

Editorial

Welcome to this the final issue of Volume 9 of the *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*.

2007 has been another successful year for the Journal. A total of 31 papers have been published this year covering a wide range of subjects related to the conservation and management of cetaceans. There have been a total of 85 authors from Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa and North and South America. This year's supplement included the full report of the Scientific Committee held in St Kitts and Nevis in May-June 2006, as well as the results of five important intersessional workshops. The author and subject index can be found at the end of this issue.

Knowledge of the prey species of whales is important to management at many levels, from interpreting short- and long-term changes in distribution to consideration of interactions with fisheries. There are two papers relevant to prey (Windsland *et al.*; Leaper and Lavigne) and one to fishery interactions (Benjamins *et al.*) in this issue. Good conservation requires good knowledge of the abundance of populations and there are a number of papers relevant to that topic. Two of these relate to diving behaviour, an important correction factor in abundance estimates, one (Teilmann *et al.*) relating to harbour porpoises that uses data collected from telemetry and the other referring to large whales off West Greenland (Heide-Jørgensen and Simon). One of the most encouraging pieces of information on cetacean conservation in recent years is the evidence that Antarctic blue whales, although still at a very small percentage of their original population size, are recovering. The most recent estimates are given in the Branch paper in this issue. It is the policy of the journal to encourage good quality cetacean research in areas where cetacean studies are rare and/or in

their infancy. I am pleased to include work from Angola (Weir) and off India (Jayasankar) here. Interactions with vessels is becoming an increasingly important topic for cetacean conservation in some areas and Morete *et al.* discuss the response of mother and calf humpback whales to vessels off Brazil. This issue also includes a fascinating paper on the use of genetic data to investigate the mating system of the common minke whale (Skaug *et al.*).

Finally, I would like to thank the 50 scientists that have acted as anonymous reviewers for the papers published in Volume 9 (Baker, C.S.; Bejder, L.; Berggren, P.; Best, P.B.; Borchers, D.L.; Bravington, M.V.; Brown, M.W.; Buckland, S.T.; Butterworth, D.S.; Cañadas, A.; Clapham, P.J.; Cockcroft, V.G.; Durban, J.W.; Findlay, K.P.; Forcada, J.; Gales, N.; George, J.C.; Gordon, J.C.D.; Hammond, P.S.; Hedley, S.L.; Hiby, A.R.; Hoelzel, R.; Kasuya, T.; Larsen, F.; Laake, J.L.; Lawson, J.; Lesage, V.; Lusseau, D.; Martien, K.K.; Martin, A.R.; Mate, B.; Mead, J.G.; Moore, M.; Øien, N.; Otani, S.; Palsbøll, P.J.; Perrin, W.F.; Pike, D.G.; Reeves, R.; Ridgway, S.H.; Rogan, E.; Rosenbaum, H.C.; Rowntree, V.; Teilmann, J.; Van Waerebeek, K.; Víkingsson, G.; Westgate, A.J.; Winship, A.; Williams, R.; Whitehead, H.). Without their diligence and hard work, the papers in the *Journal*, and more importantly the contribution they make to the wise management and conservation of cetaceans, would be considerably poorer. A full list of the reviewers and their affiliations can be found at: http://www.iwcoffice.org/publications/contents_reviewers.htm#review.

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Editor