

## Book Review

MARINE MAMMALS: FISHERIES, TOURISM, AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES. Editors: N. Gales, M. Hindell, and R. Kirkwood. CSIRO Publishing (Collingwood, Victoria, Australia), 2003. ISBN 0-643-06953-4, 446 pp., HBK: 145 USD.

This interesting and informative book emerged from The Southern Hemisphere Marine Mammal Conference held in May 2001 on Phillip Island in Victoria, Australia. The book's intention is to examine how we have fared conserving the world's marine mammal populations, with a focus on the key issues of fisheries and tourism. Twenty-one chapters comprise the book, which was written by 68 authors, who are a distinguished group of marine mammal experts from 12 countries. Although not noted in the title, this book does have a decidedly Southern Hemisphere bias. My initial reaction was to question why the book's title did not indicate this perspective, but upon taking the time to read the individual chapters, I realized that the information contributes to a broader global view of marine mammal management and is applicable to other regions.

The first section of the book addresses marine mammal interactions with fisheries. The authors consider how science informs the culling debate and how wild fisheries and aquaculture interact with marine mammal populations. One of the best chapters in the section is by David Lavigne, who provides an outstanding discussion of culling and the role of science in this controversial debate. The culling debate is a fascinating ecological problem with tremendous social and economic ramifications.

The next section deals with how we might manage the effects of the whale-, dolphin-, and seal-watching industries. This represents a major review of scientific issues that affect marine mammal tourism. One major shortcoming of many such projects is that pretourism data should be collected first, where possible. As noted by one prominent marine mammal biologist, the animals' welfare should be paramount because without them, there will be no ecotourism.

The final section of the book delves into a broad diversity of topics. The authors address issues such as the way in which ethics, genetics, acoustics, ecosystem models, and pollution influence the management and conservation of marine mammals. Additionally, a global overview of the

status of the dugong is presented along with management initiatives for 37 countries and territories in its known range. Some notable topics missing from this section include marine protected areas and river dolphins. This book would have been a good place for a focal chapter on a marine mammal species we typically hear little of—the chungungo or marine otter.

The overall format of the book is user-friendly. In many respects, it looks like a textbook, with good paper stock and a well-constructed binding, ensuring its ability to stand up to repeated use. It is easily readable, and the printing, figures, and color plates are of high quality. The authors did a good job of synthesizing large volumes of information into a palatable format. The editors are to be commended for smooth editing; the book has a nice flow from one chapter to the next, and there is consistency in the quality of the chapters, with no one chapter overriding another.

No publication can be expected to be perfect. One limitation of the book was that a glossary was not provided, which the "textbook look" suggests we might expect to find. Review of the index also suggests that while the book's introduction heavily refers to Rice (1998) in regards to taxonomy, the rest of the book fails to use this standard. Additionally, the index has some small errors such as listing *Globicephala macrorhynchus* back-to-back with two different referrals—"see pilot whale" and "see short-finned pilot whale." Another perplexing index choice was that under *Stenella attenuata*, one is referred to "see spotted dolphin," while under *Stenella frontalis*, one is referred to "see Atlantic spotted dolphin." Similarly confusing referrals appear throughout the index, and likely throughout the rest of the book.

In summary, this book accomplishes its purpose of providing a comprehensive review of the management challenges of human and marine mammal interaction. Notable shortcomings include little mention of Antarctica, and critical information on legislative framework is missing. While this book falls a little short of being all things to different audiences, the editors and authors have combined forces to present information that nonetheless serves as an invaluable and accessible reference volume for all those involved with marine mammals, including scientists, managers, policymakers, industry representatives, and students. The very high price for this book,

however, may make it cost-prohibitive for many readers, particularly those in real need of the book. In the context of global politics and economics, many governments are failing to protect and regulate marine habitats when doing so would conflict with the high demands of free enterprise. As noted in the book's introduction, the future indeed looks bleak in regards to marine mammal conservation efforts, but with the continuing hard work of marine mammal biologists and the general public, the future certainly has the potential to be much brighter.

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#### **Literature Cited**

Rice, D. W. (1998). Marine mammals of the world: Systematics and distribution. *Society for Marine Mammalogy Special Publication*, 4, 1-231.