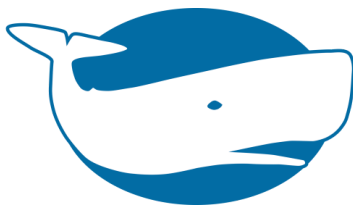


# CMP Deep Dive

*Newsletter of the International Whaling Commission's Conservation Management Plan Program*

**Issue 01 - November 2019**



INTERNATIONAL  
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Photo: A Franciscana dolphin and calf (credit: Leo Russo Lacerna and Maurico Failla)

# Message from the Executive Secretary of the International Whaling Commission

*I'm delighted to introduce the first CMP Deep Dive - the IWC's Conservation Management Plan Newsletter.*

In my role as Executive Secretary of the International Whaling Commission, I am fortunate to see the breadth of efforts to conserve cetacean populations globally. The IWC's Conservation Management Plan (CMP) program, developed in 2008, is one of many initiatives to protect cetaceans in the face of increasing threats.

CMPs draw on the best available science and management expertise from the international community, and focus on practical efforts to conserve vulnerable cetacean populations. The CMP Standing Working Group has assisted in the development of four CMPs that are being implemented by dedicated co-ordinators in range states (countries with coastlines within the range of a cetacean population).

Our two feature articles draw attention to the collaboration between governments, scientific institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the tourism sector, to address risks and achieve tangible, positive outcomes for local populations through implementation of CMPs. I commend the leadership, combined effort, and commitment shown by range states, to support the health of their oceans and marine species.

With each new CMP we build valuable relationships and further our understanding of best-practice approaches to cetacean conservation. The success stories highlighted in this issue demonstrate the need for the continued support and funding of the CMP program into the future.

Thank you for your engagement.



Dr Rebecca Lent



The **International Whaling Commission (IWC)** is the body charged with the conservation of whales and the management of whaling. The IWC currently has 88 member governments from countries all over the world. Some non-member governments and intergovernmental organisations also play an important role as observers.

The Commission's role has expanded since its establishment in 1946. In addition to regulation of whaling, today's IWC works to address a wide range of conservation issues including bycatch and entanglement, ocean noise, pollution and debris, collision between whales and ships, and sustainable whale watching.

[www.iwc.int/home](http://www.iwc.int/home)



# What are Conservation Management Plans (CMPs)?

CMPs are aimed at protecting and rebuilding vulnerable cetacean populations. They focus on practical management actions that have the greatest chance of achieving improvements in the conservation and recovery of cetacean populations.

CMPs are voluntary, led by range states, and provide a co-ordinated and collaborative framework for addressing transboundary gaps in existing cetacean conservation measures. CMPs include information on the biology and status of the population, a summary of actual and potential threats to the population, actions to address those threats, and implementation strategies.

CMPs are intended to complement existing international conventions and agreements, as well as domestic legislation and management regimes in range states. They are not designed to replace or override existing measures.



## Western North Pacific Gray Whale CMP

(USA, Russia, Japan, Mexico Republic of Korea)



## Southwest Atlantic Southern Right Whale CMP

(Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay)



## Eastern South Pacific Southern Right Whale CMP

(Chile, Peru)



## Franciscana dolphin CMP

(Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay)



## Update from the CMP Standing Working Group Chair – Suzi Heaton (Australia)

*The Standing Working Group for CMPs (SWG-CMP) reports to the IWC's Conservation Committee*

**Hello and welcome to the first issue of the CMP Deep Dive!** Over the past two years, my team and I have had the great privilege of supporting CMP co-ordinators, range states, and the Conservation Committee in their efforts to recover the most vulnerable cetacean populations. The Deep Dive aims to promote and showcase the CMP initiative and the work of co-ordinators, and share useful information including about events. It's also an opportunity for me to provide an update on the work and priorities of the Standing Working Group (SWG-CMP).

In addition to the four CMPs currently in place, three new CMPs are in the drafting stages - for the Mediterranean fin whale, Amazon River dolphin, and Arabian Sea humpback whale.

