



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 exiting knowledge and the experiments of the scientists and the managers on 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 Hawaii 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 on Marine Mammal Protected Areas is organized in Martinique (French West-Indies) as part of the "



2- Concept and topics

The theme of this 2nd International Conference will be the protection of endangered species and habitats, in order to discuss the reasons for the bad results, gaps and lessons in history, and 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:

f Managing endangered marine mammals and the localised (bycatch, ship strikes, whale-watching) and broad ecosystem (climate change, noise) threats that affect them;

f Refining our understanding of marine mammal critical habitat and hotspots;

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