke into two camps - one arguing that such an arrangement would debase the good name of the organisation; the other insisting it was a good way to raise much needed funds to support projects. The argument went on for some time. Finally, Greg raised his hand and cleared his throat, 'Just wondering' he asked, 'has anyone tasted the cookies?' It turned out no one had, so samples were immediately sent for. Once the cookies arrived, every took a bite, and there was a long silence. 'Wow' somebody finally said, 'these taste like crap!' Heads nodded in agreement all around the table, and the matter was quickly resolved. None of those cookies were ever sold on behalf of the organisation.

Greg was a smart, witty and deeply loyal friend. His life's mission was to bring whales and humans together in a way that would benefit whales and help people understand their magnificence and beauty. He will be sorely missed. - *Paul Forestell*

### **DOUG COUGHRAN**

Doug Coughran did not attend the Scientific Committee meetings, but he was a participant in numerous IWC workshops on entanglement and stranding response. His classic direct and practical advice was deeply respected by all, so much so that he became a charter member of both the IWC's entanglement and stranding expert (advisory) groups. He came to the Center for Coastal Studies in 2004 on a Winston Churchill fellowship and he absorbed everything with a passion there. When he went back to Western Australia, he established a response network which is the gold standard for the rest of the World, especially in its professional structure and focus on training and safety.

IWC Global Network member Mike Morrissey, from Department of Conservation in New Zealand represented the IWC at his funeral. The following are excerpts from his report back to the group. The funeral itself was primarily a celebration of Doug's life and so mostly family spoke. However, the speaker on behalf of all non-family was the Deputy Director General (DDG) of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. He mentioned that the IWC and the Global Whale Entanglement Response Network were an important part of Doug's life and that his contributions were greatly valued. It was obvious that Doug himself had wanted these acknowledgements made. Also, unbeknownst to virtually everyone, the DDG announced that a new vessel under construction will be named the Douglas T. Coughran and will be based in Perth. It will service Rottneest Island, one of Doug's favourite places, and where his ashes will be spread.

A necklace was presented to Doug's wife on behalf of all the IWC Global Network and the DOC. It was made of carved New Zealand Greenstone and considered to be a TONGA (treasure) to Maori people. It was specially made in a design that depicted the joining of two people for life. Throughout the whole ceremony Doug's 'Stay Safe' email sign off and

his regard for everyone's personal safety was highly evident and this was once again highlighted when his wife signed off a thank you letter with 'Stay – Safe'. The establishment of a 'Doug Coughran Stay Safe' award will be discussed at the next GWERN meeting in June.

Finally, perhaps it was best put by a member from Argentina who wrote 'Doug was indeed a most inspirational person, an unmatched, ethical and thorough professional, and an incredible champion for whales and for keeping people safe in the process of undoing harm. He will be dearly missed'. - *David Mattila*

### **DALE W. RICE**

Dale W. Rice passed away in September 2017. He was a born naturalist and published his first paper (on birds) at the age of 16 when he was still in high school. In 1958 Dale joined the newly-formed marine mammal lab in Seattle (at the time under US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, eventually under NOAA Fisheries) and his first assignment was to develop a research programme studying the large whales that were caught at the California whaling stations. In 1960 Dale began representing the US in the IWC Scientific Committee. He was also appointed as the US representative for the IWC's North Pacific Working Group, which was tasked with advising the IWC on management of whaling. Scientists from the North Pacific whaling nations, i.e. Canada, Japan, the US and the USSR, collaborated on whale marking studies and shared data freely. Dale conducted extensive whale marking and sightings cruises from 1962-69. The cruises ranged from northern California (where the whaling stations were located) down to the southern tip of Baja California, and in some years out west to the Revillagigedo Archipelago.

Dale's monograph on the 'Life History and Ecology of the Gray Whale' was his first '*magnum opus*'. Gray whale biology was mostly unknown until Dale proposed his innovative and large-scale gray whale research programme. Dale's monograph provided baseline information about gray whale seasonal migrations, morphology, food habits and reproduction. After the whaling stations closed, Dale continued to conduct whale surveys in many oceans. Dale's whale surveys in Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska helped initiate photo-identification studies on humpback whales. In his later years, Dale wrote a series of scholarly works, including many chapters in the *Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals*, edited by W. F. Perrin, B. Würsig and J.G.M. Thewissen. Over the course of his long career, Dale authored or co-authored 164 publications.

Dale was a very shy person, but one-on-one, he was a witty and entertaining conversationalist and was so well-read he could converse on just about any subject. He was an avid book collector and a voracious reader. His library included many rare books. Dale's extensive marine mammal library will now be managed as a reference library. - *Sally Mizroch*

### **JOHN REYNOLDS III**

John Elliot Reynolds III passed away in December 2017 after many years battling cancer. Even though John never attended an IWC meeting, he had close ties with many people who did. For years, he had a desire to attend IWC meetings but unfortunately was never able to do so.

His contributions to marine mammal science and conservation were extensive as a researcher, educator, and manager. Among other many other positions and roles, he chaired the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission from 1991 to 2010 and was President-elect and President of the Society of Marine Mammalogy from 2004 to 2008. He was a Professor of Marine Science at Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida from 1980-2001. Since 2001, John was a Senior Scientist and Program Manager at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida. He won many awards for teaching, conservation and science and published of over 300 books, book chapters, and peer-reviewed and popular articles.

John was a friend, mentor, and collaborator of many. He was always a champion of using knowledge, whether science or traditional knowledge, for informing decisions about the conservation of marine mammals. His strength, passion, and extraordinary optimism are an inspiration to all who knew John. We will miss him greatly. - *Robert Suydam*