



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](http://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 2020

#### Plan

##### Planning

i. We held five virtual meetings, enhanced the MCC website ([www.iucn-sscmarine.org](http://www.iucn-sscmarine.org)), and communicated on the MCC Twitter account (@SSCmarine). (KSR #21, 28, 29, 30)

#### Act

##### Policy

i. The MCC provided input to the evolving Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Targets. (KSR #21, 29, 30)

ii. Generated attention and action that led to five Motions deriving from MCC effort being approved as IUCN Resolutions: 027- "<https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/027>" Reducing impacts of incidental capture on threatened marine species [Resolution WCC-2020-Res-023-EN]; 029- "<https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/029>" Ecosystem conservation, restoration and remediation in the ocean [Resolution WCC-2020-Res-025-EN]; 107- "<https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/107>" Global conservation of rhino rays (Rhinidae, Glaucostegidae, Rhinobatidae) [Resolution WCC-2020-Res-091-EN];



110- "<https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/110>" Safeguarding the Endangered narrow-ridged finless porpoise (*Neophocaena asiaeorientalis*) off the Korean Peninsula [Resolution WCC-2020-Res-094-EN]; 111- "<https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/111>" Conservation of seahorses, pipefishes and seadragons (family Syngnathidae) [Resolution WCC-2020-Res-095-EN]; 124 - "<https://www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/124>" Reducing the impact of fisheries on marine biodiversity [Resolution WCC-2020-Res-107-EN]

## Network

### Policy

- i.** We facilitated online discussion and revisions for IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) Motion 124 – Reducing the impact of fisheries on marine biodiversity. (KSR #26, 29)
- ii.** All three IUCN WCC Motions drafted by the MCC – on incidental capture (Resolution WCC-2020-Res-023), ecosystem restoration (Resolution WCC-2020-Res-025) and fisheries (Resolution WCC-2020-Res-107) – were approved by e-votes in November 2020. (KSR #26, 29)
- iii.** All three IUCN WCC Motions on species specific issues fostered by the MCC – on banjo rays (Resolution WCC-2020-Res-091), narrow-ridged finless porpoise (Resolution WCC-2020-Res-094) and seahorses, pipefishes and seadragons (Resolution WCC-2020-Res-095) – were approved by e-votes in November 2020. (KSR #26, 29)

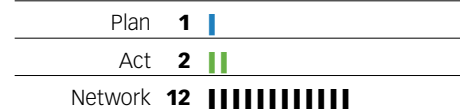
- iv.** The MCC contributed to the development of the Ocean Health theme at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. (KSR #26)
- v.** We participated remotely in a World Commission on Protected Areas marine workshop on 3 and 5 February 2020. (KSR #26)
- vi.** We served as a panellist for a discussion hosted by the IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme on Key Biodiversity Areas and the marine environment (8 December 2020). (KSR #26)
- vii.** We appointed a new marine representative to the IUCN Red List Committee.
- viii.** The MCC supported transition in the leadership of the Shark Specialist Group, identified new Co-Chairs for the Sea Snake Specialist Group, encouraged the SSC Sciaenid Red List Authority to become a Specialist Group, and provided input to development of the Fungal Conservation Committee.
- ix.** We hosted a discussion workshop for SSC marine leaders on bycatch and developed action ideas for collective engagement.
- x.** We communicated about IUCN marine Motions – both to generate votes and to report results – with SSC marine leaders. (KSR #26, 29)
- xi.** We contributed to the hiring process for the Marine Coordinator at the SSC / Indianapolis Zoo Global Center for Species Survival (GCSS).
- xii.** We contributed perspectives on marine issues and more to the SSC Steering Committee Working Groups on Network Development, Conservation Action and Communications.

## Acknowledgements

The SSC Marine Conservation Committee thanks the SSC Chair's Office and the IUCN Global Species Programme for their support, with particular gratitude to Jon Paul Rodriguez, Rachel Hoffmann and Olivier Hasinger. The MCC operates from the Chair's institution at the University of British Columbia, which funds her salary as a professor and other benefits. The Chair is also grateful to Guylian Belgian Chocolates and the Langar Foundation for their long-standing support for her Project Seahorse team's conservation activities, including some assistance to the MCC. We also thank Lily Stanton very much for her wonderful support work that helps power the MCC.

## Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 3/5



Main KSRs addressed: 21, 26, 28, 29, 30

KSR: Key Species Result