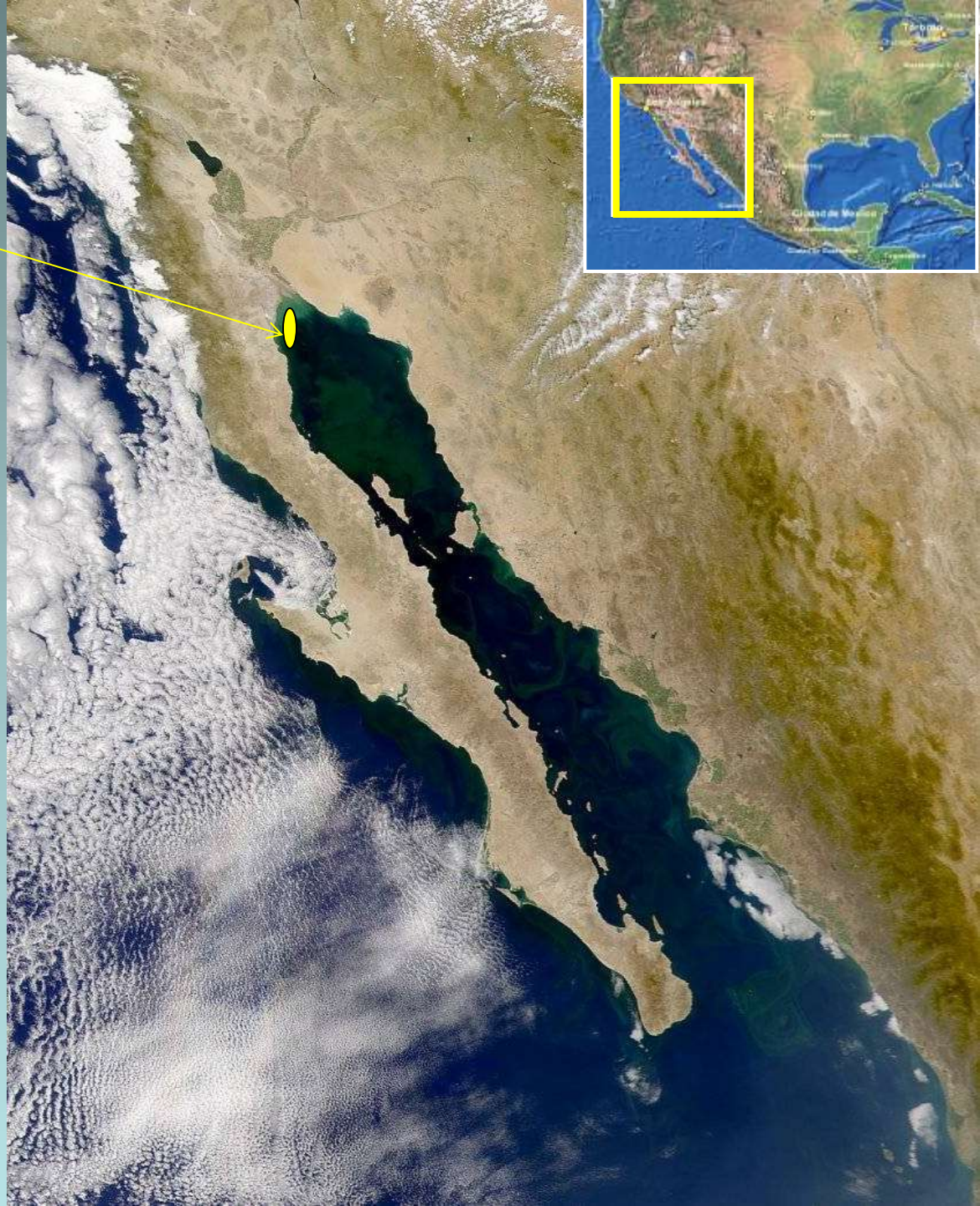




Vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*)

- Only marine mammal endemic to Mexico
- First described by Norris and McFarland (1958)
- One of 6 species of porpoise
- Most similar to Burmeister's porpoise of Peru

- Tiny distribution
- Naturally rare



Abundance

Joint MX-US surveys



1997 : 567 vaquitas
2008 : 245 vaquitas






Vaquita Conservation Plan 2008


**ACTION PROGRAM FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF THE SPECIES:**

VAQUITA (*Phocoena sinus*)



**Comprehensive Strategy for Sustainable
Management of Marine and Coastal
Resources in the Upper Gulf of California**


February 2008



ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS

UNITED MEXICAN
STATES
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

SEMARNAT



Vivir Mejor

- Development of alternative shrimp net
- Phased replacement of shrimp gill nets over 5 years
- Buy out/rent out/swap out of fishermen
- Alternative livelihoods
- MX legislation for above
- Enforcement of above

