



4th STAC9 pre-session  
March 12th 2021

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# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPAW STAC9

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A stylized illustration of a sea turtle swimming in the ocean. The turtle is the central focus, with its head and front flippers visible. The ocean is depicted with various shades of blue and green, and several small fish are scattered around the turtle. The background is a gradient of blue, transitioning from a lighter shade at the top to a darker shade at the bottom.

Sandrine Pivard, Director,  
Regional Activity Center for the SPAW Protocol (SPAW-RAC)



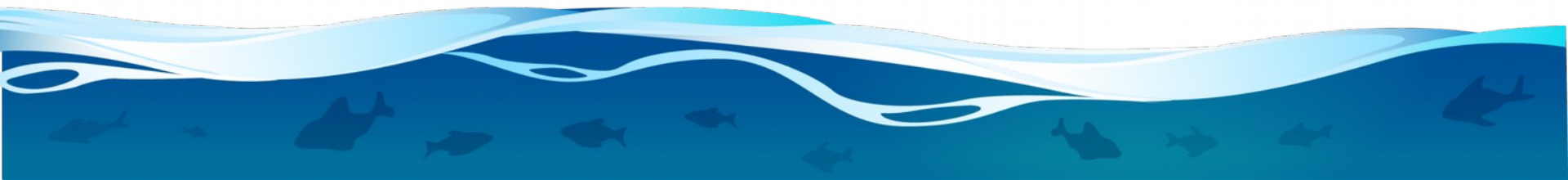
## 4TH STAC9 PRE-SESSION - MARCH 12TH 2021

9am (utc-4): emerging issues (sargassum, SCTL, oilspill, covid, ...)

10am (utc-4): 10/15' presentation by CEP of the next workplan (and organisation of next week agenda) + discussion + functioning of the biennium/ effectiveness of the implementation of the workplan/ room for improvement during the next period

break

11:45am (utc-4): recap of the topics susceptible to lead to potential decisions/ recommendations



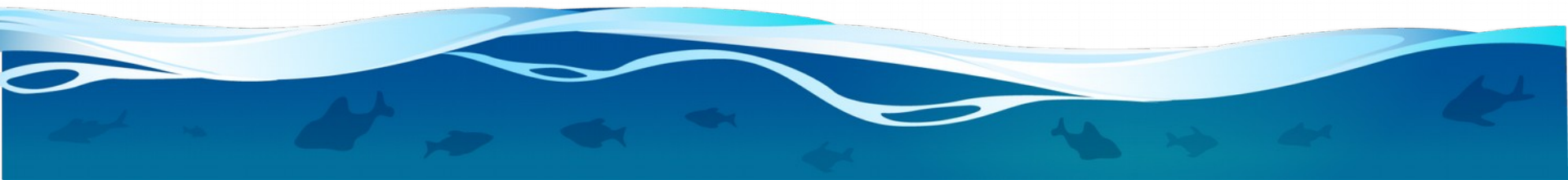


Considering the experts thoughtful contributions, the STAC could recommend to:

- give full support to the proposal from the Government of Dominican Republic and recommend the COP 11 to approve to include the Cotubanama National Park into the SPAW listing sites.
- request Countries to include a current management plan and performance evaluation report in their upcoming applications and to have further discussions about effective management criteria.
- request its WG to develop those criteria and revise the PA listing process in the frame of task 2.
- request its WG to go on with its task 4, finish a reporting format on the status of the listed sites to Contracting Parties.
- encourage its WG to continue the development of a cooperation program in support of listing protecPA and listed PA, outlining options in support of listing protected areas and listed protected areas as outlines above.
- request the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC to consider opportunities for increased collaboration with existing MPA networks and capacity building initiatives in the region.
- Improve the RAC and the Working Group involvement in the ACP MEAs project and other (M)PA activities (CamPAM?), for a better integration coordination of the (M)PA actions, possibly support of a small part of the RAC activity, and link with the other sub-programs.