Earlier this year, the IWC's Scientific Committee agreed to fast-track the CMP development process. The Scientific Committee will now review candidate populations at each of their meetings, and make recommendations on which ones should progress straight to the CMP drafting stage. This process has already seen the Mediterranean fin whale recommended by the Scientific Committee as a priority population.

Funding continues to be a challenge for the SWG-CMP and co-ordinators. We are committed to ensuring the longevity and success of the CMP program and, along with the IWC Secretariat, are exploring how to help co-ordinators identify and apply for external funding opportunities.

Over the next six months, we will develop a thematic strategic plan to take the place of the current work plan when it comes to an end in 2020. The new plan will outline the vision and objectives for CMPs and identify priority actions. I welcome your suggestions and look forward to consulting with you.

I hope you enjoy reading the first CMP Deep Dive, and please do send us through content for future issues.



Contact us: [whales@environment.gov.au](mailto:whales@environment.gov.au)



# Success Story: Chile-Peru Memorandum of Understanding

## *Eastern South Pacific southern right whale CMP*

In November 2018, the governments of Chile and Peru signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) *‘to co-ordinate co-operation in the conservation of the southern right whale population of the southeast Pacific’.*

The MoU represents strong, high-level political commitment from Chile and Peru to prioritise actions for this critically endangered population of southern right whales. The MoU was proposed during the first co-ordination meeting of the CMP, after it was endorsed by the International Whaling Commission in 2012.

The MoU is a useful framework to strengthen the long-term commitment of both range states, and ensure the involvement of their respective institutions and agencies to progress implementation of the CMP. The signing of a MoU could be a model for other countries, to facilitate long-term governmental support and commitment to conservation of migratory species, including cetaceans.



Chile and Peru have made significant progress towards implementation of the CMP, including initiatives to reduce entanglements, increase efforts to identify a breeding area through a Passive Acoustic Monitoring project, and collect photo-identifications and genetic data.

The MoU will assist the co-ordination efforts for future projects under this CMP, including the development of a mobile phone application to increase real-time reporting of sightings and whales at risk, a workshop on whale watching regulations and scientific permits, and the establishment of the Southern Right Whale Day in Chile and Peru to position the conservation of species as high-priority for both States.

The MoU is the result of a lot of hard work from the CMP co-ordinator Barbara Galletti, the CMP Steering Committee, and the Cetacean Conservation Center – thank you and congratulations to everyone involved!



The MoU was signed by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs during the Second Binational Cabinet Meeting of Chile-Peru.

**Read more about the MoU and this CMP:**

[iwc.int/multi-faceted-approach-to-protecting-endangered-so](http://iwc.int/multi-faceted-approach-to-protecting-endangered-so)



# Entanglement response training workshop in Argentina

## *Western South Atlantic southern right whale CMP*

An IWC entanglement response training workshop was held in Puerto Madryn, Argentina in June 2019 as part of the CMP for this endangered southern right whale population.



Participants 'unwind' after the Puerto Madryn workshop

Entanglement in fishing gear is one of the greatest threats to large whales. For responders, disentangling involves small boat handling, ropes under high tension, sharp blades and panicked wild animals. There are safety risks and legal protocols. It is a complex and dangerous process which is why professional training opportunities like this one are so important. Since 2012, IWC-led entanglement response workshops have been held on five continents and reached over 1000 participants from more than 30 different countries.

The June workshop provided an opportunity for the local entanglement response team in Puerto Madryn to refresh their skills and for range states to co-ordinate entanglement response for this whale population. 50 participants came together from many parts of Argentina and Uruguay. Brazil's primary entanglement response trainer, Leandro Cortese Aranha provided his expertise.

**View amazing drone footage of the training (courtesy of Marin Canale, Charltern Travel):** [iwc.int/expanding-entanglement-response-capability-for](https://www.iwc.int/expanding-entanglement-response-capability-for)

**Other resources:** IWC principles and guidelines for large whale entanglement response: [iwc.int/best-practice-guidelines-for-entanglement-response](https://www.iwc.int/best-practice-guidelines-for-entanglement-response)

On the first day of the workshop, representatives from National and Provincial governing authorities, as well as National Parks, Prefectura Naval Argentina (Coast Guard), Scientific Institutions, non-governmental organisations and whale watching companies attended classroom training. 14 participants then received practical training on the water, using vessels supplied by the Prefectura and whale watching companies. Several southern right whales, sea lions and penguins swam around the training boats.

