



May 2010

## Marine species news

A news-bulletin for marine members of SSC

This newsletter is a new product of the IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Sub-Committee (MCSC) 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.

---

### All about IUCN's marine conservation work

IUCN works on marine conservation issues through the Species Programme (SP), the Global Marine Programme (GMP), the Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

### The Species Survival Commission (SSC) – MCSC and Specialist Groups

Within the SSC, the Marine Conservation Sub-Committee (MCSC) is an advisory body that aims to ensure that decisions taken by policy-makers and resource managers on the management of marine resources are based on sound and scientific knowledge. The MCSC is Co-Chaired by Dr. Claudio Campagna and Dr. Yvonne Sadovy and has a membership that brings expertise on a variety of marine issues and is representative of a number of IUCN's partner institutions and SSC Specialist Groups. The next meeting will be held on 14-15 June 2010.

The following is a list of the MCSC members for 2009-2012:

- Dr Claudio Campagna (MCSC Co-Chair)
- Prof Kent Carpenter (IUCN Species Programme staff observer – for GMSA)  
Mr Bruce Collette
- Ms Sarah Fowler
- Ms Julie Griffin (IUCN Species Programme staff observer)
- Prof Dan Laffoley
- Dr Finn Larsen (IUCN Marine Programme staff observer)
- Dr David Obura
- Prof Anna Occhipinti-Ambrogi
- Dr Nicolas Pilcher
- Dr Alex Rogers
- Dr Yvonne Sadovy (MCSC Co-Chair)
- Dr Frederick T. Short

Reports from past MCSC meetings can be found here:

[http://iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/our\\_work/marine/what\\_we\\_do\\_marine/governance/index.cfm](http://iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/our_work/marine/what_we_do_marine/governance/index.cfm)

A list of marine-species Specialist Groups can be found on page three.

### Species Programme

The Species Programme contributes to marine conservation by supporting the marine Specialist Groups and the Marine Conservation Sub-Committee of SSC. The core programme work on marine species is the Global Marine Species Assessment (GMSA) jointly coordinated by Prof. Kent Carpenter and his team with Old Dominion University and Conservation International. The GMSA is the largest global Red List project to date and is working towards assessing 20,000 marine species. The GMSA team includes Beth Polidoro (Research Associate/Senior Red List Officer), Heather Harwell, (Post-Doctoral Associate/IUCN

Programme Officer), Mia Theresa Comeros-Raynal (Research Assistant/Red List Officer), Cristiane Elfes (BAU Programme Officer), Jonnell Sanciangco (GIS Research Associate), Andrew Hines (Graduate Research Assistant), Andrew Calhoun (Undergraduate Research Assistant), Landon Knapp (Undergraduate Research Assistant), and Emilie Stump (Undergraduate Research Assistant). Learn more: <http://sci.odu.edu/gmsa/>

## **WCPA–Marine**

WCPA–Marine is the World Commission on Protected Areas' (WCPA) marine biome network of experts whose mission is 'to promote the establishment of a global, representative system of effectively managed and lasting networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)'. As part of the WCPA they work in partnership with IUCN's Global Programme on Protected Areas and IUCN's Global Marine Programme. It aims to:

- Convene, coordinate and network, in order to help governments and others to plan, develop and implement MPAs, MPA networks, and the global system, and integrate them with all other sea and coastal uses and maritime sectors;
- Ensure better application of the best science, technical and policy advice on MPAs, MPA networks, and the global system;
- Generate, synthesize and disseminate knowledge on MPAs, often in the form of best practice advice, to a diverse range of players;

Prof Dan Laffoley is WCPA Marine Vice Chair. Contact: +44 1733 455 234,

Email: [dan.laffoley@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:dan.laffoley@naturalengland.org.uk) or [danlaffoley@btinternet.com](mailto:danlaffoley@btinternet.com) .

Learn more about WCPA-Marine:

[http://cms.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa\\_what/wcpa\\_marine/](http://cms.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_what/wcpa_marine/) and

<http://www.protectplanetoccean.org/>.

## **Global Marine Programme**

The IUCN Global Marine Programme (GMP) is a thematic programme based at Headquarters in Switzerland, but with staff posted at numerous IUCN offices around the world (see [http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/marine\\_contacts/](http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/marine_contacts/)). It works closely with both the SSC and the World Commission on Protected Areas to help deliver IUCN's mandate on marine conservation and sustainable use.

