

First Meeting of the Marine Conservation Sub-Committee within the SSC, July 25 - 27, 2007, Rolle, Switzerland

Co-Chairs: Claudio Campagna and Yvonne Sadovy

Participants and special guests

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Introduction

This first meeting of the newly formed MCSC membership aimed to determine the implementation phase for the MCSC and prioritize among the key objectives identified in the strategic planning and preparatory meetings of August 2006 and December 2005. The core specific aim was to decide on the focal activities/priorities for the next few years where the MCSC will invest efforts and resources, with a view to the longer term, and with a focus on actions of conservation value rather than strategic issues, and a key focus on communication. These actions will have to add to the current strengths and mandate of the SSC for marine issues currently, and into the next triennium, and complement existing marine initiatives within the larger IUCN family. In addition, the meeting discussed better integration between the GMSA and MCSC, the MCSC website, activities for the WCC in Barcelona and further links with IUCN partners WCPA, the SP and the MP. MCSC membership was also discussed.

For agenda, see **ANNEX I**.

Overviews/updates/discussion of recent events and issues throughout meeting; action items and follow-up appear in bold

Nick Pilcher: Attended SSC SUSG meeting in Florida. The outcome that this SG should continue to exist was significant in that most people within the SUSG were not clear about why it existed and had identified the need for linkages. Currently, marine participation is relatively low. The issue of 'what is sustainable use' was raised to include both consumptive and non-consumptive use. **More inter-linkage with the species specialist groups – can the MCSC help** - is needed and the public needs to better understand the concept of sustainability and what it can achieve in terms of conservation

An update on bycatch from another meeting noted that major efforts have been made on mitigating bycatch since 2005; gillnet solutions are on the markets (electronic pingers that deter sea lions, dolphins etc.) which is encouraging; sometimes easy solutions are integrated in existing technology. Also fishermen start to see the importance of mitigating bycatch since bycatch often also ruins the catch and the nets. There are initiatives to determine the real rates of bycatch – both major vessels as well as small fisheries/fishermen. An Asia-Pacific Bycatch consortium is bringing in major players in industry (K-Mart, Sainsbury, etc.) and WWF produces a newsletter.

Bycatch is a core problem for the MCSC: it should be coordinated that at least one member of the MCSC is attending meetings of such relevance. MCSC can help with networking on the various initiatives and inform IUCN and MCSC members, and help bring key players together.

Jane Smart: Species Programme does not have many marine projects yet thus **MCSC needs to work out the top 3 or so priorities so IUCN SP can assist in proposals** with its new staff. There is identified a need for much more communication, especially via the website, and a new communications officer is now in Gland for communications with media and also for marketing, including raising money via the website.

More Red List training in RL work is needed. There is a lot of RL info out there that is not used and which could be better harnessed. BD Sub-Committee should do that but **can MCSC also play a role?** Regarding the Species Information Service; this has been around for decades but it is little known and needs updating. An SIS data entry module is being built that actually fits the RL requirements.

Andrew Hurd: Marine Programme preparing for Barcelona meeting and has several new marine-related officers. Presented draft MP programme 2009-2012 for comment. Working on improving communication among marine focal points. Introduced new staffing initiatives, officer in Washington DC to link with GMSA, other posts for Jordan, Saudi Arabia and WCPA support officer in Washington. Gaps identified in East Asia and South America. Support for Marine Programme within IUCN is increasing. There is a move towards focusing on what IUCN is doing on marine issues rather than what individual groups are doing. Marine Programme aims to take the lead in many marine areas but has limited capacity to participate in various RFMO meetings.

