



n° 3 – April 2011

## Marine species news

A news-bulletin for marine members of SSC

This newsletter is a product of the IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Sub-Committee (MCSC) [http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/our\\_work/marine](http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/our_work/marine) and is aimed at the marine members of SSC. It complements the Global Marine Programme's bi-annual newsletter, *Marine News*, (link below) and focuses more specifically on species issues.

### MCSC news

The IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Sub-Committee (MCSC) held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on 14-15 June 2010 at the IUCN Red List Training Centre, at IUCN Headquarters in Switzerland. MCSC priority areas were discussed, as determined previously, in communications, trade and use of marine species, and species assessments. The issue of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill and possible actions by the MCSC were discussed leading to a multi-authored publication in *BioScience* (Gulf of Mexico Oil Blowout Increases Risks to Globally Threatened Species, currently in press) headed by co-Chair Claudio Campagna. This paper addresses a major focus of the MCSC which is to put Red List species assessments to work for conservation outcomes. Actions for communications include species stories to be developed and made readily available online for reference, speech and media opportunities. Also planned is the development of a **Youtube** product, with the assistance of IUCN communications, to be called 'Twenty Seconds of Truth' that enables experts to briefly and candidly express their views on major marine issues. In relation to trade and use, a trial trade-mapping project in collaboration with TRAFFIC is being discussed as a means to better understand major routing and enforcement foci. For threatened species of commercial importance, the need for a louder voice in international fora was identified and a review of the participation of IUCN in regional fishery management organizations planned. The need to develop a fishery bycatch initiative, especially in relation to invertebrates, was also identified as an area about which little is known but negative impacts on many species are likely to be high. The meeting welcomed expert invited guests Despina Symons and Roger McManus.

### Feature stories and news

#### **Red List of Globally Threatened Species: Cephalopods**

Over the past couple of years a small group within the cephalopod community have been working to assess all cephalopods for the IUCN red list. Given the small number of extant cephalopod species, this initially appeared a not too daunting task. However, the process has simply served to show how little we know about many species. Nomenclatural and taxonomic problem abound, making even the compilation of a complete list of valid species a difficult and contentious issue. Nonetheless we have made progress: the cuttlefish are pretty much complete and have been reviewed by the community, the oegopsid squids are complete but not yet reviewed, and the octopuses are about 50% complete.

The cephalopods are a particularly interesting group to look at because of their very wide range of life history strategies. On the one hand there is *Nautilus*, with its slow growth, limited distribution, long development time and low fecundity, while on the other is *Octopus vulgaris* with an almost worldwide distribution, 1-2 yr life cycle, and high fecundity with planktonic larvae. There are many intermediate strategies that certainly render some groups potentially susceptible to anthropogenic impacts. And of course, a limited number of species are of very great commercial interest.

Yet so little is known about so many other species. Numerous species are known only from the type material, and while these specimens may be of sufficient quality to indicate the species' validity, they rarely tells us anything about distribution (beyond type locality) or life history, characteristics that are fundamental in making red list assessments.

Overall, the process is really showing us how little we know about this fascinating group and I hope it serves to highlight the need to focus research on some of the more obscure taxa.

Provided by Dr Louise Allcock of the Martin Ryan Marine Science Institute, National University of Ireland Galway :  
[louise.allcock@gmail.com](mailto:louise.allcock@gmail.com)



The Chambered Nautilus, *Nautilus pompilius*.  
Photo: Klaus Stiefel

### **Vaquita in Decline/ La población mundial de la vaquita sigue disminuyendo**

The vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*) is the world's smallest porpoise, and the most endangered marine mammal species. It has a very restricted distribution, occurring only in the upper Gulf of California in Mexico. An ongoing vaquita decline is supported by the results of a 2008 joint Mexico-US survey, which estimated the total vaquita population as only 245. This was 57% lower than a 1997 abundance estimate, implying an average rate of decline of 7.6%/year, presumably due entirely to incidental mortality in gillnets and other entangling nets. A second study modeled potential vaquita management scenarios and clearly demonstrated that if the conservation actions remain at the present level, the vaquita is unlikely to survive. The vaquita's decline towards extinction will continue unless all entangling nets are removed throughout the species' range.