## OTHER RECOMMENDATION

Streamline the listing process to allow online consultations during the intersessions

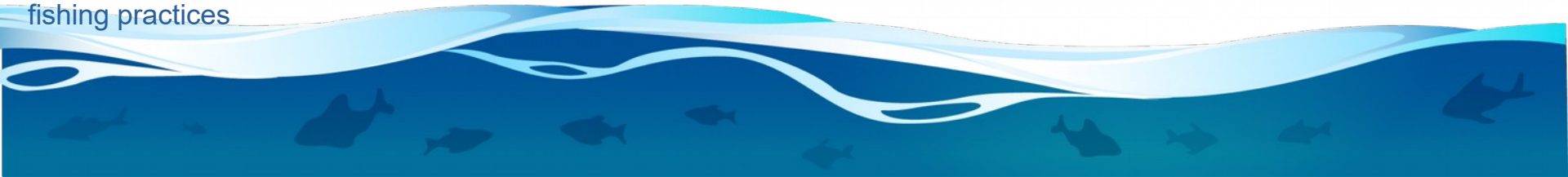




Considering the experts thoughtful contributions, the STAC could recommend to:

To SPAW Parties:

- to include under Annex II of the 3 larger Parrotfishes (*Scarus guacamaia*, *S. coeruleus* & *S. coelestinus*) and to list all other parrotfishes (Perciformes: Scaridae) in Annex III of the Protocol
- to uplist the Oceanic whitetip shark, the whale shark, the Giant manta ray, from Annex III to Annex II
- to further discuss the Hammerhead sharks (smooth and great) species to build a more unanimous conclusion toward the proposals to be submitted for approval at the COP10.
- to engage in stricter management measures to effectively reverse declining population trends for the species aforementioned or in general species listed in annex II and III. Such measures need to be developed, implemented/enforced and advanced on a realistic or desired time-scale and when appropriate developed in regional action plans
- to review progress in the implementation of sustainable management of species listed on Annex III on a biennial basis to avoid further decline and population risks.
- in particular to base implementation and reporting on the recommendations developed on Nassau grouper (annex III), sawfish (annex II), marine turtles (annex II), species of sharks and rays (annex III) not forgetting marine mammals (annex II)
- to engage research and protection for critical habitats, particularly mangroves and nursery areas, throughout the region
- to develop outreach and education materials to educate the public on the ecological importance of the species
- to encourage sustainable fishery management and end illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices





# RECOMMENDATIONS - SPECIES



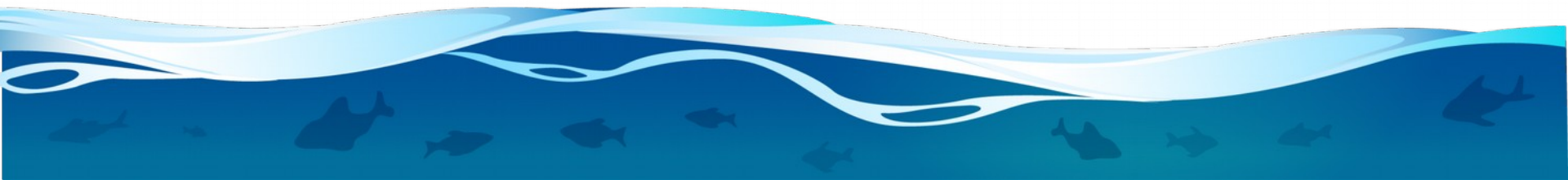
Considering the experts thoughtful contributions, the STAC could recommend to:

To the Working Group species & SPAW-RAC:

- to engage assessment and management recommendations of other species or group of species and identify gaps and barriers to effective enforcement
- to pursue on-going tasks on aforementioned species (Nassau grouper, sawfish, sharks and rays, parrotfish...) and/or to create specific sub-working group dedicated to these species
- to continue efforts to engage fisheries management organizations (WECAFC, OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC, IAC, WIDECAS, CITES) to improve management, to collect regional fisheries data (regional levels of bycatch and directed take of these species), and to link this with the WG
- to work closely with the exemption working group as both are strongly linked

## GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Enhance knowledge and monitoring of marine mammal, sharks and parrotfish (...) populations in the WCR

