



# IWC Third Workshop on Marine Debris

- ▶ La Garriga, Catalonia, Spain
- ▶ 3-5 December 2019
- ▶ Experts from 9 countries

# Aimed to progress IWC work by:

Reviewing latest evidence on interactions with cetaceans (ingestion & entanglement) and associated toxicology

Identifying best protocols for gross pathology, pathology for microdebris & the standardised classification of recovered plastics & other debris

Developing liaison with other relevant bodies

## The workshop recommended:

- ▶ Emphasising the importance of long-term studies
- ▶ The need for standardized approaches to post-mortem studies
- ▶ The importance of strandings networks
- ▶ The assessment of floating debris during aerial surveys
- ▶ The integration of marine debris concerns into IWC's Conservation Management Plans

**Full Recommendations: SC/68B/REP/03 REPORT OF THE IWC WORKSHOP ON MARINE DEBRIS: THE WAY FORWARD**

## The workshop **highlighted**:

- ▶ The vulnerability of some species
- ▶ The potential for indicator species (fin, sperm, gray, humpback & beaked whales)

The workshop **called on** IUCN to consider marine debris in its next assessment of the sperm whale

## The workshop **encouraged**:

- ▶ Engagement with international bodies
- ▶ Establishment of a roster of marine debris experts by the IWC
- ▶ Development of a marine debris database of information from post-mortem examinations

## The workshop **welcomed**:

- ▶ Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS document on ‘Best practice on cetacean post-mortem investigation and tissue sampling’

# Communicating the issue of marine debris should:

- Take into account the audience
- Be accurate about the underpinning scientific information & its limitations
- Emphasise upstream solutions in addition to end of life measures
- Consider consulting communication professionals or social scientists
- Focus on positive, actionable messaging