More information on this story can be found here: <http://www.iucn-csg.org/index.php/news/>



Photos taken under permit (Oficio No. DR/488/08) from the Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP/Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)  
© Thomas A. Jefferson, PhD, Southwest Fisheries Science center, NOAA, USA.

La vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*) es la marsopa más pequeña y la especie de mamífero marino en mayor peligro de extinción en el mundo. Tiene una distribución muy restringida, limitada al Alto Golfo de California, en México. Los resultados de un crucero de investigación conjunto, entre México y EUA, apoyan que la disminución de su población ha sido continua en los últimos 11 años. En 2008 se calcula que la población total de vaquita fue de tan solo 245 individuos. Esto es, 57% menor que la estimación de abundancia de 1997, lo que supone una tasa media de disminución de 7,6 % /año, debido a la mortandad incidental en redes de agalleras y de enmalle. Un segundo estudio modeló los posibles escenarios de gestión de la vaquita y demostró, claramente, que si las acciones de conservación siguen en su nivel actual, esta especie tiene pocas probabilidades de sobrevivir. El declive de la población de la vaquita, hacia la extinción, continuará a

menos que todas las redes de enmalle se retiren en todo su rango de distribución.

Se puede encontrar más información sobre esta historia aquí: <http://www.iucn-csg.org/index.php/news/>

## Experts Unveil New Framework for Improved Conservation of Marine Turtles

Effective conservation often comes down to a matter of scale and strategy. For threatened species that range across the globe, often the biggest challenge to conservation is knowing how to prioritize limited resources to the areas that need them most. In an article published in the journal *Public Library of Science ONE*, the world's leading marine turtle experts have developed a new framework to address this challenge for highly migratory—and highly threatened—marine turtles.

The study's authors, all part of the IUCN's SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG), compiled decades of research from thousands of sources over a two-year process to create a novel system for defining biologically independent population segments of marine turtle species, which they termed Regional Management Units (or RMUs). These RMUs represent functionally unique populations of the same species toward which management and research efforts can be directed.



Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) on Ascension Island  
Photo: Kathryn Pintus

How does the RMU concept work? Think of marine turtle populations like Russian dolls; there are several parts that fit biologically and spatially within each other, and although each can be defined separately, the truly complete form has all pieces fit one within the next. Female turtles return to the same nesting sites throughout their entire lives, forming nesting populations that can be defined genetically. These nesting populations are then connected by male turtles, which can mate with females from several populations, forming a broader breeding population. Adult males and females and juveniles from multiple breeding populations can then congregate in common feeding and migratory areas, creating another layer that links the populations. RMUs encapsulate all of these layers to define discrete, coherent segments, or regional populations, for each species. This system gives scientists and conservation managers a micro-to-macro view into population status, risk and threats.

The authors defined 58 RMUs worldwide across the seven marine turtle species, ranging from 17 RMUs for the globally distributed Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*, Endangered) to a single RMU for the diminutive Kemp's Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*, Critically Endangered), which spends nearly its entire life cycle within the Gulf of Mexico.

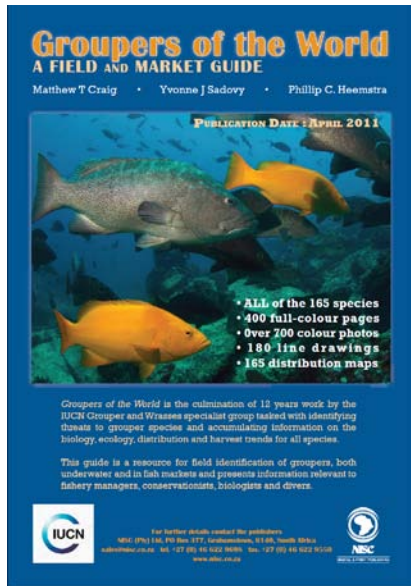
The MTSG teamed up with Duke University's OBIS-SEAMAP project to make all of the information used to develop the RMUs (which includes more than 1,200 references, nearly 3,000 nesting sites, and over 100 genetic stocks) publicly available via interactive, web-based maps at <http://seamap.env.duke.edu/swot>. This will allow the public, researchers, and conservation managers to view, interact with, and use the data for conservation and research initiatives.