IUCN Marine wants to move towards everybody knowing the big picture, and in 2 years from now everyone involved should know what IUCN Marine is doing especially in its special

strengths of ocean governance and MPAs. **MCSC can help in making links across marine issues and for information collection, among other things that is useful for the GMSA. Is there a need to include somebody from the Census of Marine Life in the MCSC?**

Dan Laffoley: **Urgent need for access to good, accurate, information on species. This could be through the MCSC website as one possibility.** WCPA priorities include a plan of action, Wet List product; MPA web portal; WCPA Marine Advisory Services; need to improve communication, and developing membership with marine representatives. One concern raised at a recent meeting was that, globally, we are not reaching the 10% target of MPAs; there is a need to change the public perception on the status of the oceans (the public is not aware, thinks it is well protected and often does not realize that MPAs are not fully protected). Public needs to better understand what is an MPA and what actually happens in MPAs. There is also a need to show the public what could be protected and why. Innovative approaches are needed, such as having PDAs saying “you are now entering an MPA” via GPS.

WCPA marine membership to find links to SSC marine membership to develop communication mechanisms, and be clear about the priority products that will be produced. **SCC marine work and WCPA marine cross threads should be identified; need to decide on the best way of doing this. Can we locate new and existing individuals to bridge the gap (new MPA experts); Claudio and Yvonne to identify about 20 individuals to do so and coordinate with Dan on this.**

Suzanne Livingstone: SSG/RLAs cover only a small fraction of marine species and current red listed species are not a true representation across fishes: **GMSA intends to assist current RLAs and fill in gaps where no RLA or SG occurs. Not yet quite clear how this is to be achieved but MCSC can play a role.** Funding for 6 years ensured; discussed challenges of addressing controversial groups and of having to be opportunistic about funding availability, and balancing high number of assessments while ensuring good quality assessments. Strategy is to conduct workshop, several completed, others planned. GMSA works with existing SGs. CI uses RLAs for their priority field work - **should MCSC partner with CI in writing these case studies?**

Despina Symons: Important debates are taking place in the EU concerning a number of commercial species exploited by EU (deep sea fishes, tuna, herring, sharks, eels, cod, anchovy, etc). IUCN and especially the MCSC could be more integrated in these discussions **and provide information where and when it has capacity** but in representation there is a need to prioritise and not duplicate. IUCN is now well-known in Brussels but has very little activity on marine issues, while the expectations from the EU are pretty high. WWF is active in the region and IUCN could complement adding value to its work. **Key would be to identify where IUCN could add value on marine species issues – where there is not the expertise.**

Markus Bergener (TRAFFIC): **Collection of trade data conducted for a few threatened species but linking of initiatives would be useful to make better use of/access to data available.** However, there is a need to aware of certain data sensitivities. Major issues are large-scale offshore fisheries, and trade measures. Plans to work with governments and secretariats to get them to adopt the measures, improve impact of TRAFFIC and work more on consumer awareness, as well as link data to other initiatives. However, there is a limited capacity to deal with all these issues presently.

Alex Griffiths: Prioritizing RL activities for marine invertebrates; diversity moves along size scales and threats accordingly. Least priority given to pelagic, very small sized or parasitic taxa.

There might be a need for a SG on corals and this could be further discussed; certainly there is a need for deep-water corals to be represented.

Christoph Imboden: Presentation on the new IUCN programme to assist in discussions on MCSC activities in relation to the overall SSC programme. IUCN has 5 thematic priority areas, with 2 global results to achieve for each. SSC and the MCSC can provide the measurement of the impact of IUCN strategies on the marine environment. **MCSC needs to show how its priorities will fit into the structure of the Strategic Plan of IUCN.**

Claudio and Yvonne MCSC general issues and related discussions:

- Representation on MCSC was discussed in relation to possible additional members and aims/priorities: SGs, Census of Marine Life Representative, Pew, Fellowship Trust representative. Membership can/will also change over time, specialists can be invited as needed/for task forces **but a priority area is for the MCSC to aid in communication so should work with staff present in IUCN already who work in this area** and who are plugged into the network. Despina Symons and Kent Carpenter invited to join the MCSC for fundraising EU fisheries and GMSA links, respectively.
- Discussion of need to define participation strategy of MCSC within the BASC, WCPA, SUSG and the SCPTF to ensure that the marine species focus is fully included in these forums and information is available; **need to involve MCSC members according to availability.** Question of confidentiality was raised at the BASC meeting attended by Yvonne in relation to location of species threatened by trade - **will provide the information to Dan on the issue.**
- **MCSC Website will be improved with the assistance of the SP** once the revamping of the IUCN website system as a whole has been completed by next January – will keep website small but informative. **MCSC sites should be coordinated into one and then migrated into the new IUCN system in December. Website to be kept simple, but with pictures and interesting materials.**
- Transboundary Issues: address Economic Exclusive Zones and High Seas relationship; jurisdictional components have been developed (e.g. CMS) but are not implemented because of political problems. **Need special meeting to discuss these issues in Barcelona – link species protection in these areas with MPAs.** Claudio has a concept paper on this. **MCSC has to have a point of view on this.**

Various discussions addressed the issue of information transfer and communication. RL data needs to get to the people on the ground; data is available but people do not realize that it is there and thus cannot use it. Species information needs to be made more readily available. No matter who has already said it, IUCN has to say what is happening in the marine environment. **MCSC can address some of these issues.**

Prioritization of activities for the MCSC – “Strategic Plan for MCSC”

Based on the priorities identified at the second preparatory meeting (Wattens) of the MCSC, a voting procedure was used to identify 3-4 main objectives that are achievable and have high conservation relevance. The time frame considered was both short and long-term and priorities had to include initiatives that are within the control of the MCSC.

The objectives identified in Wattens were discussed and additional comments highlighted that charismatic species should reflect also the effect climate change and that the final priorities be selected for their communication value: **make people aware on what is going wrong in the oceans for whatever reason, and create interest in the issues**. In addition, the status of the threat could be used for prioritization of protecting sites (e.g. MPA core zones along long country coastlines). **It was suggested to exchange the term “task force” for “initiative”, and add “increase networking in info flow”.**

A voting system was established to help identify priorities using pair-wise voting. Outcomes are those of MCSC committee members voting. See **ANNEX II** for identified priorities, products and conservation relevance. Table provided to SP (Julie Griffin) for incorporation into the SP planning process.

Discussion on 4WCC activities for the MCSC

Possible activities discussed for the Barcelona WCC were:

- Catalan singer Joan Manuel Serrat for the event – as a “gift” by the MCSC
- Reception at the house of Gaudi as a public event; or to bring together the CEOs of the big companies
- Ask an artist to produce something for this event
- Invite Swarovski to sponsor Jewels, a life size fish?
- In the Marime Programme Pavilion: big screen with the 3 minute video; come up with 3 things that IUCN can do to manage transboundary areas
- Prepare for 90 minutes slot for the transboundary, another 90 minutes for the movie presentation
- Book/DVD project as major MCSC contribution, in addition to participation in transboundary session and MP display. Ideas were discussed and a discussion held after the MCSC meeting of the editorial board to develop book outline and identify species and possible contributors (**Annex III**). Follow-up continues with assistance from Julie Griffith of the SP and Head of IUCN communications for possible DVD. Format for book and film developed to approach possible funders and pricing completed by the editorial committee (Claudio, Yvonne, Andrew, Nick). Contributors identified for representative set of species (focus is species) and major marine issues. Jane and Julie will come up with a name for an editor.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

Day 1: July 25th, 2007

Time	AGENDA ITEM	Presenter-facilitator
08.30 hs	Introduction to meeting. Participants. Announcements. Overview of MCSC preparatory meetings (Puerto Madryn and Wattens)	Claudio/Yvonne
08:50	Review and adoption of the Agenda	Claudio
09:00	Review of previous reports and updates on IUCN matters (<=15 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MCSC Chair’s update – Species Programme updates and planning – Update on SIS – Marine Programme update and draft structure for 2009-2012 – WCPA updates and planning – GMSA report 	Claudio Jane Jane Andrew Dan Suzanne
10:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:00	Review of previous reports and Updates (<=15 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – BASC update – Summary on transboundary issues 	Yvonne Claudio
11:30	Background briefings/updates on issues relevant to MCSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overexploitation and sustainability indicators relevant to MCSC (overview) • TRAFFIC and collection of trade data on threatened marine species (overview) • Progress on bycatch 	Despina Markus Nick Alex

