

**Carole Durussel**

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**Carole Durussel** is working as a Research Assistant for the Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel. Her work consists in developing the first draft of a range-wide conservation plan for the critically endangered western gray whale population.

Carole studied marine environmental sciences at the Carl von Ossietzky Universität in Oldenburg, Germany. She recently finished her diploma thesis entitled *Characteristics of humpback whale habitat in the Scotia Sea and the Antarctic Peninsula* on which she worked at the NOAA National Marine Mammal Laboratory in Seattle, USA. In the course of her studies, she got the opportunity to study marine sciences as an exchange student at the National Marine Science Centre in Coffs Harbour, Australia.

She previously worked as an intern in different organisations: at the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service in Seattle, USA, as a fisheries intern where she modelled the effects of several environmental parameters on the Walleye Pollock larvae growth in the Gulf of Alaska; in the IUCN Global Marine Programme where she reviewed the implications and management of methane hydrates with regard to global climate change and their possible extraction. She also spent a couple of weeks on the Alnitak research boat in the south of Spain to collect cetacean, seabird, sea turtle and environmental data. While in Australia, Carole also worked for two PhD students on humpback whale and bottlenose dolphin data at the Southern Cross University Whale Research Centre in Lismore.