

Pacific Scientific Review Group (PSRG) Webinar Meeting, 16-19 March 2021

Final Agenda (02/23/2021)
--- All times are Pacific Daylight Time ---

Remote participation details

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*If you join by phone for audio, please identify yourself so we can put a name with the number in an attempt to keep track of attendees.

THANK YOU!

Pacific SRG Members:

John Calambokidis – Chair – Cascadia Research Collective

C. Scott Baker – Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute

Simone Baumann-Pickering – Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego

Lars Bejder – University of Hawaii Marine Mammal Research Program

Douglas DeMaster - Consultant

David Itano – Fisheries Consultant

Rebecca Lewison – San Diego State University

Leslie New – Washington State University

Daniel Palacios – Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute

M. Tim Tinker – University of California Santa Cruz

NMFS Liaison to the Pacific SRG:

Karin Forney – outgoing (karin.forney@noaa.gov), SWFSC

Laura McCue – incoming (laura.mccue@noaa.gov), PIFSC

National SRG and SAR Coordinator:

Zac Schackner – (zachary.schackner@noaa.gov); NMFS OST

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 16 MARCH 2021 – NATIONAL, ALASKA, AND WEST COAST TOPICS	
10:15 PDT	Participants, please connect to webinar to allow time for any issues to be resolved
10:30	Welcome, Webinar Overview – John Calambokidis, Laura McCue, & Karin Forney
10:45	National Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Leadership Changes, NID policy, 101(a)(5)(e) updates, humpback stock update</i> – Shannon Bettridge, Eric Patterson • <i>TOR Update and PSRG Membership Review Summary</i> – Zac Schakner • Deterrents Proposed Rule – (PSRG-2021-B22; PSRG-2021-B23) – Kristy Long, Amy Scholik-Schlomer <i>Overview of guidelines in proposed rule and opportunity to provide input for consideration during development of final rule</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRG Discussion/Questions
	----Break [12:25-12:40]----
12:40	Responses to PSRG 2020 Recommendations – Zac Schakner <i>Summary of formal responses to 2020 PSRG recommendations and chance for questions.</i>
12:55	Alaska and West Coast Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alaska Fisheries Science Center California Ecosystems Program Update – Sharon Melin <i>Updates on MML research on PCFG gray whales, EDPS Steller sea lions in the southern part of the range, California sea lion and California stock northern fur seal population studies, and information gaps.</i> • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southern Sea Otter Updates – Lilian Carswell • SRKW Stock Assessment Report (SAR) – (PSRG-2021-05) – Brad Hanson • Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Management Update – Lynne Barre <i>Update on SRKW management actions, including past accomplishments and challenges, future recovery actions, and the new upcoming Species in the Spotlight Action Plan.</i> • NMFS West Coast Regional Office Updates – Penny Ruvelas <i>Fisheries, Guadalupe fur seal UME, Section 120, Vessel Strikes, and other emerging developments.</i>
14:10	SRG discussion/questions, as needed
14:25	Review tasks to do before tomorrow’s webinar – Laura McCue, Karin Forney
14:30	Adjourn

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 17 MARCH 2021 – U.S. WEST COAST TOPICS