The authors envision the RMU concept being applied to other widespread marine species with similar natural histories, like sharks, seabirds, and marine mammals.

At least for now, the global view of marine turtles just came into better focus. And that's a major development for the conservation of some of the ocean's key flagship species.

The article can be found here: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0015465>

## SSC Marine Specialist Group Updates



### IUCN Grouper and Wrasse Specialist Group

The result of many years of work by the GWSG is a field and market guide to an important group of commercial fishes, the groupers, many of which are threatened by fishing and many a challenge to identify. Scheduled for publication later in 2011, this guide is a resource for field identification of groupers, both underwater and in fish markets and presents information relevant to fishery managers, conservationists, biologists and divers. The book aims to inform not only those in need of identification in the field but also to the world's consumers. For further details contact the publisher NISC (Pty) Ltd at [sales@nisc.co.za](mailto:sales@nisc.co.za) or at their website [www.nisc.co.za](http://www.nisc.co.za). The publication was partly supported by the IUCN Species programme and is co-published with IUCN.

Work towards sustainable use and trade of the CITES Appendix II listed humphead (or Napoleon) wrasse, *Cheilinus undulatus*, continues, with a focus particularly on illegal, unmonitored and unregulated (IUU) trade which is undermining several national initiatives to bring the trade under control. A workshop in Indonesia, the major exporter of the species, highlighted the issue and identified possible solutions, ranging from tightening export controls at major airports, to a moratorium, to working towards legislation changes in importing countries. A major impediment to a more effective listing is that Mainland China, a major importer which is treated as a separate trading Party from Hong Kong, does not yet enforce Appendix II for commercially important marine species. In Hong Kong, the enforcement of CITES with seagoing vessels is a major challenge given volumes of traffic handled by the city. This issue has implications well beyond the humphead wrasse and has been raised on multiple occasions. The SG is working closely with traders, local NGOs and government officials to improve knowledge of the species and seek ways to address the IUU challenge to better trade practices.

[http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/about\\_ssc/specialist\\_groups/directory\\_specialist\\_groups/directory\\_sg\\_fishes/groupers\\_wrasses\\_sg/about/](http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/about_ssc/specialist_groups/directory_specialist_groups/directory_sg_fishes/groupers_wrasses_sg/about/)

### IUCN SSC Sea Snake Specialist Group

The first IUCN Red List Assessments for all sea snake species were published in October 2010. *Aipysurus apraefrontalis* and *A. foliosquama*, two Australian endemic reef-associated species, were listed as Critically Endangered under IUCN Red List Criteria. These species have also recently been listed as Critically Endangered under Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) and are being considered for listing by Western Australia's Threatened Species Scientific Committee. These listings are prompting further investigations into the status of reef-associated sea snakes in Australian waters.

For listing EPBC information see

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/1115-listing-advice.pdf>

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/1118-listing-advice.pdf>

## IUCN Otter Specialist Group

A new project is being set-up in the Reserva de la Biosfera Isla San Pedro Mártir in the Gulf of California, Mexico, to monitor coastal and pelagic species of marine mammals (sperm whales, fin whales, Bryde's whales, long-beaked common dolphin and bottlenose dolphin), sea birds, sea turtles, large fishes (such as marlin, sailfish, sharks (hammerhead, white, bull, mako and whale, dorado, yellow-tail, and mantas) and feeding associations composed by dolphins, sea lions and sea birds. The ultimate goal of the project will be to produce a set of guidelines on how to operate the future monitoring of these coastal and pelagic species in the marine protected area (MPA).



