

Australian Marine Mammal Centre
Final Report
(subclause 9 and Schedule Item 5 of the Funding Agreement)

- **Project No:** 2009/46
- **Title:** Workshop: Spatial modelling of cetacean habitat use
- **Chief Investigator:** Lars Bejder and Guido Parra
- **Organisation:** Murdoch University

Activity Period –

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1. Activity Summary

A clear summary of approximately 500 words outlining the work undertaken and any significant findings (for publication on the Department's web site)

The grant provided by the AMMC allowed us to host two one-week workshops on methods for studying marine mammal habitat use and abundance using spatial modelling of survey data. The workshops were hosted by Bejder and Parra, respectively, in Perth and Port Lincoln, and presentations were carried out by Prof. Phil Hammond and Dr. Ana Canada. The workshops comprised of lectures (including presentation of case studies), demonstrations, and practical work. The final day of each workshop was dedicated to discussion of issues arising and consultation on design and analysis for specific project data.

2. The Outcomes/Objectives

List of the Project Objectives

1. To build expertise among Australian marine mammal researchers in sound research design and analysis of survey data to obtain information on habitat use and abundance.
2. To encourage and facilitate collaborative research that maximises the scientific and conservation potential of existing and future survey data by effectively combining resources, skill sets and expertise.
3. To bring researchers from different institutions, studying different species together to reveal their common purposes in exploring habitat use and abundance in an ecological and conservation context.

The degree to which the Activity has achieved each of the objectives

Based on the level of participation and participation feedback, we believe that all of the objectives were met. There was a wide range of participants present at the workshop, ranging from graduate students, professional academics, environmental consultants to government scientists. A total of 37 people participated at the workshops: 23 participants in Perth (17 from Western Australia, 5 from interstate, and

1 from overseas); and 14 participants in Port Lincoln (7 from South Australia, 5 from interstate, and 2 from overseas).

Participant feedback forms were distributed two weeks after the workshops in order to gauge the level of satisfaction (attached). Feedback was extremely positive towards all aspects of the workshop (relevance of content, applicability, level and speed that the material was covered, presenters).

3. Appropriateness

The appropriateness of the approaches used in the development and implementation of the Activity

Participant feedback was very positive in their feedback on relevance and appropriateness of the material covered during the workshop- and most participants noted that it had wide applicability in for their research and work.

4. Effectiveness

The degree to which the Activity has effectively met its stated objectives

We believe that the execution of the workshop has effectively meet all our aims.