GMP's work falls under eight broad themes: Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation; Conserving Threatened Marine Species; Energy & Industry; Fisheries & Aquaculture; Managing Marine Invasive Species; Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); Ocean Governance; and Securing Coastal Livelihoods. GMP works closely with the private sector, most notably with Sakhalin Energy on mitigating impacts from the oil and gas operations off Sakhalin Island; with Yemen LNG to give expert advice on the Company's biodiversity plan and monitoring efforts; and with E.ON to develop a guidance document on managing the risks and opportunities of offshore renewable energy.

GMP also recognizes the importance of furthering knowledge of marine ecosystems as a way of promoting their protection. To this effect, GMP has started implementing a Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project to better understand the ecology of seamounts in the Southern Indian Ocean and to use the findings to improve fisheries management in the region. With German funding, GMP has also set up a Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative to use scientific criteria to identify high seas areas in urgent need of protection. Learn more about the Global Marine Programme: <http://www.iucn.org/marine>

## SSC's Marine Specialist Groups:

<b>MAMMAL SPECIALIST GROUPS</b>	<b>CHAIR(S)</b>
IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group	Dr Randall Reeves
IUCN SSC Otter Specialist Group	Dr Jim Conroy
IUCN SSC Polar Bear Specialist Group	Dr Erik Born
IUCN SSC Pinniped Specialist Group	Dr Kit Kovacs
IUCN SSC Sirenia Specialist Group	Co-chair Dr Helène Marsh
	Co-chair Dr Benjamin Morales
<b>REPTILE SPECIALIST GROUPS</b>	<b>CHAIR(S)</b>
IUCN SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group	Co-Chair Dr Nicolas J. Pilcher*
	Co Chair Roderic B. Mast
IUCN SSC Sea Snake Specialist Group	Co-Chair Dr Vimoksalehi Lukoschek
	Co Chair Dr Kate Sanders
<b>FISH SPECIALIST GROUPS</b>	<b>CHAIR(S)</b>
IUCN SSC Grouper & Wrasse Specialist Group	Co-Chair Dr Yvonne Sadovy*
	Co-Chair Dr Matthew Craig
IUCN SSC Salmon Specialist Group	Co-Chair Dr Pete Rand
	Co-Chair to be appointed
IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group	Co-Chair Dr Nick Dulvy
	Co-Chair Dr Andres Domingo
IUCN SSC Sturgeon Specialist Group	Dr Mohammad Pourkazemi
	Co-chair may be appointed
IUCN SSC Tuna & Billfish Specialist Group	Dr. Bruce Collette*
<b>INVERTEBRATE SPECIALIST GROUPS</b>	<b>CHAIR(S)</b>
IUCN SSC Mollusc Specialist Group	Dr Mary Seddon
	Co-Chair may be appointed
IUCN SSC Coral Specialist Group	Dr David Obura*
<b>BIRD SPECIALIST GROUPS</b>	<b>CHAIR(S)</b>
IUCN SSC Cormorant Specialist Group	Mr. Mennobart Van Eerden
IUCN SSC Diver/Loon Specialist Group	Dr Joseph Kerekes
IUCN SSC Duck Specialist Group	Mr. Richard Hearn
IUCN SSC Grebe Specialist Group	Appointment in progress
<b>STAND-ALONE RED LIST AUTHORITIES</b>	<b>CHAIR(S)</b>
IUCN SSC Marine Invertebrate RLA	Dr. Alex Rogers*
IUCN SSC Sciaenid RLA	Dr. Ning Labbish Chao
IUCN SSC Seagrasses RLA	Dr. Frederick T. Short*
IUCN SSC Syngnathiformes and Gasterosteiformes RLA	Dr. Amanda Vincent
IUCN SSC Hawkfishes and Sandperches RLA	Dr. Terry Donaldson
IUCN SSC Seabreams, Snappers and Grunts RLA	Dr. Barry Russell

\*Member of the MCSC

[Click here to visit the online Specialist Group directory for contact details](#)