Isla San Pedro Mártir in the Gulf of California  
Photo: Juan Pablo Gallo

This is an important high biodiversity island due to the presence of hundreds of thousands of sea birds that nest on the island and forage in the MPA. Nesting birds are mainly blue footed booby and brown booby, brown pelican, the endangered red billed tropic-bird, and there is an important rookery of California sea lions. In addition to this, the highly variable bathymetry within the MPA (a bathymetric chart of the area is currently being worked on), ranging from continental shelf to abyssal areas, increases habitat diversity and thus biodiversity.

If you would like further information on this project, please contact Dr. Juan Pablo Gallo Reynoso at [jpgallo@ciad.mx](mailto:jpgallo@ciad.mx) or Ana-Luisa Figueroa-Carranza [afiguero@conanp.gob.mx](mailto:afiguero@conanp.gob.mx)



Pictured from left to right:  
Lughaidh Ó Néill, Tjibbe de Jong  
and Addy de Jongh with Crom  
the otter (*Lutra lutra*) after  
tagging and just before release.  
Photo: Addy de Jong

### Coastal otters (*Lutra lutra*) in Roaringwater Bay, Ireland

In June, July and August 2010 in Roaringwater Bay, Ireland, 9 coastal otters (*Lutra lutra*) were trapped in 10 days. Seven animals, which were considered to be fit enough, were tagged with small, low cost transmitters, called Telitrackers. It was the second time that these GPS GSM transmitters were successfully used in a study on *Lutra lutra*. The first study was near Évora in Alentejo, Portugal (Quaglietta in prep.).

Four of the 7 tagged otters reported their locations through mobile broadband 11 times a day with a maximum duration of nearly 2 months. The 3 other otters moved out to areas without suitable GSM network. After this period the light weight harness with transmitter dropped off as planned. By means of an enclosed VHF transmitter, 3 Telitrackers were retrieved from the field. Two of these had been used before in the Portuguese study.

The results have shown that in contrast with the diurnal coastal otters on Shetland, the otters in this study area were diurnal and nocturnal. Their home ranges were about the same sizes as those in Shetland and could be found along opposite stretches of coast line. A big male called Van Bommel regularly commuted through a rough part of the Atlantic ocean between Sherkin Island and the Irish mainland.

The results will be published.

For information on this project contact Drs. Ing. Addy de Jongh, director of the Dutch Otterstation Foundation at: [addydej@xs4all.nl](mailto:addydej@xs4all.nl)

## IUCN Tuna and Billfish Specialist Group

From February 15-18, 17 marine fishery biologists from four countries (US, Japan, Spain, and Brazil) met at the headquarters of the International Game Fish Association in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in an International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List Workshop to integrate previous assessments of the threat status to 18 species of tunas and billfishes. These species had been evaluated at previous regional IUCN Red List workshops in Lima, Peru; Taipei, Taiwan; and Brasilia, Brazil. Half of the species are



widespread and needed to have the results of the regional workshop evaluations combined to produce a global threat assessment, the other half were species that needed additional review due to acquisition of new data. Draft evaluations have now been completed for the 64 species in four families: Scombridae (tunas and mackerels), Istiophoridae (billfishes), Xiphiidae (swordfish), and Coryphaenidae (dolphinfishes). Preliminary conclusions are that two thirds of the species are of Least Concern, 19% do not yet have sufficient data for adequate conclusions, and 17% are under some degree of threat. Final results will be published on the IUCN Red List this fall after peer review of the draft results.-- Bruce B. Collette, Chair, IUCN.

## IUCN Pinniped Specialist Group

Pinniped Specialist Chair Kit Kovacs would like to draw your attention to two articles that are currently in press.