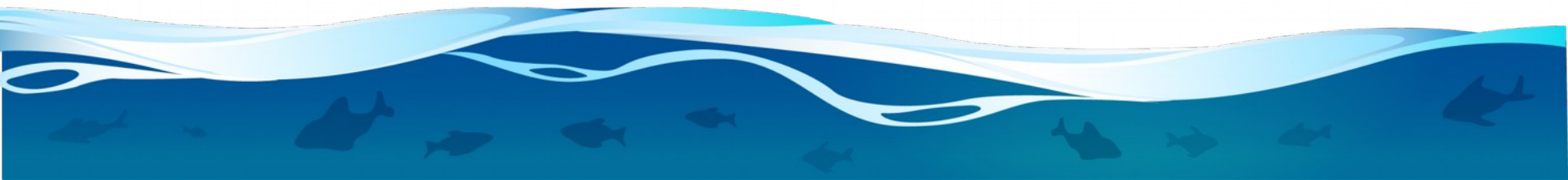


# RECOMMENDATIONS - EXEMPTIONS



Considering the experts thoughtful contributions, the STAC could recommend to:

- Encourage the countries to use of the reporting format but also to report even if they use another format, as long as it provides the necessary information.
- Clarify what stance the STAC/COP should take in front of SPAW Parties still allowing protected species hunting. An assessment of the situation could be done to better tackle the lack of effective management and protection measures.
- Request the Secretariat to reach out to countries not complying with the protocol and also provide more of the biennial reports received.
- Request the Working Group to link with the Species working group, especially regarding its task 4 (improving management of species listed)
- Use networks on the ground level (example WIDECAST) in a collaborative way



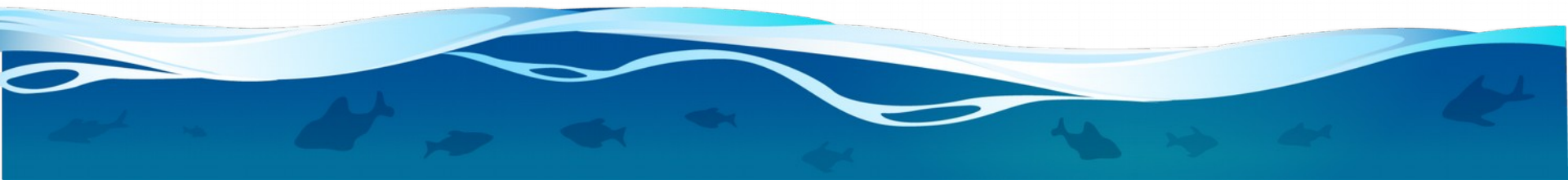


# RECOMMENDATIONS - SARGASSUM



Considering the experts thoughtful contributions, the STAC could recommend to:

- Request the COP to encourage further collaboration between SPAW and LBS Protocols towards a co-lead of the STAC working group
- to request the STAC working group to pursue the review and comment of relevant documents, such as the UNEP CEP White Paper on Sargassum, programmes and projects
- to request that the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC develop partnership with relevant organizations / initiatives such as GEO-BluePlanet in order to participate to the Sargassum Information Hub by compiling existing best management practices and guidelines, providing information and support to policy makers to implement regulations consistent with SPAW Protocol, SARG-Net, consolidate a common platform for sargassum, and seek west-african stakeholders and organizations to collaborate with (e.g., the Abidjan Convention), and promote their work around the Caribbean.





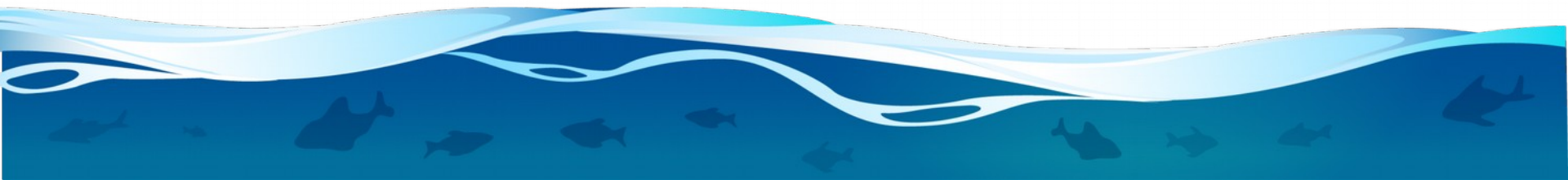
## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WGs

Considering the experts thoughtful contributions, the STAC could recommend to:

- Kindly request Parties and in particular Signatory Parties to the SPAW protocol to nominate experts in order to diversify skills and expertise, and ensure the most exhaustive geographical and political representation but also as an efficient way to be involved in the SPAW implementation and better voice their needs and wishes in the SPAW protocol.
- If deemed necessary, revise the ToR and it in particular the Annex (update the current tasks of the working group).

## OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Elaborate a biennial planning of work of the WG and share it with the national focal points
- Organize periodical e-meetings each 6 months with the national focal points to to keep them informed of the work of the WG
- Encourages experts to apply for president of the WGs



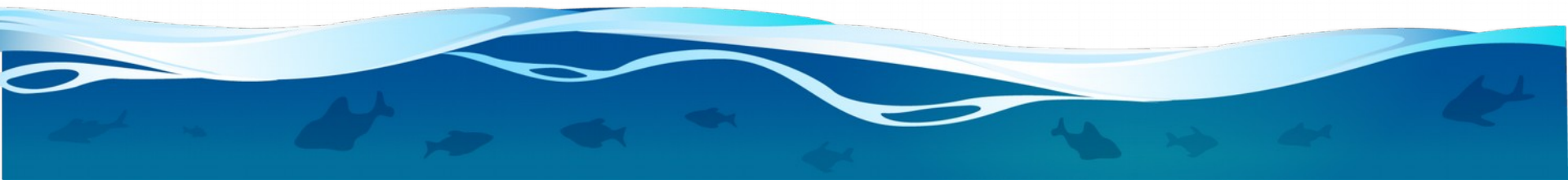




# RECOMMENDATIONS - MARINE MAMMALS



## MARINE MAMMALS ISSUES





Objective 1: Strengthen regional collaboration

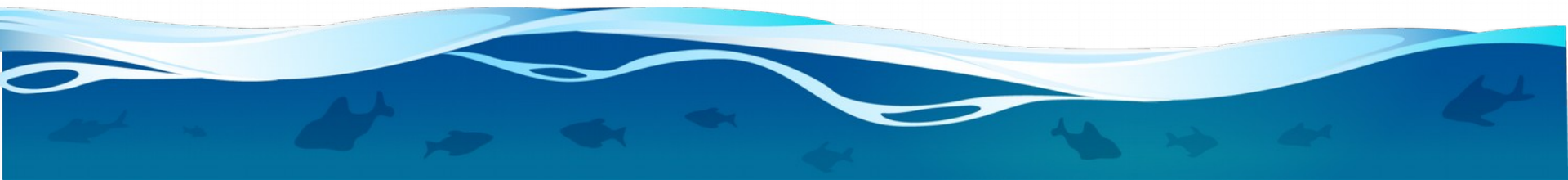
The STAC could recommend :

To the parties to:

- Create a marine mammal RAN including all interesting parties , organisations deemed relevant, with the mandate among others to (i) perpetuate the regional initiated through the CARI'MAM project and to (ii) pursue the development of networking tools in collaboration with the leaders of the CARIMAM project SPAW RAC and Agoa.
- Nominate experts from all the countries to the SPAW species working group.

To the secretariat/SPAW-RAC to:

- Invite some marine mammal experts from regional and global organizations on MM and related fields such as fisheries and maritime traffic (IWC, IUCN, FAO, GCFI, IMO...)
- Strengthen relation between SPAW program and projects
- Strengthen collaborations and global organizations on MM and related fields such as fisheries and maritime traffic (IWC, IUCN, FAO, GCFI, IMO...)
- Finalize the MoU under development with the IWC





Objective 2: In order that national marine mammal and/or species specific action plans are being developed

The STAC could recommend to the species working group to :

- Develop outreach and facilitating tools to encourage and support parties in the development of action plans (e.g. guides, workshops, online course...)
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Objective 3: In order to enhance knowledge and monitoring of marine mammal population in the WCR

The STAC could recommend

To the parties:

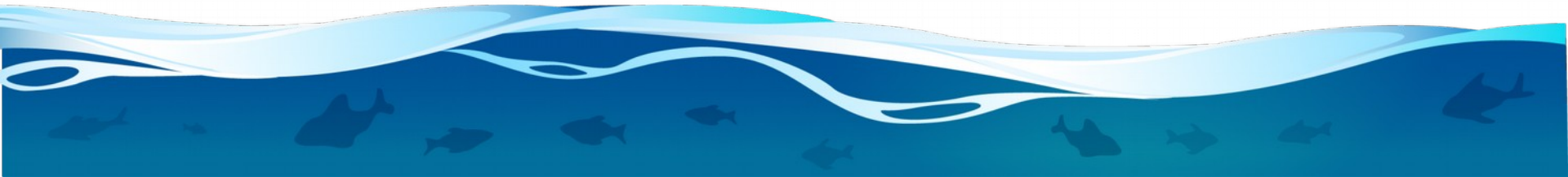
- to report all action requiring an exemption

To the secretariat to:

- Encourage parties to report all action requiring an exemption

To the exemption working group to:

- Work on the exemption documents to facilitate and encourage the reporting





Objective 3: Enhance knowledge and monitoring of marine mammal population in the WCR

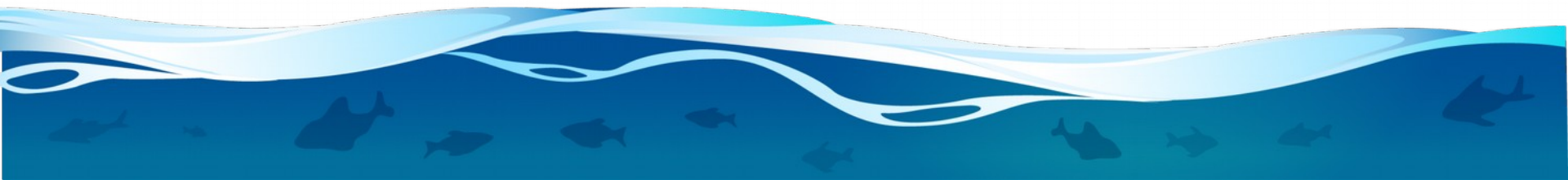
The STAC could recommend

to the SPAW RAC and/or a marine mammal RAN to:

- Pursue actions related to the development of capacity building tools dedicated to regional stakeholders/organizations involved in marine mammal research and monitoring. Funded through CARI'MAM for the first year only.
- Pursue the development of outreach tools on marine mammal studies conducted in the WCR. Funds needed.
- Strengthen WCR stranding networks capacity in marine mammals and sea turtles data and samples collection and analysis. Should be funded through HAMMAC project.

To the SPAW RAC to:

- Develop a regional 'Red List' in order to assess the conservation status and knowledge gaps of marine mammal populations in the WCR, in partnership with the IUCN and in collaboration with other regional and global organizations. Funds needed.





Objective 4: In order to assess and mitigate bycatch, entanglement and directed takes

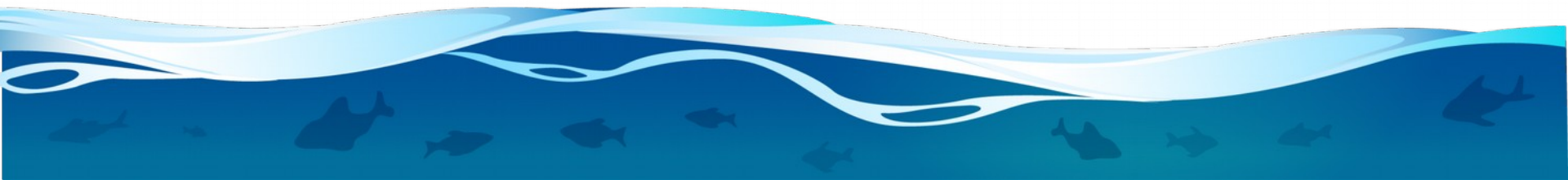
The STAC could recommend to the secretariat / SPAW RAC to :

- Develop outreach and facilitating tools to encourage parties to enact the legislation that requires the reporting of marine mammal direct take and bycatch in fisheries operations. Funds needed.
  - Work on the assessment of marine megafauna bycatch in the Wider Caribbean Region coastal fisheries, in partnership with RFMOs. Should be funded through HAMMAC.
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Objective 5: Assess and mitigate pollution from contaminants

The STAC could recommend to the secretariat / SPAW RAC to to :

- Identify available samples collected on stranded marine mammals and define a strategy for the analysis of these samples. Should be funded through HAMMAC.
- Organize a training workshop dedicated to marine mammal oil spill response, in partnership with Agoa sanctuary, and in collaboration with the LBS protocol and REMPEITC RAC. Will be funded through CARI'MAM