## Species Programme and SSC news

### Global Marine Species Assessment update

The GMSA has recently completed workshops to assess Indo-Pacific Tuna, Global Jacks and Lobsters, Global Croakers (Sciaenidae) and Hagfish, Indo-Pacific Scarids, and Butterflyfishes and Angelfishes. A full list can be found here: <http://sci.odu.edu/gmsa/about/completeworkshops.shtml>

### Policy update - CITES CoP15 Summary (March 13 – 25, 2010 in Doha, Qatar)

The 15<sup>th</sup> CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP) was attended by 1,500 participants and discussed a variety of agenda items focusing on specific species and voted on forty two proposals submitted by the Parties to put species on Appendix 1 (international trade banned), or Appendix 2 (international trade strictly controlled). As for all CoPs, IUCN and TRAFFIC produced the *Analyses of the Proposals to Amend the Appendices*, a publication that objectively assesses whether the proposals meet the biological and trade criteria to be placed on one of the Appendices (or moved between them).

IUCN's delegation had several marine representatives including: Yvonne Sadovy, Co-Chair of the Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group, Sonja Fordham and Sarah Fowler of the Shark Specialist Group, and Kent Carpenter, IUCN Species Programme Coordinator of the Global Marine Species Assessment.

Discussions at CITES CoP15 were intense, particularly because a number of species that were on the agenda are commercially important, most notably the **Atlantic Bluefin Tuna**. Monaco had submitted a proposal to place this species of tuna on Appendix I because of concerns for the decreasing population and the high level of trade. Both the FAO Panel of Experts and the IUCN / TRAFFIC Analysis concluded that Atlantic Bluefin Tuna meets the biological and trade criteria for inclusion on at least Appendix II but the proposal was rejected by a vote during the meeting. The primary argument by Parties was that the species should be managed by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) such as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) rather than CITES. However ICCAT has had problems in previous years with assigning high quotas in spite of decreasing populations. Other proposals that were rejected included those to place a number of **shark species** on Appendix II, **Corallidae** on Appendix I, and move the **Polar Bear** from Appendix II to Appendix I. Many of the votes for these species were very close, with a simple majority in favor of the proposals (e.g. for **sharks** and **Corallidae**), but a two-thirds majority vote is required for accepting proposals at CoP meetings.

While all proposals for marine species were rejected, a positive outcome was that additional measures were granted to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing of Humphead Wrasse. Read more at: <http://www.cites.org/> or <http://www.iisd.ca/cites/cop15/>.

### Recent press releases and news stories:



09 Apr 2010 | News - Press Release: [Mangrove forests in worldwide decline](#)

More than one in six mangrove species worldwide are in danger of extinction due to coastal development and other factors, including climate change, logging and agriculture, according to the first-ever global assessment on the conservation status of mangroves for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.



18 Mar 2010 | News - Press Release: [Sturgeon more critically endangered than any other group of species](#)

Eighty five percent of sturgeon, one of the oldest families of fishes in existence, valued around the world for their precious roe, are at risk of extinction, making them the most threatened group of animals on the IUCN Red List of Threatened

Species™. The latest update of the Red List assessed the status of 18 species of sturgeon from all over Europe and Asia and found that all were threatened.



05 Feb 2010 | News - News story: [Whales, dolphins and porpoises threatened by over-fishing](#)

For many years, fisheries activities have increasingly placed pressure on the world's fish stocks, but a recent scientific report, launched this week by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS), outlines the gravity of the consequences for another group of animals: the toothed whales. [Chinese](#)

---

## 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 May 2010 | News - Press Release: [Seismic threat to Critically Endangered whales](#)

A seismic survey planned by the Russian petroleum company Rosneft in summer 2010 poses a major threat to the Critically Endangered Western Gray Whale population. In a letter to Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, the Director General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Julia Marton-Lefèvre, urges the Russian government to intervene to postpone the seismic survey and prevent a serious setback

for animal conservation.

Related information

- [Letter from IUCN to V. Putin Prime Minister of Russia May 2010](#) 130KB
- [Press Release in Russian](#) 90KB



11 May 2010 | News - News story: [Pacific Island Seamounts - are they under threat?](#)

A 2-day workshop was held in Nadi on 28th and 29th April to discuss the impacts of longline fishing as well as other activities on seamounts in the Pacific Islands.