- Kovacs, K.M., Aguilar, A., Aurioles, D., Burkanov, V., Campagna, C., Gales, N., Gelatt, T., Goldsworthy, S., Goodman, S.J., Hofmeyr, G.J.G., Härkönen, T., Lowry, L., Lydersen, C., Schipper, J., Sipilä, T., Southwell, C., Stuart, S., Thompson, D. and Trillmich, F. 2011. **Global threats to pinnipeds.** *Marine Mammal Science*, in press.

Large-scale ecosystem changes are taking place in marine environments at an unprecedented rate and scale as a result of fisheries and other human activities (oil extraction, pollution, shipping, etc.) in combination with climate change induced by greenhouse gas outputs; these changes pose serious risks to many pinniped taxa. The behavioral plasticity that pinnipeds will, or will not, exhibit in response to global warming is impossible to predict with certainty because the rate and degree of change expected is beyond that which has been scientifically documented in the past. Currently, direct and indirect fisheries interactions are the primary threat to most threatened pinniped taxa and calls have been made repeatedly for action to resolve these issues. However, similar to their terrestrial mammalian counterparts, habitat deterioration and loss is now a major problem for Arctic ice-associated seals, and it is likely to be a dominant factor in the future status of many pinnipeds if greenhouse gas emission rates are not reduced. Climate change is still a pending threat for most pinniped species but the expected magnitude of the problem in the near future warrants its inclusion in current conservation assessments and mitigation/management plans for threatened species and subspecies of pinnipeds.

- Kovacs, K.M., Moore, S., Overland, J.E. and Lydersen, C. 2011. **Impacts of changing sea ice conditions on Arctic marine mammals.** *Marine Biodiversity*, in press. DOI 10.1007/S12526-010-0061-0 (14 pp).

Arctic sea ice has changed dramatically, especially during the last decade and continued declines in extent and thickness are expected for the decades to come. Some ice-associated marine mammals are already showing distribution shifts, compromised body condition and declines in production/abundance in response to sea ice declines. In contrast, temperate marine mammal species are showing northward expansions of their ranges, which are likely to cause competitive pressure on some endemic species, as well as putting them at greater risk of predation, disease and parasite infections. The negative impacts observed to date within Arctic marine mammal populations are expected to continue and perhaps escalate over the coming decade, with continued declines in seasonal coverage of sea ice. This situation presents a significant risk to marine biodiversity among endemic Arctic marine mammals.

## Global Marine Programme news

The Global Marine Programme publishes a bi-annual newsletter called *Marine News*; to read previous issues or subscribe, visit: [http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/gmp\\_newsletter/](http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/gmp_newsletter/)



24 Feb 2011 | News story : [Scientists start work under International Blue Carbon Working Group](#)

Leading scientific experts in the field of coastal and marine biogeochemistry, carbon dynamics and ecology gathered in Paris (15-17 February 2011) to discuss the role of coastal and marine ecosystems in the global carbon cycle and for climate change mitigation. This 3-day workshop was organized by IUCN together with Conservation International and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, with additional financial support from NASA and UNEP.



17 Feb 2011 | News story: [Western gray whale makes unexpected journey](#)

In October 2010, a team of scientists from Russia and the United States satellite tagged a western gray whale off Sakhalin Island, Russia. This is the first individual from the Critically Endangered western gray whale population to be tagged and tracked using telemetry. This whale, nicknamed Flex by researchers, has now been successfully tracked for over four months, revealing its long and unexpected migration route.