# RECOMMENDATIONS - MARINE MAMMALS

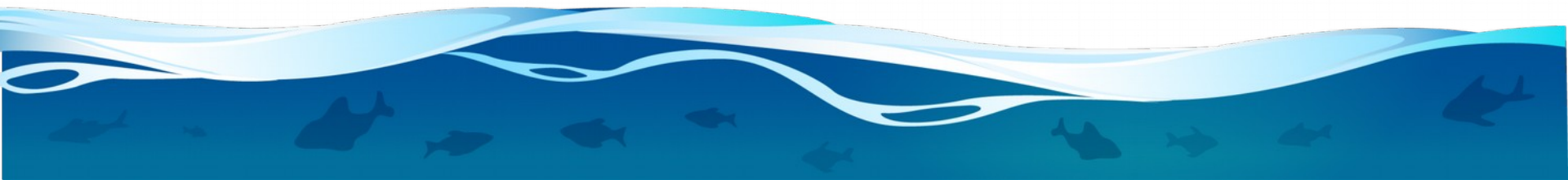


Objective 6: Support the development of a sustainable marine mammal watching in the WCR

The STAC could recommend

To the secretariat / SPAW RAC in the framework of CARI'MAM and then the potential marine mammals RAN to:

- Develop tools to support the development of a sustainable marine mammal watching in the WCR (education and outreach tools, capacity building workshops, networking tools, depending on countries wishes). Funded through CARI'MAM for the first year only.
- Continue to develop a regional certification scheme to support a sustainable and environmentally friendly marine mammal-watching industry. Funded through CARI'MAM for the first year only.





# RECOMMENDATIONS - MARINE MAMMALS



HAMMAC project

MARINE MEGAFUNA INTERACTIONS AND HUMAN ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Submitted in the framework of the second Call for Expression of Interest for the INTERREG CARIBBEAN 2014-2020, extended to 2022.

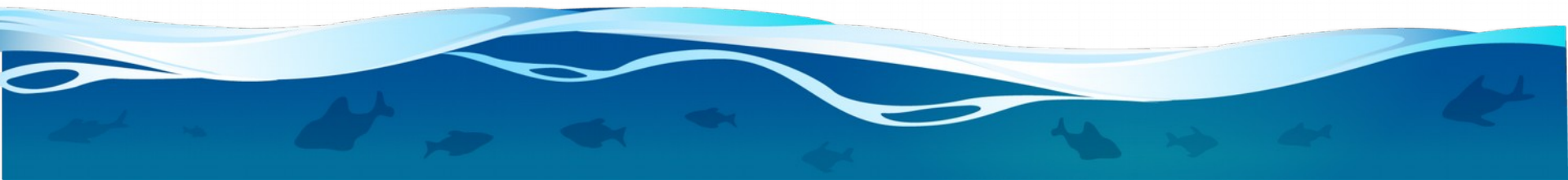
Led by the Agoa Sanctuary and its partners, SPAW RAC and the GEPOG (French Guiana association),

Two objectives:

- 1) Enhancing knowledge on the marine pelagic megafauna in the WCR and on the anthropogenic impacts on these group of species and
- 2) Strengthen collaboration between organizations involved in marine megafauna conservation and organizations involved in activities with potential impact on these groups of species.

Project pre-selected during the first funder's committee in October 2020.

Final selection committee planned for April 2021.





# RECOMMENDATIONS - MARINE MAMMALS



The project is made of 3 work-packages:

WP1: Megafauna interaction with offshore activities, led by the SPAW RAC

- Action 1: Assess marine mammal interaction with Navigation (noise and collision), from spatial analyses

