

Report on the first call for collaboration for LaWE

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Abstract

We report here on the first call for data submitted to the marine mammal science community by LaWE. More than 20 research groups expressed interest in participating in the first phase of the project, excluding groups already taking part to the Steering Group. These groups covered the relevant parameters highlighted by the proposal and a wide range of species. We describe the next steps of the collaboration exercise including the various options available to curate data.

We sent the agreed LaWE call for participation on the 29th March 2011. Over the following two months we received responses from 35 research groups willing to engage with the project and holding data relevant to the LaWE proposal. These did not include individuals from the SC that have expressed their willingness in the past to contribute data to the effort. The studies cover a wide taxonomic (Table 1) and geographic (Figure 1) range. We are now in a good position to instigate power analyses as well as re-initiate some of the previously attempted meta-analyses (Weinrich et al. 2007). The next step will be to insure that protocols are in place for all these studies to insure quality and control it. Once studies are filtered for QA/QC, and suggestions are provided to those that do not have QA/QC protocols to improve data collection, we can instigate power analyses for inter-breath interval data and movement metrics.

These steps will require data transfer from the data holders along with quality assurance and quality control assessments. We previously discussed using the data sharing protocols already in place (http://iwcoffice.org/sci_com/data_availability.htm#process) to do so. However, such endeavour will require Secretariat time and therefore it is envisage that a new post, with the associated financial implications, will have to be created. In the interim we have a research assistant available that can instigate such activities. So an interim option would be to enable data sharing, following procedures that will protect data holders' rights, using that person's time from August to October.

We need to discuss these options and define two main processes:

1. A post description for the secretariat dedicated to whalewatching data handling

The use of this data may not be limited to SC/WW remit (eg see SC/63/RMP6)

2. The interim mechanism through which data will be handled to enable the instigation of analyses in 2011

Table 1. A summary of responses to the call for participation by species and location. For each situation we describe sampling platform and data type (H: habitat use, M: movement, B: activity state, R: respiration rate, NA: not described)

Species	Location	Platform	Data available
Humpback whale	Brazil	Boat	NA
	Brazil	Land	H,M,B
	Canada	Land	NA
	Zanzibar	Boat	H,B
	Madagascar	Boat	H,B
	Iceland	Land	NA
	Colombia	NA	NA
	Equador	Boat	H,B
	Hawaii	NA	H,B
	Hawaii	Boat	NA
	Australia	Land	NA
	New Caledonia	Land	B
	Canada	Land	NA
Blue whale	California	NA	H,B,R
	Sri lanka	NA	NA
	Sri lanka	NA	H,R
	Costa Rica	NA	B
	Canada	Land	H,M
	Canada	Land	NA
Fin whale	Canada	Land	H,M
	Canada	Land	NA
Minke whale	Canada	Land	NA
	Iceland	Land	B,M,R
	Iceland	Boat	H,B,M,R
Bowhead whale	Greenland		no data
Southern right whale	Argentina	NA	NA
Right whale	Brazil	NA	B
Gray whale	USA	Land	M,R
whale spp	Galapagos	Boat	H
Sperm whale	Dominica	NA	NA
Killer whale	Russia	NA	H,B
	USA	Land	M,R
Bottlenose dolphin	California	NA	NA
	Panama	NA	B
	Costa Rica	NA	NA
Spinner dolphin	Hawaii	Boat	H
White-beaked dolphin	Iceland	Land	NA
Guiana dolphin	Brazil	NA	B
dolphin spp	Italy	Land	B
	Greece	NA	H,B
	Australia	NA	B
	UK	Land	B
Harbour porpoise	Iceland	Land	NA

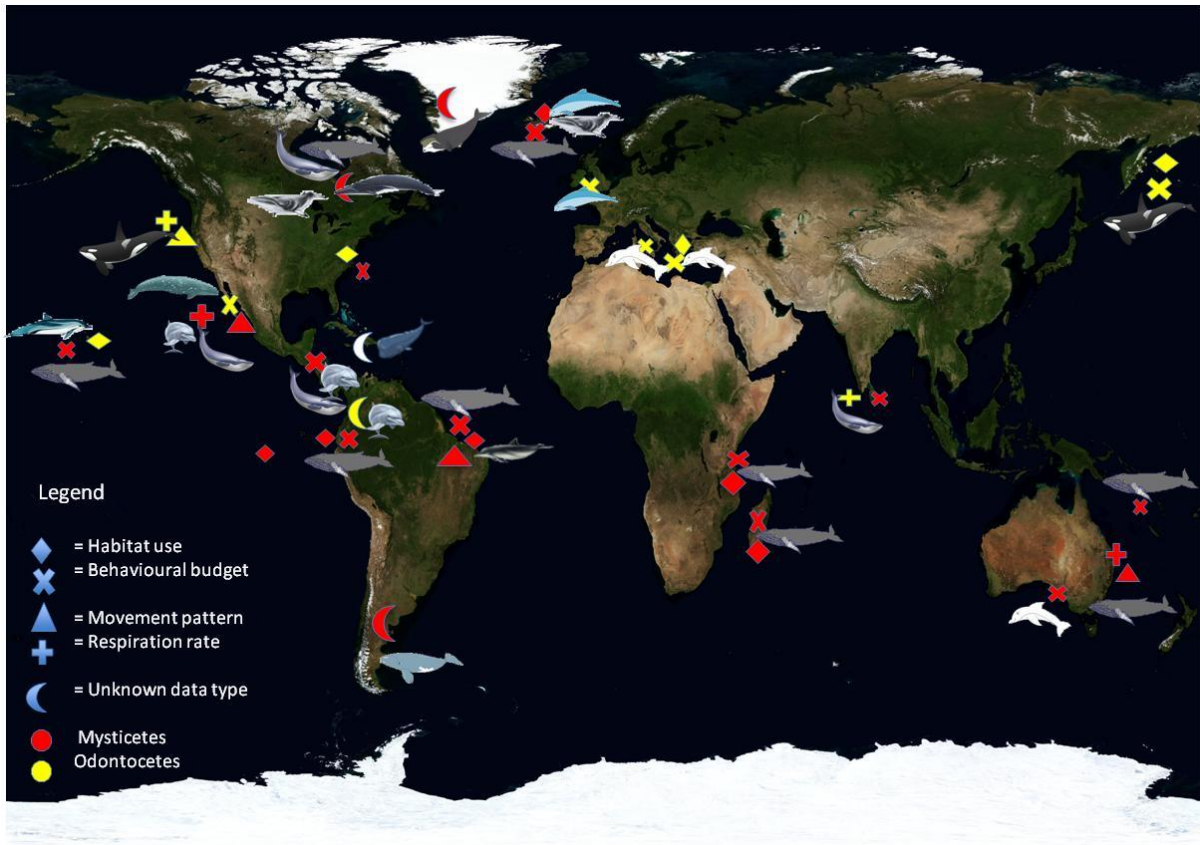


Figure 1. Geographic range of data contributors; cetacean drawings from CMS website (copyright, Maurizio Würtz, Artescienza, Genoa <http://www.artescienza.org>)

References

- Christiansen F., Rasmussen M. & Lusseau D. 2011. Inferring surface time of Minke whales from intersurfacing interval data using a hidden Markov model. SC/63/RMP6
- Weinrich M., Lusseau D., Janiger D., Consoer M. & Lundberg E. 2007. A Review and Meta-Analysis of Whalewatch Impact Studies. SC/60/WW10