In addition to IWC funds, this workshop was generously supported financially, logistically, or in-kind by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, the Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development, Cetacean Society International (CSI), Prefectura Naval Argentina, Dirección de Fauna of the Chubut Province, Centro Nacional Patagónico (CENPAT), Fundación Cethus, and the Center for Coastal Studies (CCS).

Following the successful workshop, another entanglement response training session was conducted in Mar del Plata in October 2019, to train the local Coast Guard.



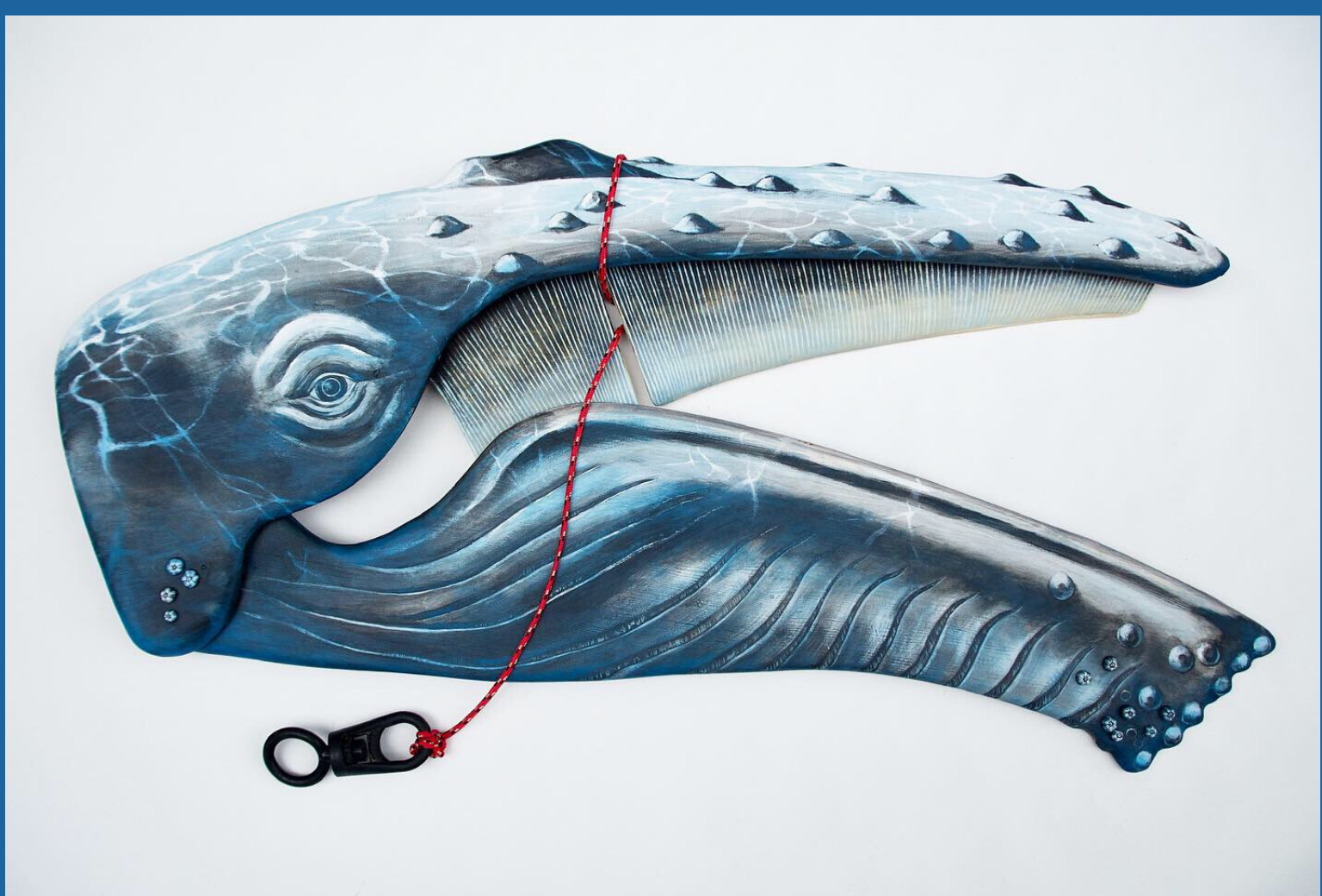
Participants of the Mar del Plata workshop, October 2019