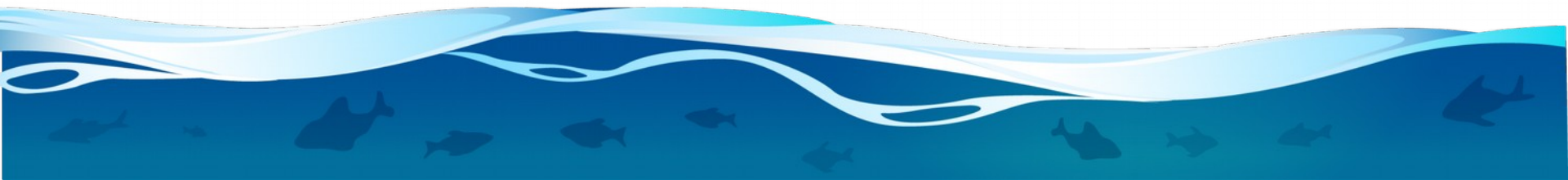
- Action 2: Assess bycatch of marine mammals, turtles, sharks and rays, from interview surveys, in collaboration with RFMO

Action 3: Strengthen WCR stranding networks capacity in marine mammals and sea turtles data and samples collection and analysis.

WP2: Marine megafauna and human relationships from the land, led by the Agoa Sanctuary

WP3: Experts networking, with one action led by SPAW RAC and one by Agoa

- Action 2: Develop a guide to support organizations involved in marine megafauna study and conservation in the WCR in their funding research







## Call for proposals

SPAW-RAC launched a call for proposals for small short-term grants (up to 10,000 euros / 4 months to 1 year)

38 proposals have been received, several of which are of high quality, and 15 have been accepted in 2020 for a total amount of about 115,000 euros.

SPAW-RAC will renew such call for proposals in the future and can be the regional relay for international donors interested in such an approach as done in the past



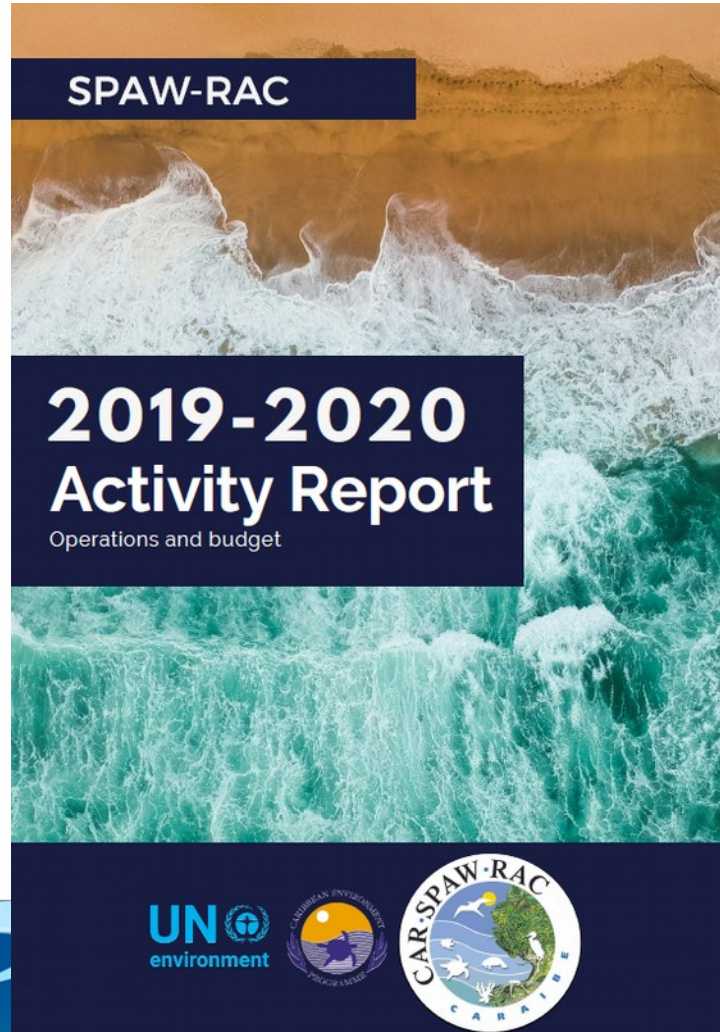


# FUTURE PROSPECTS



## Other recommendations

See the  
SPAW-RAC activity report  
for the 2019-2020 biennium





35th ICRI General Meeting  
February 2021



*SPAW-RAC*  
*DEAL Guadeloupe*  
*Site de Saint-Phy*  
*sandrine.pivard@developpement-durable.gouv.fr*  
<http://www.car-spaw-rac.org>

SPAW NEWSLETTER  
Protocol and Programme