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine invertebrate needs 	
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
01:30	MCSC final membership and structure.	Yvonne
02:00	Analyze each priority (identified at Wattens) and select activity plan for the MCSC over the next 1-3 years; Identify key players/partners	Christoph
03:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
03:30	Prioritize activities for the MCSC over the next 1-3 years based on Wattens.	Christoph
05:00	SUMMARY OF FIRST DAY OF MEETING	Yvonne

Day 2: July 26th, 2007

Time	AGENDA ITEM	Presenter-facilitator
08.30 hs	Identify one outreach type of activity for a simple issue and to get us known a little more.	Yvonne
09:30	Discuss integration between GMSA and the MCSC, including a protocol for RLAs, new Specialist Groups, planning of workshops, and assessment process afterwards as well as links with Red List Index	Yvonne
10:10	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
10:30	Define a Website initiative for MCSC - what do we want and who will do what? How can it be used to make marine SG information more widely and appropriately accessible for MPA work, NDFs, etc	Claudio
11:00	Identify specialist task groups based on MCSC priority areas (Bycatch?; High Seas transboundary issues? Wildlife spectacles?)	Jane
11:30	Specialist Group Chair meeting and possible book project	Claudio
12:00	WCPA - marine membership and links to SSC marine membership	Dan
12:30	Lunch	

13:30	Define participation strategy with the BASC and the Species Conservation Planning Task Force	Yvonne
14:00	IUCN Marine Programme planning 2009-2012 discussion	Andrew
15:00	Coffee Break	
15:30	Species inputs into the IUCN programme (Species, Marine and PPA)	Christoph
16:00	SSC marine goals for the 2009 - 2012 programme	Christoph
16:30	WCC Barcelona 2008. How should the MCSC participate? How to integrate with other marine initiatives in IUCN	Claudio
17:30	SUMMARY OF SECOND DAY OF MEETING. PENDING ISSUES	Claudio

Day 3: July 27th, 2007

Time	Time allocated	AGENDA ITEM	
08.30 hs	60 min	Funding for MCSC activities	Christoph
09:30	60 min	Being more effective: identify international policy forums where we could be more active	Christoph
10:30	30 min	<i>Coffee</i>	
11:00	60 min	Gaps: invasives, climate change, Marine Species officer position in Gland, other?	Jane
12:00	30 min	Summary and future steps	Claudio, Yvonne
12:30		<i>Lunch</i>	

ANNEX II

PRIORITIZATION EXERCISE FOR MCSC

Objective	Product	Conservation relevance
The range of exploitation pressures is captured in a suite of sexy (charismatic) spookespecies.	A suite of sexy (charismatic) spookespecies or spookesphenomena. Output to include book for Barcelona and possibly DVD to accompany and issue of Species.	Make these species more likely to be included in conservation initiatives (eg, MPA, management, etc..)
Trade and use components on Red List database are fully populated.	List of trade and use data for marine species available from FAO, TRAFFIC, and identify additional data collection needs etc. MCSC helps to link SGs and trade data sources	Red listing (threatened species) has trade/livelihood implications.
Species assessments (GMSA, SGs...) have made a measurable difference in marine conservation	Guidelines/frame (report) for presenting information in useful format to FAO, WCPA, NGOs, appropriate international forums, etc. Guidelines (report) to these organizations on how to access spp information Case studies to illustrate how assessments have made a measurable difference MCSC and WCPA data are integrated in a formal (computerized/web-based) system for better conservation planning and to make information more readily available. MCSC website can help with this.	Species are better protected by area planning, fishery and ecosystem management, CITES, etc. due to better access of relevant data – focus cannot just be on areas of high biodiversity, since threats also exist in areas of low biodiversity.
An active and effective bycatch / trawled species initiative IUCN member organisations are aware of the effect of shallow water trawling on the stuff in the bottom of the net. Get fisheries observers to catalogue what is coming up as bycatch (diversity rather than amount), especially in areas of high diversity. Start accumulating by-catch pictures, movies etc. not only data; turn this issues into something visual	A briefing with working title of “ten things you did not know about bycatch”. Fact sheets.	Increase awareness on the wide range of bycatch related issues, including through networking. Decrease bycatch through the action of the taskforce