Related information

- [Oceanic Fisheries Management Project](#)
- [Secretariat of the Pacific Community](#)
- [IUCN Oceania Regional Office](#)



03 May 2010 | News - News story: [IUCN deeply concerned at the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico](#)

IUCN expresses deep concern at the continuing oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico as a result of the blowout of the Deepwater Horizon oil drilling platform.



23 Apr 2010 | News - News story: [Can scientists and oil consortium save endangered whales?](#)

Survival and recovery of the Western Gray Whale population depends on continued and strengthened collaboration among scientists, governments and industry. The 8th meeting of the Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel, held in Geneva on 16-18 April 2010, promoted this crucial multi-stakeholder dialogue and led to the development of new recommendations to minimize industry impacts on endangered whales.

## **SSC Marine Specialist Group Updates**

### **January 2010 e-bulletin**

#### **Salmon Specialist Group**

SG Chair Pete Rand reports a conservation success story in Japan. A deal has been struck with Oji Paper of Japan to place under protection over 2500 hectares of important riparian and floodplain habitat in one of the last remaining wild salmon rivers in Japan. It is a fine example of balancing sustainable forestry practices, and river and wetland conservation. The process was set in motion a number of years ago with a project initiated by the then IUCN Salmonid Specialist Group (SSG) Chair Xan Augerot. As the Red List Authority Focal Point for the IUCN SSG at the time, Pete led the Red List assessment for Sakhalin taimen, (*Hucho perryi*, Japanese common name Itou), along with a group of Russian and Japanese specialists. The species was categorized Critically Endangered. Key among the conservation recommendations was to establish protected areas for the species. Brian Caouette, with the Wild Salmon Center, was instrumental in working with Oji Paper and a number of Japanese partners to establish this agreement. Michio Fukushima, an IUCN SSG member and a research scientist with the National Institute for Environment Studies in Japan, played a key role in making this happen and has been nominated to the conservation council that will oversee conservation activities and research in this new protected area. This is a great accomplishment, and helps chart a new course for protecting a most unusual fish! [Full details](#)

### **October 2009 e-bulletin**

#### **Salmon Specialist Group**

View the Fall edition of the Wild Salmon Centre newsletter [here](#)

#### **Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group**

Following completion of red list assessments for all groupers and wrasses, several publications are being developed. Particularly exciting is a Groupers of the World field and market guide, to be co-published with IUCN and National Inquiry Services Centre (South Africa). Given the importance of groupers in tropical and sub-tropical fisheries, their naturally high vulnerability to fishing, the need to monitor them and challenges in their identification this guide will be extremely useful for advancing work in this valuable group of fishes. Groupers and Wrasses Specialist Group newsletters: <http://www.hku.hk/ecology/GroupersWrasses/iucnsg/Newsletter.htm>

## WCPA-Marine news

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>



31 Mar 2010 | News - News story [ASOC presents information papers for Antarctic Treaty Meeting of Experts](#)

IUCN Member, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), has developed four papers ahead of the Antarctic Treaty Meeting of Experts (ATME) on climate change and implications for Antarctic management and governance.



02 Mar 2010 | News - News story [Nine U.S. Senators Endorse Marine Conservation Solutions to Climate Change](#)

An international coalition today, thanked the nine U.S. Senators who sponsored the Clean Energy Partnerships Act for advancing marine conservation as part of the solution to climate change. The Act is focused on mitigating climate change and making the transition to a clean energy economy, through offsetting greenhouse gas

emissions.



01 Feb 2010 | News - Fact sheet [Marine Protected Areas – Why have them?](#)

Oceans cover more than 70% of our planet. They include some of the most fragile ecosystems and species on Earth, but are continuously abused. More than 60% of the human population now lives on or near a coastline and 80% of tourism is concentrated in coastal areas. Exploited by over-fishing and subjected to pollution and oil and gas extraction, marine resources have been seriously affected in many regions.

[French](#) | [Spanish](#)

Please send contributions for future marine species news bulletins to Julie Griffin, Yvonne Sadovy and Claudio Campagna: [julie.griffin@iucn.org](mailto:julie.griffin@iucn.org), [ccampagna@wcs.org](mailto:ccampagna@wcs.org), [yjsadovy@hkucc.hku.hk](mailto:yjsadovy@hkucc.hku.hk)