
Editorial

Welcome to the second issue of the *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*.

One of the most important problems in cetacean conservation is that of incidental capture in fishing gear (e.g. IWC, 1994) and the IWC Scientific Committee has paid particular attention to the North Atlantic harbour porpoise in recent years (e.g. Donovan and Bjørge, 1995; IWC, 1999). Any assessment of the significance of such catches must include a reliable estimate of their level. The first paper in this issue presents the work that has been carried out in Denmark on this question and it is encouraging that it included a high level of co-operation between scientists and fishermen. It is important that similar programmes to estimate bycatches are carried out elsewhere.

One of the aims of the Journal is to encourage submissions from countries where studies of cetology, or certain aspects of it, are relatively new. In this regard, I am pleased that this issue includes several such contributions, ranging from aspects of the biology and ecology of the franciscana (*Pontoporia blainvillei*) in South America, through the

establishment of new stranding schemes, to initial studies to monitor whalewatching in Ireland. In addition to providing new information on relatively poorly known areas or species, it is to be hoped that such contributions encourage further studies and provide an insight to others embarking upon them.

Greg Donovan
Editor

REFERENCES

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