10:30 PDT	Welcome, Webinar Overview – <i>John Calambokidis, Laura McCue, Karin Forney</i>
10:45	Large Whale Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serious Injury Policy updates and Risk assessment of large whale entanglements and vessel strikes from case narratives and random forest classification trees. – (PSRG-2021-08) – <i>Lisa Lierheimer, Jim Carretta</i> <i>NMFS is updating the large whale serious injury assessment process with new data. Out of this effort, we propose a new cross-validated method to automate serious injury probability designations from case narratives and random forest classification trees.</i>• Whale Entanglements – <i>Dan Lawson, Ryan Bartling</i> <i>- Update on the coast-wide issue of entanglements, including a summary of relevant management and science developments in 2020, and the outlook for NMFS activity and the West Coast entanglement issue at large in 2021 and beyond;</i> <i>- A brief overview of the Risk Assessment Mitigation Plan for the commercial Dungeness crab Fishery, minimizing risk of entanglement.</i>• Splash 2 Update – <i>Jeff Moore</i> <i>Following on the success of the initial SPLASH project (2004-2006), SPLASH-2 has the objectives of updating the population status assessment for humpback whales throughout the North Pacific, primarily through collaboration with photo ID data holders to integrate photo ID catalogs, identify data gaps, make progress to plug the most important of these gaps with fieldwork, and conduct statistical analysis of the data. The need for this work stems from observed (negative) demographic changes for several humpback whale DPSs (e.g., reduced reproduction in Hawaii and Southeast Alaska, increased entanglement rates of the US West Coast). Updating population assessments for North Pacific humpback DPSs will help us understand the drivers of these changes and help manage human impacts. An initial SPLASH-2 workshop was conducted in December 2020. We will provide a brief overview of the project and update on its initial activities.</i>• SRG Discussion/Questions
	----Break [12:10-12:25]----
12:25	West Coast Research <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habitat-based abundance estimates for West Coast cetaceans based on 1991-2018 survey data – (PSRG-2021-B06; PSRG-2021-B09) – <i>Elizabeth Becker</i> <i>To develop improved species distribution models and to update US West Coast cetacean stock abundance estimates, sighting data from NOAA's SWFSC 2018 California Current Ecosystem (CCE) Survey were combined with previous line-transect survey data to create a robust modeling database spanning more than 25 years (1991–2018). Habitat models for 14 species and a small beaked whale guild were developed based on previously established methods that allow for the incorporation of segment-specific estimates of detection probability and included dynamic covariates from an ocean model calibrated to the CCE study area.</i>• West coast harbor porpoise DIP delineation – (PSRG-2021-B13) – <i>Phillip Morin</i> <i>Review of recently published genetic analysis of harbor porpoise population structure through the full range from southern California to southern British Columbia. Results confirm existing population stocks, but suggest splitting of the largest stock (Northern California/Southern Oregon) into two stocks. Seascape genetic analysis suggests evidence of local adaptation, further supporting management of local population stocks.</i>• Update on Ziphius abundance estimation from passive acoustic (DASBR) data – (PSRG-2021-B09; PSRG-2021-B16) – <i>Jay Barlow</i>

	<p><i>Jay Barlow and Jeff Moore will explain a next approach they have developed to make more precise estimates of beaked whale abundance using data from drifting hydrophone recorders. Using an example for Cuvier's beaked whale, density is estimated for the U.S. West Coast Survey area (~1 million km²) as 5.12 animals per 1000 km² (CV = 0.27) and abundance is estimated as 5,454 individuals (95% credibility intervals: 3,151 to 8,907). Estimates fall near the upper range of previous estimates from visual surveys but are much more precise.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated eastern North Pacific gray whale abundance and calf production estimates – (PSRG-2021-B17; PSRG-2021-B18) –<i>Josh Stewart, Dave Weller</i> • U.S. Pacific West Coast Draft 2021 SAR – (PSRG-2021-04) – <i>Jim Carretta, Karin Forney</i> <i>New estimates of abundance from species distribution models and Bayesian trend analyses. Most are also updated with new information on human-caused mortality levels.</i>
14:25	SRG Discussion, document comments, recommendations – <i>John Calambokidis</i>
14:30	Adjourn
	<p>SRG Documents not included on agenda, but SRG comments welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSRG-2021-B07 • PSRG-2021-B15

