



ICoMMPA 2

« Endangered spaces endangering species »

Fort-de-France and Les Trois îlets, Martinique - 7 to 11 November 2011

Worldwide, some 740 marine and land-based protected areas (MPAs and PAs) have been specifically designated for or contain populations of marine mammals. MPAs have been identified as a critical tool for managing ocean resources, but MMPAs - marine mammal protected areas - are special in that some species they protect travel outside the boundaries, sometimes migrating great distances for part of every year. Therefore, effective protection of such species often requires MMPA managers to work with managers of other MMPAs important to that species, and with managers in charge of marine mammal conservation programs outside of protected areas. Most MMPA practitioners work in isolated corners of the world from the Chilean fjords to remote Pacific islands.

1- Context

To share the experiences of the scientists and the managers on the knowledge and the conservation of the marine mammals, a first conference on the sanctuaries of marine mammals was organized in the Marine National Sanctuary for the Humpback whales of the Hawaii Islands by the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) in April 2009. This first International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas - ICMMPA brought together 200 participants from 40 countries as part of the theme of 'Networks; Making Connections'.

The second International Conference of the sanctuaries for marine mammals will be organized by France in Martinique during the "over-seas year", November 7-11, 2011 in Fort-de-France to inform about the environmental and maritime actions of Martinique and to promote the project of sanctuary for the marine mammals in the French West Indies (Agoa). It will be organized by the French national MPA agency, in close cooperation with the "National Marine Sanctuaries" Department of the NOAA and with the majority of the institutional and associative actors of Martinique. It will be placed under the sponsorship of Albert FALCO, former Captain of Calypso at JY COUSTEAU, and strongly involved into actions of knowledge, sensitizing and environmental protection of marine environment.



200 to 300 participants are awaited. An international steering committee of about fifteen experts ensures the political issue and coherence between the various successive conferences. A local Committee is working on the site with the main regional partners to define the practical methods of implementation and the possible implication of each one.

2- Concept and topics

The theme of this 2nd International Conference will be the protection of the species and the habitats in danger, in order to discuss the reasons of those bad results, the gaps and lessons of the history, **to imagine and to implement the emergency and anticipation measures.**

It will include **keynote presentations from eminent scientists and practitioners in the MPA and marine mammal fields.** Panel presentations will feature discussions on:

- Managing endangered marine mammals and the localised (bycatch, ship strikes, whale-watching) and broad ecosystem (climate change, noise) threats that affect them;
- Refining our understanding of marine mammal critical habitat and hotspots;
- Delineating marine mammal critical habitat and migration routes using tools such as marine spatial planning and ocean zoning; and
- Activating and enhancing regional and other legal agreements worldwide and as applied to marine conservation in the Caribbean region

There will be workshops on managing whale watching within protected areas and how to manage threats inside and outside of protected areas as well as sessions on a wide variety of species and situations. Thus, both small, localized approaches and those applicable to very large areas will be considered along with the use of traditional and indigenous knowledge to improve marine mammal protected area management

3- Additional details

The French national MPA agency, Agence des aires marines protégées, will host and sponsor the venue for the conference in Martinique, November 7 to 11, 2011. Participants will stay at the hotel resort on Trois-Ilets, 30 minutes by special boat from Fort-de-France, with plenary sessions in Fort-de-France mainly on the first two days and workshops at Trois-Ilets on November 9-10. The venue has already been arranged and the program is currently being finalized. Although presentations will be in English, the plenary sessions will be translated into French and Spanish. Workshops will be in English only. On November 11, a number of field trips will be offered to discover the local cultural and natural heritage (mainly at sea but also by walking if needed for some participants).

For more information, please contact

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Registration and more details on the conference from mid July 2011 on

www.second.icmmpa.org