Population Monitoring



- 48 C-Pod array within refuge
- Record 3 months each summer
- 2013 season
 - alarming decline in detections
- Expert group convened

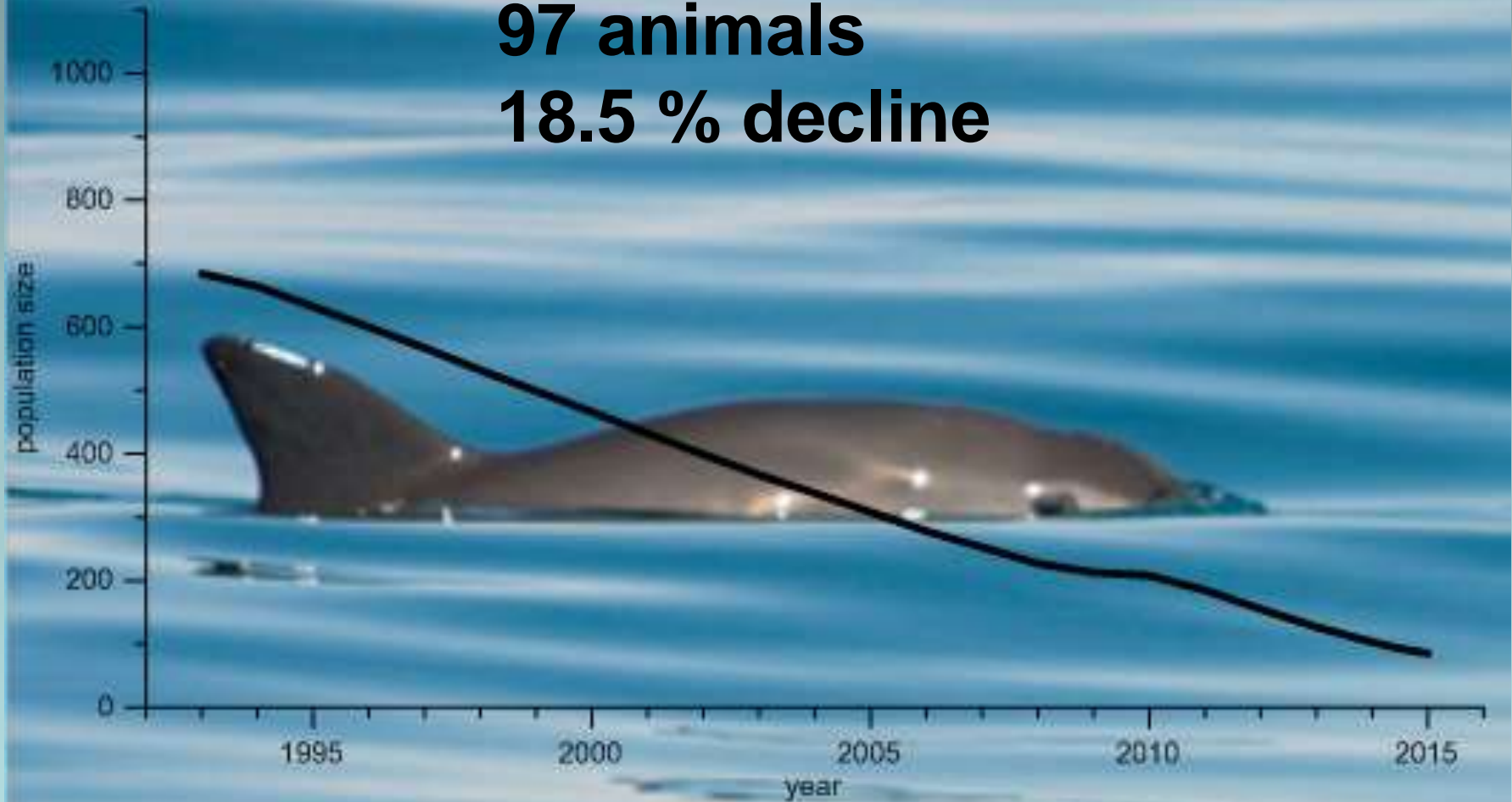
CIRVA V July 2014

- Reviewed the analysis of detections by the acoustic monitoring array for 2011-2013 (3 seasons)