ANNEX III

CONCEPT OUTLINE FOR BOOK FUNDING

SeaView/Telling Tales (working titles)

What our oceans are telling us . . . are we listening?

The human species has long depended on, and been fascinated by, the sea. In addition to providing sustenance, livelihoods and a of medium trade and transport, artists, writers and thinkers through the ages have drawn inspiration from the seemingly endless expanse of the oceans and the great mysteries that their depths must hold. Our fascination has only grown as advances in technology allow us to learn more about what lives in the oceans, how different animals and plants survive, some at unimaginable depths, without sunlight and how some species can navigate across seemingly featureless oceanic expanses for thousands of kilometres. We are right at the beginning of a magnificent age of discovery of the oceans – we will learn more in the next 30 years about our ‘blue’ planet than we have in the last 300. These are exciting times for ocean exploration and discovery.

This increased knowledge comes not a moment too soon, as we are at the brink of causing irreversible damage to oceans and their living systems. Just as we are the cause of many of the problems facing the oceans, so are we the solution. We need to decide, collectively, to change our practices to ensure our oceans continue to provide the inspiration for generations to come.

This book will illustrate the critical issues facing our oceans by telling the stories of 12 marine species, each one unique and magnificent, but singing a similar refrain - it is time to reverse current overexploitation trends and damage to our oceans, not for our own species’ sake, but also for millions of other species, many undiscovered, that depend on a healthy ocean for survival.

About the book

Twelve marine species will tell the stories of the oceans – both the remarkably beautiful tales of wildlife spectacles and the darker senseless stories of vast amounts of animals being wasted: discarded overboard after having been caught in fishing gear. Readers (though it is important to note that the book will be short on words and long on visuals such as photographs, illustrations, art work, maps, etc. that will tell the stories much better than words) will have the choice of reading the book species by species, or topic by topic in a novel cross-referencing system that will enable searching the stories in ways that best suit individual interests.

For example, marine turtles, those long-distance travelers who almost always come back home to nest on the beach where they were born, have many stories to tell, about climate change, about mass nesting events when hundreds of thousands of turtles come ashore over three days to lay their eggs, and about how humans have been developing solutions to address a number of the major threats they face.

Alternatively, readers could follow the story of the critical threat of incidental bycatch in marine fisheries by seeing how it affects, often in very different ways, turtles, sharks, fishes, magnificent

deep sea corals [that are older than Christ], and all the other species that are found in the bottom of the net once the high-value target species is taken out.

Stories will also explore the implications of being considered a seafood delicacy in a world with rapidly expanding international trade and an increasing interest in high-price fish and shellfish; such trade affects not only the species involved but also many of the coastal communities where they are caught, often to the long-term detriment of fishing families.

About the authors

The book is being put together by internationally renowned marine scientists, specialists in each of the species chosen to tell their stories on behalf of the oceans. These scientists are part of the world's largest network of conservation scientists, the IUCN Species Survival Commission. The book is the product of the Marine Conservation Sub-Committee of the SSC.