# Whale Tales - Richard W Nolan

**Richard W Dolan** is a whale watch naturalist who uses art as a tool for storytelling and communicating scientific ideas. Since 2014 he has studied the fauna of Stellwagen Bank, a northern feeding ground for the humpback whales of the West Indies. Bewitched by the unique fluke patterns of humpback whales, he has procured over 100 illustrations of accurate individuals tails encountered during his trips.

The humpback whales of Stellwagen Bank are prone to anthropogenic impact such as climate change and vessel strike. Entanglement in the rope of unattended fishing gear is a great threat to multiple species, and Dolan's recent work visually addresses the conflict with the fishing industry. His newest work, *Big Blue*, is a humpback whale head entangled in such gear.



*'Big Blue' - Richard W Dolan*

Dolan is keen on exploring new methods of education that expand beyond verbal language, and encourages naturalists and scientists to reinvent their own language of storytelling. Over 20 whale watch companies and learning institutes carry his artwork. He is a recent recipient of the World Cetacean Award for "Innovative Conservation Protecting Cetaceans & Their Habitats". He will be presenting art as a tool for communicating science at the 2019 World Whale Conference in Barcelona!

[www.RichardWDolan.com](http://www.RichardWDolan.com)

[TailsofStellwagen on Instagram](#)

[TailsofStellwagen on Etsy](#)



# CMP Co-ordinator Profile - Miguel A. Iñíguez Bessega



**Miguel A. Iñíguez Bessega** is the co-ordinator of the Franciscana dolphin CMP (2016-present) and former co-ordinator of the Southern Right Whale SW Atlantic population CMP (2012-2016) .

Miguel obtained an MSc. in Málaga, Spain and is the President and Founder of Fundación Cethus, Argentina. He has been involved in cetacean work since 1984, including field studies on Commerson's dolphins, orcas (his favourite species), bottlenose dolphins, Peale's dolphins, southern right whales and sei whales in Patagonia. Since 1998 he has specialised in responsible whale watching, working on capacity building for this activity along the Latin American coast. Since the establishment of the IWC CMPs, he has found them to be a powerful tool to work with all stakeholders on conservation of cetaceans.

His main focus now is to help Franciscana – the most threatened dolphin of the SW Atlantic– become more visible for the general public in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, and to work with stakeholders of the three countries to mitigate the risks facing this species, such as bycatch.

Miguel's place in the world is Bahía San Julián in Southern Patagonia. He has several hobbies: traveling, reading, listening to all kinds of music, photographing nature, carpentry, and sailing. Miguel loves spending time with family and friends.

## Upcoming Events

World Marine Mammal Science Conference  
7-8 December 2019, Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain)  
*The conference will bring together scientists, managers, policy-makers, educators and students from across the globe to discuss the world's most exciting science and most pressing conservation issues.*

### ***A Call for CMP funding***

*Can you, your company, institution, or industry provide opportunities for funding or partnerships with the IWC's CMP program? Any funding suggestions or ideas are welcome!*

*Please get in touch with the SWG-CMP Chair:*  
**[whales@environment.gov.au](mailto:whales@environment.gov.au)**

We welcome your thoughts on Issue 01! Please send any feedback, or CMP photos, news, or stories for the next Deep Dive to:  
**[whales@environment.gov.au](mailto:whales@environment.gov.au)**



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