



MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release
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First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas March 30 through April 3 in Maui

The First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas will bring together Marine Protected Area managers, scientists and educators from more than 20 countries around the world to share common challenges and solutions.

WHEN: Monday, March 30, 2009 through April 3, 2009
(program online www.icmmpa.org)

WHERE: Grand Wailea Resort, 3850 Wailea Alanui Drive
Wailea, Maui, HI 96753 (808) 875-1234

WHO: **John H. Dunnigan**, NOAA Asst. Administrator for National Ocean Service
Donna Petrachenko, First Assistant Secretary Marine Division, Australian Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
Daniel J. Basta, Director, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Erich Hoyt, Sr. Research Fellow, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society
Tundi Agardy, author, Executive Director, Sound Seas
Giuseppe Nortabartalo di Sciara, Chair ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee
(Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area)
Marine Mammal and MPA experts from around the world.

Co-Hosts: NOAA Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA Fisheries: Office of International Affairs

Sponsors: Australian Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Whaling Commission, Marine Mammal Commission, National Park Service, Pelagos Unit in Monaco, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, Pacific Whale Foundation, NOAA Marine Debris Program, NOAA Fisheries, NOAA MPA Center and more.

There are more than 500 existing or proposed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for marine mammals in some 90 countries, yet this is the first dedicated gathering of marine mammal and MPA experts and practitioners. The theme of this first conference is "networks: making connections", both between the individuals who study, manage and set policy for MPAs, and between the world's MPAs especially when they share common populations, species and issues.

NOTE TO REPORTERS/EDITORS: A virtual "media room" will be found on www.icmmpa.org, featuring daily proceedings, press releases, photos, fact sheets, speaker biographies, web links and contact information for interviews.

ICMMPA: www.icmmpa.org

HIHWNMS: www.hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov

NOAA Fisheries Office of International Affairs: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/index.htm>