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International Marine Mammal Action Plan

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ICCAT Advisory Committee Meeting

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International Marine Mammal Action Plan

NMFS works collaboratively with other nations to address international marine mammal conservation issues

- International agreements
- Capacity building
- Cooperative research
- Stranding response
- Scientific committees

Purpose of IMMAPP

- Guide international efforts
- Coordinate and strengthen efforts across
- the regions and headquarters.



Priority Setting

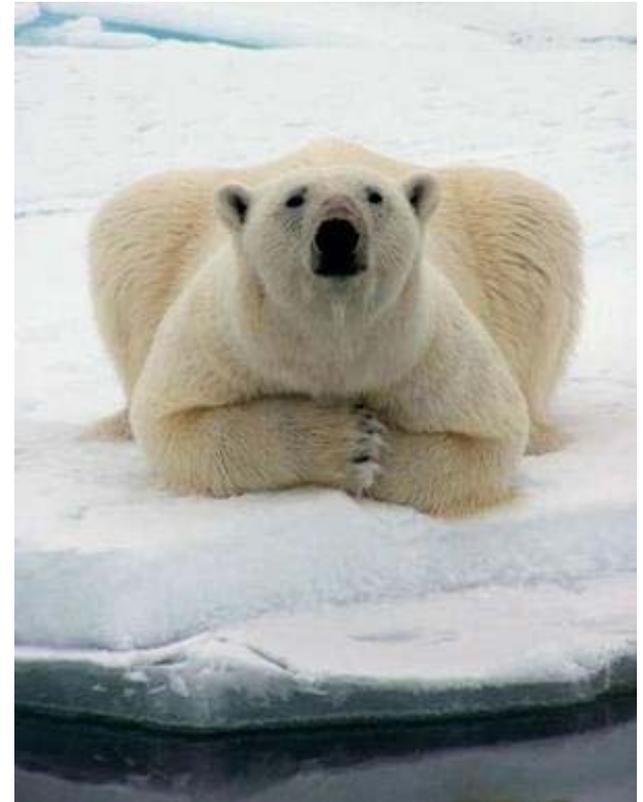
Evaluated threats, feasibility of action, relevance to mandates

- Highest Priority – Bycatch
- High Priority – Climate Change and Prey Depletion
- Medium Priority – Marine Debris, Vessel Strikes, Habitat Degradation/Loss and Disturbance
- Low Priority – Disease, Pollution/Contaminants and Harmful Algal Blooms

Threat	Scope	Severity	Trend	Relevance	Feasibility	Preliminary Priorities Suggested by Working Group
Bycatch	●	●	●	●	●	HIGH – lead international bycatch reduction
Climate Change	●	●	●	●	●	HIGH – lead international research efforts
Prey Depletion	●	●	●	●	●	HIGH – lead efforts to reduce overfishing worldwide
Marine Debris	●	●	●	●	●	MEDIUM – continue to work with NOS Marine Debris Program
Vessel Strikes	●	●	●	●	●	MEDIUM – continue to lead international efforts
Habitat Loss/Degradation	●	●	●	●	●	MEDIUM – continue to support MPA efforts
Disturbance (e.g., Noise)	●	●	●	●	●	MEDIUM – continue to research and monitor threat
Direct Removals	●	●	●	●	●	MEDIUM – continue to work via IWC and CITES
Disease	●	●	●	●	●	LOW - continue international disease surveillance efforts
Pollution/Contaminants	●	●	●	●	●	LOW – support EPA and UNEP efforts
Harmful Algal Blooms	●	●	●	●	●	LOW – continue research and support international efforts

Seven Priorities of the International Marine Mammal Action Plan

1. Reduce the Bycatch of Marine Mammals in International and Foreign Fisheries to Sustainable Levels
2. Improve Understanding of Climate Change's Impacts on Marine Mammals
3. Reduce the Threat of Prey Depletion by Considering Predator-Prey Relationships Under an Ecosystem Approach to Fishery Management.



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4. Reduce the Threat of Marine Debris to Marine Mammals by Decreasing the Loss of Marine Debris, Including Derelict Fishing Gear, into the Ocean



5. Reduce the Number of Vessel Strikes in International and Foreign Waters.



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6. Prevent Habitat Loss, Degradation, and Disturbance Through Marine Spatial Planning and Marine Protected Area Designation.
7. Improve Understanding of and Response to, Disease and Die-offs in Marine Mammal Populations



Coordinated Approach

- **Science**
 - Stock assessments and delineation, distribution and habitat use
 - Threat/risk assessment
- **Policy**
 - Identification of effective mitigation measures
- **Capacity Building**
 - Educate, train, and provide tools to implement mitigation
- **International Government to Government**
 - Bilateral and international agreements (RFMOs and IGOs)



International Marine Mammal Action Plan

Plan will be available next week as part of MMPA 40th Anniversary

Final Objective

- Provide a blueprint to guide international marine mammal conservation efforts
- Living document
- Implemented by Drafting Group



QUESTIONS???

