

Voluntary National Cetacean Conservation Report

Submitted to the Conservation Committee by the Government of Argentina

1. Advances in government programmes related to cetacean conservation

1.1 Agreements

On the 8th June 2009, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Argentine Coast Guard signed an agreement to establish a joint programme for the research on and identification of the different cetacean species. The Argentine Coast Guard will provide aircraft and vessels for collection of information on whales and dolphins; the data collected will be transferred to an electronic database administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development. This information will be incorporated into the System of Marine Coastal Information (SICOM). Several workshops related to cetacean monitoring and data collection will be given to the Argentine Coast Guard staff and periodic reports will be submitted to the relevant international fora, such as the International Whaling Commission. This program will provide information of great value for developing a better understanding of the cetaceans that inhabit the Argentine EEZ.

1.2 Legislation

Resolution N° 577/08 MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

Within the framework of the Law N° 22.351 of Parques Nacionales, Monumentos Naturales y Reservas Nacionales, Law N° 23.094 which declared the Southern Right Whale a Natural Monument and Law N° 25.675, General Environment Law. The Argentine Navy is instructed to restrict to the minimum the military naval activity in Golfo Nuevo and San José, in the Province of Chubut as well as in the docks “Almirante Storni” and “Comandante Luis Piedrabuena”, in Puerto Madryn and also the lighthouses “Punta Ninfas” and “Morro Nuevo”.

1.3 Ship strike

Legislation (Disposicion Madr, RIA N° 069/09)

This has been developed and implemented by the Argentine Coast Guard to reduce ship strikes with southern right whales in the nursery ground of Peninsula Valdes, Patagonia Argentina. Its aim is to prevent further collisions. For more information **IWC/61/CC12rev**.

1.4 Cooperative Programs

Since 2006, the Argentine Cooperation Agency (FO AR) of the Foreign affairs Ministry has been developing a cooperative program to promote responsible whale watching activities in the countries of Latin America. Since the beginning of this program, 7 whale watching workshops or related issues had been developed in Chile, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela. This program includes capacity building and provides expertise through governmental experts and training of tour operators. Last year, a workshop was held in Panama (Phase II of the program). Planned activities include training and coordination activities in Honduras and similar activities will then take place, again in Panama (Phase III) in 2009.

Additional cooperative activities were developed in Costa Rica in 2008 to make a diagnosis of the cetacean research and conservation activities in Costa Rican waters.