### Related information

- [Movements of western gray whales from the Okhotsk Sea to the eastern North Pacific: evidence from satellite tagging, photo-identification and genetic studies](#)
- [IUCN Western Gray Whale Fact Sheet](#)
- [An updated map of Flex's migration path](#)



09 Feb 2011 | News story: [GMSA Workshops on marine fishes held in Oceania](#)

The Global Marine Species Assessment, a joint collaboration between IUCN's Species Programme and Conservation International, is working to assess individual marine species for inclusion and publication on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

### Related information

- [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)
- [Global Marine Species Assessment](#)
- [IUCN Oceania Species Programme](#)



25 Jan 2011 | News story : [Lancement du livre "Mami Wata, mère des eaux - Nature et Communautés du littoral ouest-africain" à Bissau.](#)

Le 19 janvier 2011, profitant de la présence à Bissau de délégués venus des 7 pays du PRCM dans le cadre d'un atelier sur l'éducation environnementale ainsi que de nombreux invités, 3 partenaires de la Guinée-Bissau (L'Institut de la Biodiversité et des Aires Protégées - IBAP, l'ONG Tiniguena et l'IUCN) ont organisé une cérémonie pour le lancement du livre "Mami Wata, mère des eaux - Nature et Communautés du littoral ouest-africain".

#### Related information

- ["Mami Wata, mère des eaux - Nature et Communautés du littoral ouest-africain"](#)



07 Jan 2011 | News story: [New oil platform off Sakhalin – whale scientists will have a say](#)

The oil and gas company Sakhalin Energy Investment Company (Sakhalin Energy) announced on December 4th its intention to begin planning for construction of a third offshore oil and gas platform in the Piltun-Astokh field along the coast of Sakhalin Island, eastern Russia. As this platform would be located near the primary feeding ground of the endangered western gray whale population, Sakhalin Energy requested the advice of an independent panel of scientists, convened by IUCN, to minimize risks to the whale population.

#### Related information

- [Western Gray Whale Panel](#)



22 Dec 2010 | News story: [UN green light for science-policy platform on biodiversity](#)

IUCN welcomes the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly yesterday to establish a new international body designed to boost the global response to the loss of the world's biodiversity and ecosystems.

#### Related information

- [Learn more about IPBES](#)



12 Nov 2010 | News story: [Uncovering the ocean's secrets](#)

Almost one year after a team of the world's leading marine experts returned from an expedition investigating the life in and around seamounts in the Indian Ocean, the painstaking task of identifying and cataloguing the species they found begins. The nearly 7,000 samples they gathered are almost certainly going to contain previously-undiscovered species and new data on where known species congregate, what they eat and how they behave.

#### Related information

- [New large squid found](#)
- [View slideshow](#)
- [2009 Seamounts Cruise blog](#)
- [Learn more about the project](#)



04 Nov 2010 | International news release: [Ocean acidification: Coming soon to an ocean near you](#)

Manmade ocean acidification will have profound impacts on marine life, even without a further increase of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Latest evidence shows that sea water chemistry is already changing and only rapid and huge reductions of fossil fuel use

and deforestation can help restore ocean's health, according to IUCN.

#### Related information

- [Ocean Acidification guide Arabic](#)
- [Ocean Acidification guide Chinese](#)
- [Ocean Acidification guide English](#)
- [Ocean Acidification guide Spanish](#)

## WCPA-Marine news

### Ross Sea Marine Protected Area

The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition convened a meeting on March 7 – 8 in Washington D.C. among its member groups and international partners to discuss the proposed No-Take Marine Reserve/Marine Protected Area (MPA) for the Ross Sea slope and shelf. The proposed MPA would be a cornerstone of a system of MPAs across the Southern Ocean and globally, serving as a globally significant reference zone for the scientific study of marine ecosystems and the effects of climate change.

Key stakeholders and their role in the region were identified, and a communication and media campaign was elaborated on how to lobby and mount public education efforts on three main goals: unanimous support for the creation of the Ross Sea MPA, a reform in the fisheries policy in the region to phase out existing toothfish fisheries, and promotion of the Ross Sea as a climate change reference area. The provision of a well-supported, scientific argument for the creation of the MPA was seen as a key component of this campaign, with the documents presented to the 2010 Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Management serving as a good basis.

More information can be found at <http://www.asoc.org/>

### The Sargasso Sea Alliance

The Sargasso Sea Alliance was launched in 2010 as a collaborative partnership between the Government of Bermuda and a group of scientists, international marine conservation groups and private donors, who all share a vision of protecting the unique and vulnerable ocean ecosystem of the Sargasso Sea.

