

# IUCN SSC Pinniped Specialist Group



## 2018 Report



Kit M. Kovacs



Lloyd Lowry

### Co-Chairs

Kit M. Kovacs (1)  
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### Red List Authority Coordinator

Lloyd Lowry (2)

### Location/Affiliation

(1) Biodiversity Research Section Leader,  
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(2) College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences,  
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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 worldwide and to actively take a role in ensuring good management practises that ensure healthy, robust pinniped populations.

### Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2021, we envision assessments at the population level for the most threatened species and subspecies of pinnipeds and accompanying action plans for these populations that will serve to improve their status.

### Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

#### Assess

Red List: (1) complete assessment at the population level of all threatened subspecies; (2) complete population level assessments for the Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*).

Research activities: (1) serve as reviewers for IUCN assessments of Important Marine Mammal Areas; (2) engage with pinniped research and conservation-oriented programmes.

#### Plan

Policy: (1) advise the IUCN Climate Change Specialist Group and other IUCN instances; (2) advise governments around the world.

### Activities and results 2018

#### Assess

##### Red List

i. We have commenced our work with Red Listing at the population level, starting with the monk seals. (KSR #1, 2)

ii. We have completed the first population level assessments for the Mediterranean Monk Seal. (KSR #1, 2, 3)

#### Research activities

i. We have served as reviewers for IUCN assessments of Important Marine Mammal Areas. (KSR #32)

ii. All members are actively engaged with pinniped research and with numerous conservation-oriented programmes. (KSR #12, 14, 23, 32, 38, 39)

#### Plan

##### Policy

i. We have serviced the IUCN Climate Change Specialist Group and done many species at risk features for them and other IUCN efforts. (KSR #7, 26, 40)

ii. Many members serve important advisory capacities for governments around the world. (KSR #7, 26, 40, 43)

### Acknowledgements

We thank the employers of all of the Pinniped Specialist Group members that facilitated the many efforts that the group makes on behalf of IUCN.

### Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 2/5

Assess	4	
Plan	2	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 3, 7, 12, 14, 23, 26, 32, 38, 39, 40, 43

KSR: Key Species Result



Fritz Trillmich about to capture a Galapagos sea lion pup  
Photo: Fritz Trillmich



Greg Hofmeyr (PSG elephant seal expert) working with both pinnipeds and cetaceans stranding network on the east coast of South Africa  
Photo: Javier Lobon



Simon Goldsworthy removing a satellite tag from a female Australian sea lion  
Photo: Roy Hunt