

Marine Mammal Research Coordination

- Challenges to coordinating research
 - Identification of common objectives
 - Volatility of national priorities
 - Transparency of objectives
 - Standardized methodologies
 - Balance between top down needs and bottom up approaches
 - Permitting processes
- Improved international balance
 - Language
 - Perception of bias in funding
 - Interdisciplinary approaches

Marine Mammal Research Coordination

- Problems arising from lack of coordination
 - Duplication of efforts (reinventing the wheel)
 - Inconsistent/incomplete information on a national, regional, international scale
- Suggestions to address challenges/problems
 - International governmental organization
 - Is this issue big enough to warrant this recommendation?
 - Existing entity (e.g., Scientific Committee for Ocean Research)
 - International collaborations
 - Better use of the Web
 - Outreach to countries with less resources, expertise, political will
 - Internships, fellowships, etc.
 - Language translation

Marine Mammal Research Coordination

- Science \leftrightarrow Policy Nat'l/Int'l Challenges
 - Inclusion of all stakeholders
 - Improved balance of expertise
 - Not all nations have access to good scientific advice
 - Communication of science in lay terms
 - Common definition of terms related to interpretation of the science
 - Communication of policy-making process to scientists
 - Popular communications by scientists (e.g., science column in New York Times)
 - Marine mammals not on policy agenda in many nations
 - Meshing of policy making timeline with scientific research timeline

Marine Mammal Research Coordination

- Science ↔ Policy Nat'l/Int'l Suggestions
 - Funding for information transfer in popular venues
 - Centralized information sharing
 - Better use of web, MarMam listserver
 - Use of professional science communicators

Marine Mammal Research Coordination

- Science ↔ Policy: Scientists
 - Challenges
 - Corporate memory
 - Information overload
 - Communication in lay terms
 - Meshing results of hypothesis-based science with answers to questions asked by policy makers
 - Awareness of the weight given to their voices by policy makers
 - Need to provide information/data without personal bias
 - Suggestions
 - Use of professional science communicators

Marine Mammal Research Coordination

- Science ↔ Policy: Policy Makers
 - Challenges
 - Access to scientific experts
 - Clearly outlined options/consequences
 - Meshing major issues with national priorities
 - Interpretation of science
 - Information overload
 - Balancing science with societal values
 - Suggestions
 - Maintain scientists on staff
 - Independent science review board