DAY 3: THURSDAY, 18 MARCH 2021 – PACIFIC ISLANDS TOPICS

10:30 PDT	Welcome, Webinar Overview – <i>John Calambokidis, Laura McCue, Karin Forney</i>
10:45	Pacific Islands Region Management Topics – <i>(PSRG-2021-B20; PSRG-2021-B21) – Diana Kramer, Ann Garrett</i> <i>Update on the False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team 2020 recommendations; overview of weak hook effectiveness study planned for March 2021; spinner dolphin management update</i>
11:15	Implications of bottlenose dolphin/ fish farm interactions off Kona – <i>(PSRG-2021-09; PSRG-2021-B19) – Robin Baird</i> <i>Numerous protected species interactions have been documented at the kanpachi farm off Kona since it was established in 2005. Photo-identification of bottlenose dolphins at the farm indicate that a large number of individuals (28 as of 2019) associate with the farm and the rate of discovery of new individuals at the farm is not decreasing. In recent years farm-associated dolphins have been involved in a number of aggressive interactions directed towards spinner and spotted dolphins, and endangered false killer whales, and these interactions appear to be increasing in frequency.</i>
11:30	False killer Whale Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> False Killer Whale Research within the PIR <i>(PSRG-2021-B02; PSRG-2021-B11) – Erin Oleson, Robin Baird</i> <i>Update on research relating to MHI insular and pelagic populations, including work on reducing fisheries interactions and examining population demographics.</i> 2021 Draft False Killer Whale SAR – <i>(PSRG-2021-06) – Erin Oleson</i>
	----Break [12:20-12:35]----
12:35	Pacific Islands Cetacean Assessment Survey Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHICEAS 2020 Analysis – <i>(PSRG-2021-B24) – Amanda Bradford</i> <i>Summary of plans and progress for design- and model-based line-transect abundance estimation incorporating data collected during WHICEAS 2020</i> Main Hawaii Island Spinner Dolphin Surveys –<i>Marie Hill, Claire Lacy</i> <i>Background, objectives, and basic design goals of the line transect abundance surveys; mark-recapture photo-id project on the Waianae coast, Oahu; brief overview of FinFindR photo-id project.</i> 2021 Survey and Research Overview – <i>(PSRG-2021-B01; PSRG-2021-B10) – Erin Oleson</i> <i>Mariana Archipelago survey plans, updates on passive acoustics research, and overview of Program research priorities.</i>
13:35	Hawaiian Monk Seal Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Updates – <i>(PSRG-2021-B04; PSRG-2021-B05; PSRG-2021-B08; PSRG-2021-B14) – Jason Baker</i> <i>Updates on monk seal research since the last PSRG meeting</i> Hawaiian monk seal SAR – <i>(PSRG-2021-07) – Jason Baker</i> Hawaiian Monk Seal Human-Caused Mortality and Injury – <i>(PSRG-2021-10) – Tracy Mercer</i> <i>Deviations from national guidelines for monk seal serious injury determinations</i>
14:15	SRG Discussion, document comments, recommendations – <i>John Calambokidis</i>
14:30	Adjourn
	SRG Documents not included on agenda, but SRG comments welcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSRG-2021-B03 PSRG-2021-B12

DAY 4: FRIDAY, 19 MARCH 2021 – PSRG members ONLY - Discussions and Recommendations

11:00 PDT	Webinar Overview – <i>John Calambokidis</i>
11:15	Other Discussion Topics <i>Topics, timing, and location of next meeting</i>
11:30	SRG Discussion and Draft Recommendations
13:00	Adjourn 2021 PSRG meeting