The ecosystem is coming under increasing threat from a range of human uses including pollution by oil and garbage from land and vessel based sources as well as from fishing operations.



Photo by Philippe Max Rouja

Over the next three years, the Alliance aims to accomplish four key objectives:

- Building an international partnership that will secure recognition of the ecological significance of the Sargasso Sea and the threats that it faces;

- Using existing regional, sectoral and international organizations to secure a range of protective measures for all or parts of the Sargasso Sea to address key threats,
- Developing a management plan for the Sargasso Sea; and
- Using the process as an example of what can and cannot be delivered through existing institutions in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

For more information please contact:

David Freestone ([dfreestone@sargassoalliance.org](mailto:dfreestone@sargassoalliance.org)) or Kate Killerlain Morrison ([kkmorrison@sargassoalliance.org](mailto:kkmorrison@sargassoalliance.org))

## **CORDIO – Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean Status Report 2011**

The CORDIO program has supported coral reef monitoring and research in the Indian Ocean since 1999. Topics have included reef ecology, resource use, socio-economics and support to management, policy development and capacity building. Much of our work has been reported in compiled 'Status Reports' in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005 and 2008, which are available at <http://www.cordioea.org/status-reports>.

To continue the Status Reports series CORDIO is publishing a compilation of articles in 2011, and invites submissions. Individual submissions will be accepted, reviewed and published on CORDIO's web site throughout the year, and a compilation report will be published, both on line and as a book at the end of 2011. Articles are invited from research projects that have been or are currently supported by CORDIO, partnership projects and any others working in the Indian Ocean seeking to publish their results for a broad audience.

**Geography** – Eastern Africa including the Island States, South Asia, the Andaman Sea and the Red Sea and Gulfs region.

**Focus** – technical and research information, emphasizing increased access to information and data.

**Topics** – primary research (natural or social science), exploration, monitoring, assessments, management, policy and lessons learned.

Articles on coral reef monitoring and status will be coordinated with the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network's (GCRMN) upcoming **Indian Ocean Coral Reef Status and Outlook**, tentatively planned for release in early 2012. The GCRMN is an operational unit of the International Coral Reef Initiative (currently co-chaired by the government of France and Samoa, [www.icriforum.org](http://www.icriforum.org)) charged with coordinating research and monitoring of coral reefs. The network, with many partners, reports on ecological and socioeconomic monitoring and produces Status of Coral Reefs of the World reports covering more than 80 countries and states. ([www.gcrmn.org](http://www.gcrmn.org))

In addition to the Status Report, CORDIO is developing a **Technical Report series** for publishing CORDIO supported work. Longer technical reports from past and current projects will be published through an internal review system and available on the CORDIO web site. The objective of this series is to broaden access to information that would otherwise remain inaccessible within projects and organizations. Abstracts or a reference list of these reports may be included in the Status Report, to promote access to them.

To register interest in submitting a manuscript or report, please email: [editor@cordioea.org](mailto:editor@cordioea.org)

Read the WCPA-Marine blog on: <http://blog.protectplanetoocean.org/>

Follow WCPA-Marine on Twitter at: [http://twitter.com/WCPA\\_Marine](http://twitter.com/WCPA_Marine)

Build the online community on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/World-Commission-on-Protected-Areas-Marine/32896493673>

## Useful links:

- SSC Specialist Group directory online:  
[Click here to visit the online Specialist Group directory for contact details](#)
- MCSC pages online: [http://cms.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/our\\_work/marine/](http://cms.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/our_work/marine/)
- TRAFFIC: <http://www.traffic.org/>
- IUCN Global Marine Programme: <http://cms.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/>

**Please send contributions for future marine species news bulletins to the Marine Conservation Sub-Committee Co-Chairs at: [mcsc@iucn.org](mailto:mcsc@iucn.org)**