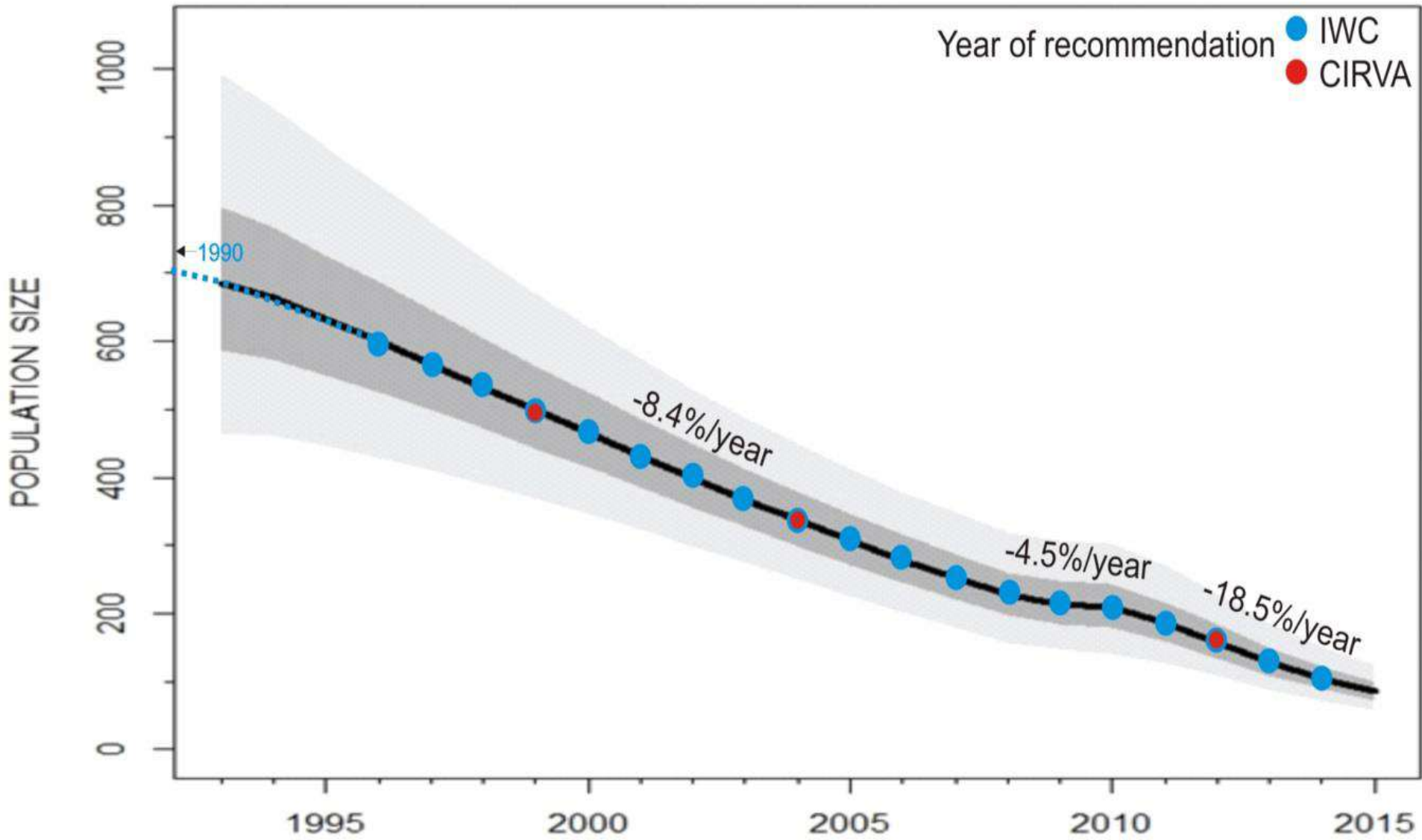


2014 estimate from acoustic data

97 animals
18.5 % decline



vaquita population trajectory







US \$ 8,500/kg
US \$ 2.25 million confiscated

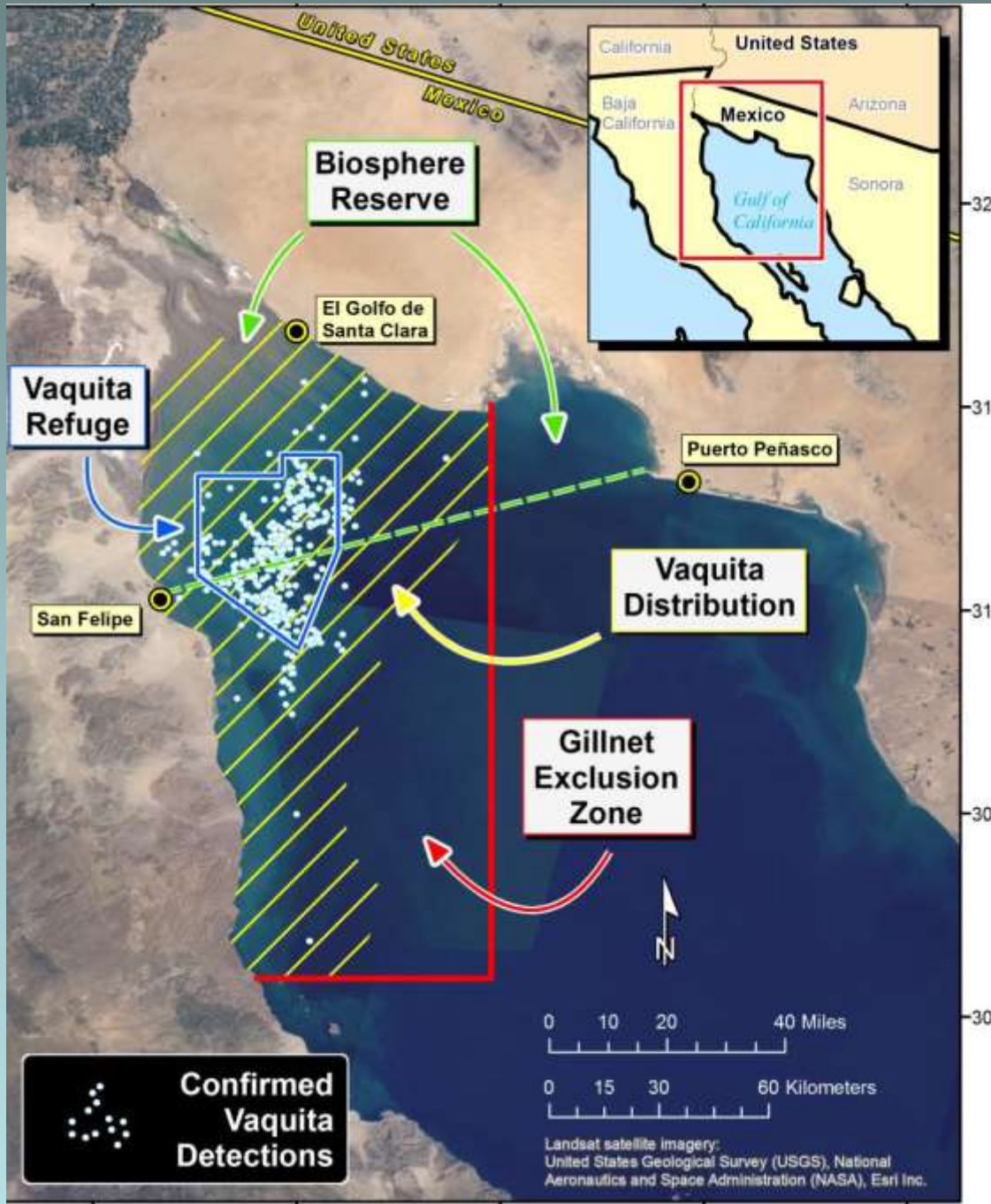


CIRVA V Recommendations

July 2014

- Emergency regulations for complete removal of gill nets from all vaquita habitat
- Full enforcement
- Alternative fishing methods
- Continued acoustic monitoring





Presidential Announcement

April 2015

- Expansion of the area of the Vaquita Refuge
- Two year suspension of fishing activities that represent risk to vaquitas (esp. gillnets)
- Compensation to licensees, fishermen and other workers in the shrimp, finfish and shark fisheries
- Community-based surveillance and enforcement scheme
- Strengthening Mexico's capacity to combat illegal fishing for totoaba and enforcing the closures.



Marine Mammal Commission Funding

- Acoustic Array
 - development, deployment, and expert analysis of acoustic data
- Alternative gear development and testing (traps, small trawls)
- Market stream development
- Fishery monitoring
- CIRVA Meetings

Marine Mammal Commission Policy Engagement

- CIRVA
- Advisory Commission to the Presidency of Mexico
- International Whaling Commission
- President's (U.S.) Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking
- Canada/Mexico/United States Trilateral
- USG Inter-agency
- Media outreach

Immediate Work Ahead

- Enforcement of gillnet ban in expanded refuge area
- Interdiction against totoaba fishery and trade
- Supplemental “independent” monitoring
- Deployment of alternative gear and market streams
- Further gear development
- Economic alternatives for fishing communities
- CIRVA and IWC/SC review of 2014 acoustic data
- Sightings survey