Target Audience

The book will be accessible to large portions of the general public who are drawn to superb photographs of our living world. But the primary audience are those busy people, the world's consumers, living in cities around the world, often only coming in contact with the oceans while on a beach holiday, in an attempt to bring them a step closer to feeling connected to the ocean realm, to explain that their actions - though maybe far from the coast - do indeed impact on the oceans and its species. The hope is that humans, when given the opportunity to understand, and be fascinated by, what is happening in the unseen world of the oceans, will work to ensure that unseen realm is sustained for generations to come.

The 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008, will attract 6,000 people and will serve as a key platform to launch the book.

Other key features

- The book will be accompanied by a short film, or a series of short films, that supports the stories relayed in the book.
- A 2009 calendar will be produced using the 12 species.
- A tear-out card (or bookmark) with sources of additional information will be included in the back of each book for easy, at-your-desk reference to relevant websites.

Resources Required: The scientists and editorial board are committed to this exciting project and will provide their expertise and photographs free of charge. In order to produce an eye-catching and effective product, funds are required for professional design and layout, as well as top-quality printing. The books and associated products will be sold, with all profits going to marine conservation projects focusing on one or more of the species highlighted in the book. The book will be published in additional languages if resources permit e.g. Spanish, French, Arabic, Chinese, etc..

Total resources required amount to (roughly 15,000 US\$). For more information, contact a member of the Editorial Board: CC, YS, NP, AH

AGENDA FOR ACTION ON WCC PUBLICATION AND SELECTED SPECIES

Who	What	By when (revised)
Editorial group	<p><i>All MCSC will have agreed about the concept paper for the initiative</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A concept paper of the idea is circulated to the MCS – Concept paper sent to rest of MCSC – Comments from MCSC members centralized (Y and CC focal points) – All potential contributors identified – Each member of Editorial group in charge of following the progress of different contributors 	August 31
Y and CC, with help from editorial group and others	Send invitations to contributors in the name of the MCSC. Mention who is the focal point and provide time frame	October 30
Andrew Hurt	Speaks to Sea Studios	Whenever possible
MCSC	Decides on additional related material besides book and video	October 30
Contributors	All material written in first draft and centralized by Co-Chairs of MCSC. List of illustrations identified.	November 30
Editorial group	Draft material revised by Editorial Group and send back to authors for final corrections	December 31
Editorial group	Authors finish their work. All written material in final form placed in FTP site for revision by editorial group. Some illustrations placed in high resolution in FTP site to be seen by every member of the MCSC and by contributors.	January 31

Editorial Group (CC focal point)	First draft of general design developed and circulated to MCSC for comments.	February 28
Designer	Final round for art design comments.	March 15
Editorial group	IUCN Species Program receives the book in final form for printing	March 31
Editorial group	Checks final shortened and edited version and confers with authors if necessary to ensure that information is portrayed accurately	April 15
Editorial Group (Andrew focal)	Video done	March 15
IUCN-Species Program	Book printed	May 30

Report of MCSC meeting Rolle, July, 2007 – 14 pp

Species	Wildlife spectacle	Great migrations	Development and conservation conflicts (BBP)	MPA potential	Emerging issues (aquaculture, emerging economies, mining,)	Social conflict due to collapse	Climate Change	Over-exploitation	Trade	Bycatch / accidental catch/ entanglement	Tourism (species in the wild)	Pollution	Conservation success / mitigation	PERSON (pending agreement identified contri'ors *ecosystem approach later added as another category)
Turtles	X		X	x	x		X	X	x	X	X	X	X	
Elephant Seals	X	X		x			x			x	x			
Pacific grey			X	x										
Reef fish	X		x	X	x			X	X	x	x		X	
Tuna	x	x			x			x	X	x				
orange roughy	x			X	X			x	x	x				
sharks and/or rays	x	x	x		x	x?		X	X	X	x		x?	
Deep sea (orange coral)				x	x		x			X				
bottom of the net					x			x		X				
Corals			x	X			X		x	x	X	x		
Abalone				x	x	X		x	X					
Lobster	x	X		X	x			x	x				x	
Penguins	X	x		x	X		x			x	X	X	x	