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To examine the hearing of as many marine mammals and species as possible in order to develop an understanding of the normal hearing capabilities of marine mammals. To advance the technology for testing hearing in the laboratory and the field.

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Ruggedized Instrumentation Package for Marine Mammal Evoked Potential Hearing Measurements (DURIP)

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http://www.hawaii.edu/HIMB/

LONG-TERM GOALS

To examine the hearing of as many marine mammals and species as possible in order to develop an understanding of the normal hearing capabilities of marine mammals. To advance the technology for testing hearing in the laboratory and the field.

OBJECTIVES

To build a rugged field-ready portable battery-operated system to use to measure the hearing capabilities of marine mammals in the lab, on ships, on the beach or wherever we have the opportunity.

APPROACH

Assemble equipment into a field-ready system, test the system in the laboratory, improve it with use, deploy it to stranded animal and field situations as they become available and test the hearing of marine mammals.

WORK COMPLETED

New suction cups and other electrodes built and field tested. Icelandic field trip to test the hearing of the minke whale conducted in conjunction with a Joint Industry Program, New equipment tested on baby dolphin and field tested on invited Tahiti trip. Multiple equipment pieces purchased and assembled.

RESULTS

Construction of Ruggedized equipment continues. Some portions used to measure the outgoing signals of the neophocenoides finless porpoise in China. Both programming and Ruggedized package assemblage continues.

IMPACT/APPLICATIONS

Of the 85 species of whales and dolphins, we have basic hearing measurements on only 14 species. Many of our audiograms come from a single animal. This equipment will greatly assist in gathering information on what marine mammals hear. If navy operations are stopped because of the effects of noise on whales, it is imperative that we have baseline information on marine mammal hearing.

RELATED PROJECTS

Basic Hearing and Echolocation Mechanisms of Marine Mammals: Measured Auditory Evoked Potential and Behavioral Experiments: Award Number: N0001405-1-0738
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