

Presentation at the First Plenary Meeting
of the Advisory Committee on Acoustic
Impacts on Marine Mammals
3-5 February 2004
Bethesda, Maryland

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Marine Mammal Commission

Welcome

Advisory Committee on Acoustic
Impacts on Marine Mammals

First Plenary Meeting, 3-5 February 2004

John Reynolds, Chairman

David Cottingham, Executive Director

Project History

✓ High-profile marine mammal strandings, lawsuits, and growing concern & controversy

✓ 2003 Congressional mandate:

to “fund an international conference or series of conferences to share findings, survey acoustic ‘threats’ to marine mammals, and develop means of reducing those threats while maintaining the oceans as a global highway of international commerce.”

Marine Mammal Commission

Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals

Project History

- ✓ **Early 2003:** began consulting with various interest groups; started planning for technical workshop and policy meetings
- ✓ **June 2003:** contracted with U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution
- ✓ **July 2003:** selected team of facilitators
- ✓ **November 2003:** completed assessment phase (including over 80 stakeholder interviews); chartered federal advisory committee
- ✓ **December 2003:** appointed Committee members

Marine Mammal Commission

Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals

The Committee

- ✓ Moving beyond the NRC science panels
- ✓ Broad and balanced representation among stakeholder groups, policy and technical knowledge
- ✓ Ability to represent a constituency or broader set of public interests
- ✓ Ability to work with the group and support the Committee's work
- ✓ Ability to commit support for the eventual product

Marine Mammal Commission

Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals

Role of the Commission

- ✓ Oversight of federal marine mammal programs
- ✓ Advising Congress and agencies on marine mammal protection, conservation, and management
- ✓ Sponsor/Convener of Committee: agency to which the Committee submits final report
- ✓ Full membership and participation as Committee members
- ✓ Charged with making recommendations to Congress

Marine Mammal Commission

Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals

Purpose of the Committee

- ✓ Produce a report to the Commission
 - ✓ Inform the Commission's report to Congress

Work toward agreement on a comprehensive, coordinated, and implementable plan for scientific and policy efforts on marine mammals and sound over the next 10-15 years

Marine Mammal Commission

Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals

Purpose of the Committee

SCOPE:

- ✓ All marine mammals
- ✓ All anthropogenic sound sources
 - ✓ Acute
 - ✓ Chronic

PRODUCT:

- ✓ Develop as much consensus as achievable
- ✓ Document discussions and consensus in report to Commission

Goals for the Report

- ✓ Assess **current extent of knowledge** about threats
- ✓ Recommend **research priorities**
 1. protecting marine mammals in most effective manner
 2. resolving regulatory and policy controversies
 3. Assessing which issues are most amenable to study with current research capabilities
- ✓ **Strategy for research** funding and completion
- ✓ **Management and mitigation** methods to avoid and minimize impacts