

SSC Marine Conservation Committee (MCC)

Report to SSC Steering Committee October 2019

Covering November 2018 to September 2019 inclusive

By Amanda Vincent, Chair (a.vincent@oceans.ubc.ca)

Mission: The MCC acts to support, enhance & mobilise expertise in marine species conservation for a better future.

Introduction

We are 12 MCC members, eight women and four men, with nine nationalities, based in nine countries around the world. Our expertise covers mangroves, cetaceans, sea snakes, sharks, eels, seahorses, tunas and billfishes, drums and croakers, deep sea taxa, and corals. We have experience and skills in Red Listing, community-based conservation, fisheries, habitat restoration, government management, protected areas, wildlife trade, policy, market change and gender issues. Read more at <https://www.iucn-sscmarine.org/who-are-we>

The MCC held eight virtual meetings, each lasting two hours: 13 December 2018, 15 February 2019, 29 March 2019, 6 June 2019, 4 July 2019, 29 July 2019, 8 August 2019, 12 September 2019. The minutes for all meetings are available by asking the MCC Chair.

The reconstituted MCC tackles four objectives (which still need metrics):

1. Support and enhance SSC marine expertise.
2. Advance IUCN capacity for marine conservation
3. Promote and mobilize marine species expertise for ocean conservation globally
4. Ensure the MCC is working effectively to fulfill its mission

All achievements have been attained remotely since we have not yet met in person.

The MCC sincerely thanks the Chairs of all marine-related Specialist Groups and the SSC Chair's Office for their support and wonderful engagement. The Chair of the MCC is hugely grateful to the fantastic Members of the MCC who have thrown themselves into this work with tremendous energy, knowledge, and collegiality. The Chair also deeply appreciates support from Lily Stanton and Regina Bestbier, research biologists on the Project Seahorse team, who somehow manage to help with some of the MCC work.

Achievements

1. Support and enhance SSC marine expertise

- Consulted all Chairs of marine-related and disciplinary Specialist Groups plus Stand Alone Red List Authorities, and Task Forces.
- Hosted Zoom discussions (two hours each) with marine SG Chairs (or their delegates) on
 - o funding (with SSC Chair's office) – 30 January 2019

- conservation planning (with Conservation Planning SG) – 8 March 2019
- climate change (with Climate Change SG) – 16 July 2019
- Collaborated with CPSG to develop SSC planning initiatives – led by Rima Jabado and Aaron Lobo
- Compiled list of priority marine species (and threats to their survival) thanks to input from marine SG Chairs.
- Consulted marine SG Chairs about #IUCNCongress Events and Motions as well as smaller matters.
- Assisted co-Chairs of the Snapper, Seabream, and Grunt SG to develop a briefing document that should help attract funds for their SG
- Helped to connect marine SGs on matters of common interest, through emails and calls.

2. **Advance IUCN capacity for marine conservation**

- Represented marine issues on the IUCN Red List Committee – Jean Harris
- MCC Chair met with IUCN WCPA Climate Change SG – 10 April 2019
- **Submitted the following Event proposals for #IUCNCongress**
 - Aquascapes (integrating freshwater and marine) – Matt Gollock led with Ian Harrison from Freshwater CC
 - Bycatch – Gianna Minton & Jean Harris led
 - Reduction fisheries – Patricia Majluf & Aaron Lobo led
 - Fisheries / Aichi Target 6 – Jean Harris led
 - Science supporting IUCN’s 30% MPA policy – Jean Harris led
- **Deeply involved with and/or endorsed the following Event proposals for #IUCNCongress**
 - Conservation planning - CPSG - Rima Jabado and Aaron Lobo led
 - Deep see conservation - Diva Amon led
 - Equitable approach to MPAs - led by CEESP People and the Ocean SG, which supported most of our MCC proposals cross-commission

3. **Promote and mobilize marine species expertise for ocean conservation globally**

- Provided briefings for the IUCN process for the new Biodiversity Targets post-2020.
- Provided a *post hoc* review of a long report submitted directly to the Convention on Biological Diversity by the CEM’s Fisheries Expert Group about Aichi Target 6.
- **Drafted / catalysed the following Motion proposals for #IUCNCongress.** All these submitted Motions can be found at <https://www.iucn-sscmarine.org/marine-motions>
 - Aquascapes (integrating freshwater and marine) – Matt Gollock led with Ian Harrison from Freshwater CC – submitted by Zoological Society of London, UK
 - Bycatch – Gianna Minton & Jean Harris led – submitted by WWF International
 - Fisheries / Aichi Target 6 – Jean Harris led – submitted by Wildlands Conservation Trust, South Africa
 - Finless porpoise – Gianna Minton led – submitted by WWF International

- Marine ecosystem restoration – Beth Polidoro led – submitted by Coastal Oceans Research and Development - Indian Ocean (CORDIO), Kenya
- Rhino Rays – Nick Dulvy led as Chair of Shark SG – submitted by Wildlife Conservation Society
- Seahorses, Pipefishes and Seadragons – Amanda Vincent led in her capacity as Chair of Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon SG– submitted by Ministère des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération de Monaco

4. Ensure the MCC is working effectively to fulfill its mission

- Finalised Terms of Reference of potential use to all SSC Committees.
- Developed the MCC website (www.IUCN-SSCmarine.org) including posting proposed marine Motions submitted for #IUCNCongress
- Created an MCC mission statement
- Established the MCC twitter account (@SSCMarine)
- Drafted two MCC logos.

Next steps (probably...)

Immediately

- Our first in-person meeting 5 October 2019
- Prepare work plan for 2019-2020

Objective 1

- Establish new SSC SGs
- Network SSC SGs through bycatch and tourism discussions
- Support particular SSC SGs with specific needs

Objective 2

- Build marine network with groups in other IUCN Commissions and IUCN Secretariat
- Plan for strong marine presence at #IUCNCongress

Objective 3

- Support discussions on marine Motions for #IUCNCongress
- Contribute to Biodiversity Targets post-2020 in focused manner

Objective 4

- Add MCC members to fill gaps
- Improve MCC website & finalise logo