

IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee

2019 Report



Amanda Vincent

Chair

Amanda Vincent

Location/Affiliation

Project Seahorse - Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, The University of British Columbia, Canada

Number of members

12

Social networks

Twitter: @SSCmarine

Website: www.iucn-sscmarine.org

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Marine Conservation Committee is to support, connect and promote expertise in marine species conservation. Its mandate is to ensure that decisions taken on the future of marine species are directed at long-term population health and based on sound technical knowledge. Specifically, it helps and links volunteer experts from the IUCN Species Survival Commission's (SSC) network who have special knowledge of particular taxa or of cross-cutting concerns. It also advocates the use of SSC marine knowledge and skills in the broad global community, particularly by policy makers and resource managers.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

The SSC Marine Conservation Committee (MCC) acts to support, connect and mobilise expertise in marine species conservation to secure a healthy ocean. We make a difference by encouraging and advancing SSC excellence in marine taxa and issues, energising IUCN's engagement with the ocean, and ensuring SSC marine expertise is put into service effectively around the world. The MCC assists SSC Specialist Groups, stand-alone Red List Authorities and Task Forces to meet their Assess-Plan-Act objectives. We are particularly determined that the World Conservation Congress theme of Restoring Ocean Health will mark real change. The MCC is also energetically promoting far better coverage of ocean concerns in the post-2020 Biodiversity Targets. A key focus of the MCC is to develop tools and approaches to connect SSC expertise with management and policy initiatives globally.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Plan

Planning: ensure that the Marine Conservation Committee (MCC) is working effectively.

Act

Policy: promote and mobilise SSC marine expertise to advance ocean conservation globally.

Network

Policy: (1) advance IUCN capacity for marine conservation; (2) support and enhance SSC marine expertise.

Activities and results 2019

Plan

Planning

- i. We held seven virtual meetings of the MCC, each lasting two hours, and one in-person meeting during the IUCN SSC Steering Committee meeting in Abu Dhabi. (KSR #29)
- ii. We collaborated with the Conservation Planning Specialist Group to develop SSC planning initiatives. (KSR #15)

Act

Policy

- i. The MCC provided briefings for the IUCN process for the new Biodiversity Targets post-2020. (KSR #26)
- ii. We provided a post hoc review of a long report submitted directly to the Convention on Biological Diversity by the Commission on Ecosystem Management's Fisheries Expert Group about Aichi Target 6. (KSR #26)
- iii. The MCC drafted a new Aichi Target 6 for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity targets. (KSR #26)



The MCC at the SSC Leaders Meeting in Abu Dhabi, October, 2019 together with Jon Paul Rodriguez, Chair of the SCC and Kent Carpenter, Manager IUCN Marine Biodiversity Unit
Photo: Rod Mast

MCC poster created for the SSC Leaders Meeting in Abu Dhabi
Photo: MCC/Aaron Lobo



iv. We drafted/catalysed the following Motions proposals for the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC): (a) Motion 027 – Reducing impacts of incidental capture on threatened marine species; (b) Motion 029 – Ecosystem conservation, restoration and remediation in the ocean; (c) Motion 107 – Global conservation of rhino rays (Rhinidae, Glaucostegidae, Rhinobatidae); (d) Motion 110 – Safeguarding the Endangered narrow-ridged finless porpoise (*Neophocaena asiaeorientalis*) in the Yellow Sea; (e) Motion 111 – Conservation of seahorses, pipefishes and seadragons (family Syngnathidae); (f) Motion 124 – Reducing the impact of fisheries on marine biodiversity; (g) a motion on Aquascapes (integrating freshwater and marine habitats) was drafted and submitted but not accepted. (KSR #26)

Network
Policy

i. The MCC consulted all Chairs of marine-related and disciplinary Specialist Groups plus stand-alone Red List Authorities and Task Forces. (KSR #26)
ii. We compiled a list of priority marine species (and threats to their survival) thanks to input from marine Specialist Group Chairs. (KSR #26)
iii. We consulted marine Specialist Group Chairs about IUCN WCC Events and Motions as well as smaller matters. (KSR #26)
iv. The MCC represented marine issues on the IUCN Red List Committee. (KSR #26)
v. We submitted the following event proposals for IUCN WCC: (a) Aquascapes, (b) Bycatch, (c) Reduction Fisheries, (d) Fisheries/Aichi Target 6, and (e) Science supporting IUCN’s 30% MPA policy. (KSR #26)

vi. The MCC was deeply involved with and/or endorsed the following event proposals for IUCN WCC: (a) Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG), (b) deep sea conservation, (c) equitable approach to Marine Protected Areas (led by the IUCN Commission on Ecological, Economic and Social Policy’s People and the Ocean Specialist Group, which supported most of our MCC proposals cross-Commission). (KSR #26)

Synergy

i. We organised and hosted two-hour Zoom discussions with marine Specialist Group Chairs (or their delegates) on the following topics: (a) funding meeting led by Jon Paul Rodriguez, IUCN SSC Chair, Nahomy De Andrade, Partnerships and Grants Officer, Olivier Hasinger, SSC Network Coordinator and Kira Mileham, Director of Strategic Partnerships; (b) Strategic Action Planning meeting led by Onnie Byers, Chair of the Conservation Planning Specialist Group, and Jamie Copsey, Director of Training; (c) Climate Change discussion led by Wendy Foden, Chair of the Climate Change Specialist Group.
ii. We assisted Co-Chairs of the Snapper, Seabream and Grunt Specialist Group to develop a briefing document that should help attract funds for their Specialist Group.
iii. We helped connect marine Specialist Groups on matters of common interest, through emails and calls.
iv. We connected people and acted as a marine hub at the SSC Leaders’ Meeting in Abu Dhabi. (KSR #29)
v. The MCC hosted a marine-related Specialist Group discussion/workshop at the SSC Leaders’ Meeting in Abu Dhabi. (KSR #29)
vi. The MCC Chair met with IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Climate Change Specialist Group.

Communicate

Communication

i. We continue to develop and improve on the IUCN SSC MCC website. (KSR #28)
ii. We maintain a social media presence for the MCC on Twitter with over 450 followers and over 400 tweets. (KSR #28)
iii. We drafted two logos for the IUCN SSC MCC.
iv. We produced a banner for the MCC for the IUCN SSC Leaders’ Meeting. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

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Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 4/5

Plan	2	
Act	4	
Network	12	
Communicate	4	

Main KSRs addressed: 15, 26, 28, 29

KSR: Key Species Result