

SAERI NEWS

Conference presentation: Using local knowledge to predict baleen whale distribution around the Falkland Islands

Veronica F Frans, Amélie A Augé, Jan O Engler and Hendrik Edelhoff (2016). A whale of a tale: using local knowledge to predict baleen whale distribution around the Falkland Islands. US-IALE 2016, Ashville, North Carolina, USA.

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Veronica Frans, from the Marine Spatial Planning project team at SAERI, attended and presented her research at The International Association for Landscape Ecology. The conference took place from 3-7 April 2016 in Ashville, USA. Veronica presented the results from the work she has been doing in the Falkland Islands since August 2015 on baleen whale historical distribution and sighting numbers, as well as an innovative species distribution modelling (SDM) technique using local knowledge data to determine suitable habitat for baleen whales around the islands, now and as their numbers recover. The results will inform the MSP process for the islands.



Veronica giving her presentation at US-IALE on Monday 4 April 2016.

The modelling work is conducted in collaboration with German scientists with expertise in SDM, Jan Engler (Zoological Researchmuseum Alexander Koenig) and Hendrik Edelhoff (Dept. of Wildlife Sciences, Georg-August-University Göttingen, Göttingen).

The presentation was very well received with some great feedbacks and interesting ideas to complement and improve the research.

The Darwin Plus Marine Spatial Planning project funded Veronica's attendance but she was also awarded a NASA travel award that provided assistance with travel costs (congrats Veronica!).



Veronica officially receiving her NASA award from Jack Liu and Janet Franklin during the conference.