

PROBLEM STATEMENT

There is compelling evidence that increasing levels of anthropogenic sound are adversely affecting marine mammals. Therefore there is an urgent need for precautionary management. Marine mammals are difficult to study and rely heavily on sound; in addition, the marine environment is complex, and population effects are difficult to detect. While research is needed to refine management, action cannot wait for scientific certainty. Various international bodies have acknowledged all of this in recent years.

COMMON-SENSE MITIGATION NEEDED NOW

- (1) Geographic/seasonal exclusions
- (2) Source reduction or elimination
- (3) Operational restrictions, including as a matter of priority temporal restrictions, best practice safety zones (3km), trained marine mammal observers, and passive acoustic monitoring

INFORMATION NEEDED TO ADDRESS UNCERTAINTIES

- (1) Research on distribution, abundance, and habitat use and identification of biological hotspots
- (2) Development and research on alternative technologies and source level reduction
- (3) Standardized, systematic data collection from all available platforms and independent analysis, made available to the public
- (4) Identification and monitoring of acoustic hotspots
- (5) Monitoring measures to ensure greatest possible detection and analysis of strandings and deaths at sea coincident with noise