

IUCN SSC Pinniped Specialist Group

2020 Report



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Co-Chairs

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Red List Authority Coordinators

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

20



Mission statement

The mission of the Pinniped Specialist Group (PSG) 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 2020, we envision assessments at the population level for all threatened 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 across the globe.

Plan

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

Network

Capacity building: help launch grassroots efforts for threatened pinniped populations (for example, via participation in RAPCON - Rare Pinniped Conservation Network).

Communicate

Communication: update the Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan.

Activities and results 2020

Assess

Red List

i. Population level assessments for the Mediterranean Monk Seals were accomplished. (KSR #1, 2)

Research activities

- i.** We carried out six Marine Protected Area reviews in the Southern Ocean. (KSR #32)
ii. We engaged with six pinniped research- and conservation-oriented projects in 2020. (KSR #12, 14, 23, 32, 38, 39)

Plan

Policy

- i.** Two advice events were accomplished. (KSR #7, 26, 38, 39, 40)
ii. Over 10 governments were advised around the world regarding conservation of pinniped populations. (KSR #7, 26, 40, 43)

Network

Capacity building

i. Three new members were recruited in 2020. (KSR #5, 8, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 28, 39)

Least Concern Bearded Seals,
Erignathus barbatus, on a flow
Photo: Kit Kovacs and Christian Lydersen,
Norwegian Polar Institute



Acknowledgements

PSG members thank their (respective) employers for allowing members to contribute to IUCN activities, and we are also grateful for the intermittent financial support from the Ministry of Climate and Environment (Norway).

Summary of activities 2020

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 3/5

Assess **3** |||

Plan **2** ||

Network **1** |

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 23, 26, 28, 32, 38, 39, 40, 43

KSR: Key Species Result



Least Concern Harp Seal, *Pagophilus groenlandicus*,
mother-pup pair
Photo: Kit Kovacs and Christian Lydersen,
Norwegian Polar Institute