

GIUSEPPE NOTARBARTOLO DI SCIARA

BIO

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Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara (b. Venezia, Italy, 1948) is a marine conservation ecologist who has contributed for over 40 years to the advancement of knowledge of the natural history, ecology, behaviour and taxonomy of marine mammals and cartilaginous fishes.

He obtained in 1985 a PhD at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (University of California, San Diego) with a thesis on the taxonomy and ecology of manta rays (of which he described a new species, Munk's pygmy devil ray *Mobula munkiana*).

Later, he progressively moved from science to conservation.

Funded in 1986 the Tethys Research Institute, which he chaired and directed until 1997 and again from 2010 to 2016. In 1986 he also started the Italian national cetacean stranding network, which he coordinated until 1990. In 1991 he spearheaded the creation of the world's first high-seas marine protected area, the Pelagos Sanctuary for Mediterranean Marine Mammals, established in 1999 by a treaty amongst Italy, France and Monaco. He was appointed by the President of Italy as President of the Central Institute for Applied Marine Research, ICRAM (1996-2003), a government body tasked to provide scientific support to national marine conservation policy. He has served from 1999-2004 as the Italian Commissioner at the International Whaling Commission, from 2002-2010 as Chair of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS, and from 2014 to 2022 as the Convention of Migratory Species CoP-appointed Councillor for aquatic mammals. In 2013 he started the Important Marine Mammal Area (IMMA) programme as an initiative of the IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force, which he created together with Erich Hoyt. He later applied the lessons learnt with the IMMA programme to support in the quality of senior advisor the Important Shark and Ray Area (ISRA) initiative implemented by the IUCN Shark Specialist Group.

He has taught science and policy of the conservation of marine biodiversity at the University Statale of Milan from 2007 to 2016.

Currently: Co-chair, IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Task Force on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (since 2013); Deputy Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission - Cetacean Specialist Group (since 1991); Member, IUCN Species Survival Commission - Shark Specialist Group (since 1993); Member of the Scientific Steering Committee of GOBI, the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (since 2013).

He has authored about 240 scientific works and several books (Scopus h-index = 34).

For more details:

www.disciara.org

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