

Dr Mônica Muelbert

Birds and Marine Mammals

Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, Instituto de Oceanografia

Brazil

Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of
Tasmania, Australia



Core-Member of the SCAR Group of Experts on Birds and Marine Mammals (SCAR- EGBAMM) . PI on the Brazilian component of MEOP (Marine Mammals Exploring the Oceans Pole to Pole - API proj 153).

Coordinator of the module “Residence time of pelagic organisms in Areas of Ecological Significance (AES - Hot spots) of the Integrated Oceanography and Multiple Uses of the Continental Shelf and Adjacent Ocean, Center for Integrated Oceanography (INCT Mar-COI) and co - investigator of the Brazilian network on acoustic tracking of marine animals, a local node for the Ocean Tracking Network (ONT - Brazil). Lead Author (LA) of the chapter on Polar Regions (Ch03) of the IPCC Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere (SROCC). Main research topics involve ecology, biological oceanography, top-predators as platforms of monitoring environmental variability and change, ocean observing systems, with special interest in the Southern Ocean and its connectivity to South America. Research activities include population dynamics, genetics, foraging strategies and currently member of the InterBIOTA project, a multi disciplinary programme funded by the Brazilian Antarctic Programme (ROANTAR). Research interests also involve the role of Women in Science and Technology, as well as gender equity, diversity and education in Polar Sciences. Currently Adjunct Researcher at IMAS.

Challenges and Opportunities of sustainable observations of ocean and climate in the Southern Ocean

The relevance of the oceans is expressed in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development under Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) and in the proclamation of a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) to support countries in the achievement of this goal. As a recognition of the importance of the oceans and cryosphere to global climate, the IPCC commissioned a Special report on the role of O&C (SROCC) in 2016. This recognition is the result of decades of hard work and research development made by the scientific community, particularly after OceanObs'99 in France. At OO'99 the basic layout of ocean and climate observations that we have today was set, while in OO'09 in Venice there has been an expansion of the scientific community involved and a framework for ocean observing was set. The OO'19 in Hawaii aims to improve and connect ocean observations to the end user community. Polar regions play a significant role in this scenario given the degree of connectivity to the whole world and the challenges and difficulties of a permanent and constant temporal and spatial monitoring of their oceans. It has been suggested that a significant output for the OO community is an endorsement of measurable biological observations and its integration from a platform-based observation mode to EOVS-based approach to support end-user requirements. Key issues relate to blue economy, climate change and variability, ecosystem's health and biodiversity, pollution, maritime safety and ocean hazards, ocean health (food, water and human), food security and energy. Data and information systems and governance are of paramount importance. The challenge will be to establish and achieve common goals with such diversity of interests and logistical capabilities, linking scientific collaboration with intergovernmental diplomacy.