

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Pinniped Specialist Group



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NUMBER OF MEMBERS

20

Mission statement

The mission of the Pinniped Specialist Group is to promote awareness regarding conservation threats to pinnipeds world-wide and to actively take a role in ensuring good management practises that ensure healthy, robust pinniped populations.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Completion of our status and threats assessment in combination with the on-going update of the Red List will: (1) identify knowledge gaps, (2) identify threats and potential mitigation tactics and (3) provide accurate information to National and International management bodies that can promote and enact pinniped conservation.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Conduct Red List reassessment of the South American Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus australis* (Zimmermann, 1783)).

T-002 Conduct Red List reassessment of the New Zealand Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri* (Lesson, 1828)).

T-003 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Galápagos Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus galapagoensis* (Heller, 1904)).

T-004 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Antarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus gazella* (Peters, 1876)).

T-005 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Juan Fernández Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus philippii* (Peters, 1866)).

T-006 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Afro-Australian Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus pusillus* (Schreber, 1775)).

T-007 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Subantarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus tropicalis* (Gray, 1872)).

T-008 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Northern Fur Seal (*Callorhinus ursinus* (Linnaeus, 1758)).

T-009 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus* (Schreber, 1776)).

T-010 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Australian Sea Lion (*Neophoca cinerea* (Peron, 1816)).

T-011 Conduct Red List reassessment of the South American Sea Lion (*Otaria byronia* (Blainville, 1820)).

T-012 Conduct Red List reassessment of the New Zealand Sea Lion (*Phocartos hookeri* (Gray, 1844)).

T-013 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Californian Sea Lion (*Zalophus californianus* (Lesson, 1828)).

T-014 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Japanese Sea Lion (*Zalophus japonicus* (Peters, 1866)).

T-015 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Galápagos Sea Lion (*Zalophus wolfebaeki* (Sivertsen, 1953)).

T-016 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus* (Linnaeus, 1758)).

T-017 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Hooded Seal (*Cystophora cristata* (Erleben, 1777)).

T-018 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Bearded Seal (*Erignathus barbatus* (Erleben, 1777)).

T-019 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus* (Fabricius, 1791)).

T-020 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Ribbon Seal (*Histiophoca fasciata* (Zimmerman, 1783)).



A Galápagos Sea Lion mother and pup (*Zalophus wollebaeki*) bask on a beach on the island of Marchena, Galápagos, Ecuador. The Galápagos sea lion is one of the few pinniped species with a range outside of polar or temperate waters. The species is listed as Endangered and has a declining trend, but the causes are poorly understood. Increasing frequencies of El Niño events due to climate change may have an increasing impact in future
Photo: Simon Goodman, University of Leeds

Climate change is a major threat to most pinniped species, directly through habitat deterioration or indirectly via its impacts on marine ecosystem function. For example, glaciers are melting and calving (dropping ice into fjords) at unprecedented rates negatively impacting species such as the Bearded Seal (*Erignathus barbatus*)
Photo by: Kit M. Kovacs, Norwegian Polar Institute

T-021 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Leopard Seal (*Hydrurga leptonyx* (Blainville, 1820)).

T-022 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Weddell Seal (*Leptonychotes weddellii* (Lesson, 1826)).

T-023 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Crabeater Seal (*Lobodon carcinophaga* (Hombron and Jacquinot, 1842)).

T-024 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Southern Elephant Seal (*Mirounga leonina* (Linnaeus, 1758)).

T-025 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Northern Elephant Seal (*Mirounga angustirostris* (Gill, 1866)).

T-026 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus* (Hermann, 1779)).

T-027 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Caribbean Monk Seal (*Neomonachus tropicalis* (Gray, 1850)).

T-028 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Hawaiian Monk Seal (*Neomonachus schauinslandi* (Matschie, 1905)).

T-029 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Ross Seal (*Ommatophoca rossii* (Gray, 1844)).

T-030 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Harp Seal (*Pagophilus groenlandicus* (Erxleben, 1777)).

T-031 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina* (Linnaeus, 1758)).

T-032 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Spotted Seal (*Phoca largha* (Pallas, 1811)).

T-033 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Ringed Seal (*Pusa hispida* (Schreber, 1775)).

T-034 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Caspian Seal (*Pusa caspica* (Gmelin, 1788)).

T-035 Conduct Red List reassessment of the Baikal Seal (*Pusa sibirica* (Gmelin, 1788)).

PLAN

T-036 Produce a global pinniped conservation strategy.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-016 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 1

Result description: The text is completed and the review is underway. It is to be submitted in 2023.

T-017 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 1

Result description: The status report is completed and reviewed. It is to be submitted in 2023.

T-018 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List reassessments completed: 1

Result description: The text is completed and the review is underway. It is to be submitted in 2023.

T-019 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List reassessments completed: 1

Result description: The text and review are completed. It is to be submitted in 2023.

T-030 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 1

Result description: The text is done, and it is under review. It is to be submitted in 2023.

T-031 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 1

Result description: The text is in draft form. It will soon be reviewed, to be submitted in 2023.

T-033 (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 1

Result description: The text and reviews have been completed for the Ladoga Seal (*Pusa hispida ladogensis*) and Saimma Seal (*Pusa hispida saimensis*) subspecies, to be submitted in 2022.

PLAN

Planning

T-036 (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: The planned work is underway. Species 'accounts' are being produced, edited and compiled. We hope to finish the strategic plan/status report in 2023.

Acknowledgements

The PSG thanks the employers of our members for their support.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 36

Geographic regions: 36 Global

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 7 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