Document List
Pacific Scientific Review Group
Annual Meeting, March 16-19, 2021

Review Documents		
(Do not distribute outside of NMFS/USFWS and PSRG without author permission)		
Document Number	Document Title	Contributor
PSRG-2021-01	Spreadsheet of injury determinations for humpback whales reported to NOAA Response Networks in the Hawaiian Islands during 2019	Bradford
PSRG-2021-02	Serious Injury and Anthropogenic Mortality Report for U.S. West Coast stocks	Carretta
PSRG-2021-03	Bycatch estimates CA swordfish drift gillnet fishery	Carretta
PSRG-2021-04	U.S. Pacific West Coast Draft 2021 stock assessments	Carretta/Forney
PSRG-2021-05	Southern Resident Killer Whale SAR	Hanson
PSRG-2021-06	Pacific Islands SARs (False killer whale only)	Oleson
PSRG-2021-07	Hawaiian monk seal SAR	Baker
PSRG-2021-08	Risk assessment of large whale entanglements and vessel strikes from case narratives and random forest classification trees.	Carretta
PSRG-2021-09	Implications of bottlenose dolphin / fish farm interactions off Kona	Baird
PSRG-2021-10	Hawaiian monk seal human caused mortality and injury	Baker
Background Documents		
PSRG-2021-B01	Allen et al_ 2021_ A Convolutional Neural Network for Automated Detection of Humpback Whale Song in a Diverse, Long-Term Passive Acoustic Dataset.	Oleson
PSRG-2021-B02	Baird et al_ 2021_ Bringing the right fishermen to the table: indices of overlap between endangered false killer whales and nearshore fisheries in Hawai'i.	Baird
PSRG-2021-B03	Baird et al_ IP_ Site fidelity, spatial use, and behavior of dwarf sperm whales in Hawaiian waters: using small-boat surveys, photo-identification, and unmanned aerial systems to study a difficult-to-study species	Baird
PSRG-2021-B04	Baker et al_ 2020_ Hawaiian monk seal translocation efficacy	Baker
PSRG-2021-B05	Baker et al_ 2020_ FFS terrestrial habitat loss tech memo	Baker
PSRG-2021-B06	Becker et al_ 2020_ Habitat-based density estimates for cetaceans in the California Current Ecosystem based on 1991–2018 survey data_ TM638	Moore
PSRG-2021-B07	Forney et al_ 2020_ Porpoise trends	Forney
PSRG-2021-B08	Harting et al_ 2020_ MHI monk seal cause of death	Baker
PSRG-2021-B09	Henry et al_ 2020_ Report of the California Current Ecosystem Survey (CCES): Cetacean and Seabird data collection efforts June 26 - December 4, 2018	Moore
PSRG-2021-B10	Hill et al_ 2020_ Assessing cetacean populations in the Mariana Archipelago: A summary of data and analyses arising from Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center surveys from 2010 to 2019_ Tech Memo	Oleson
PSRG-2021-B11	Kratofil et al_ 2020_ Life history and social structure as drivers of persistent organic pollutant levels and stable isotopes in Hawaiian false killer whales (Pc)	Baird
PSRG-2021-B12	McSweeney et al_ 2009_ Site fidelity and assoc. patterns of PKW in MHI	Baird
PSRG-2021-B13	Morin et al_ 2021_ Pop structure in a continuously distributed coastal marine species, the harbor porpoise, based on microhaplotypes derived from poor quality samples	Martien
PSRG-2021-B14	Robinson et al_ 2020_ MHI Hawaiian monk seal reproductive rates	Baker
PSRG-2021-B15	Santora et al_ 2020_ Habitat compression and ecosystem shifts links between heatwave and entanglements	Forney

PSRG-2021-B16	Simonis et al_2020_Passive Acoustic Survey of Deep-Diving Odontocetes in the California Current Ecosystem 2018 Final Report	Moore
PSRG-2021-B17	Stewart and Weller_2021_A Bayesian approach for estimating eastern North Pacific gray whale calf production	Weller
PSRG-2021-B18	Stewart and Weller_2021_Abundance of eastern North Pacific gray whales 2019/2020	Weller
PSRG-2021-B19	Van Cise et al_2021_Mark-recapture estimates suggest declines in abundance of common bottlenose dolphin stocks in the main Hawaiian Islands.	Baird
PSRG-2021-B20	FKWTRT Key Outcomes Memo and Research Recommendations from October 2020 Webinar	Kramer
PSRG-2021-B21	FKWTRT-related Hook Study Background Document	Kramer
PSRG-2021-B22	West et al_2020_Guidelines for deterrents proposed rule-FRN	NMFS
PSRG-2021-B23	Marine Mammal Deterrents - Fact Sheet	NMFS
PSRG-2021-B24	Yano et al_2020_Cetacean and seabird data collected during WHICEAS, Jan-Mar 2020	Oleson