



Connecting Conservation Policy And Marine Mammal Science: A Survey Of Attitudes And Trends In Publications

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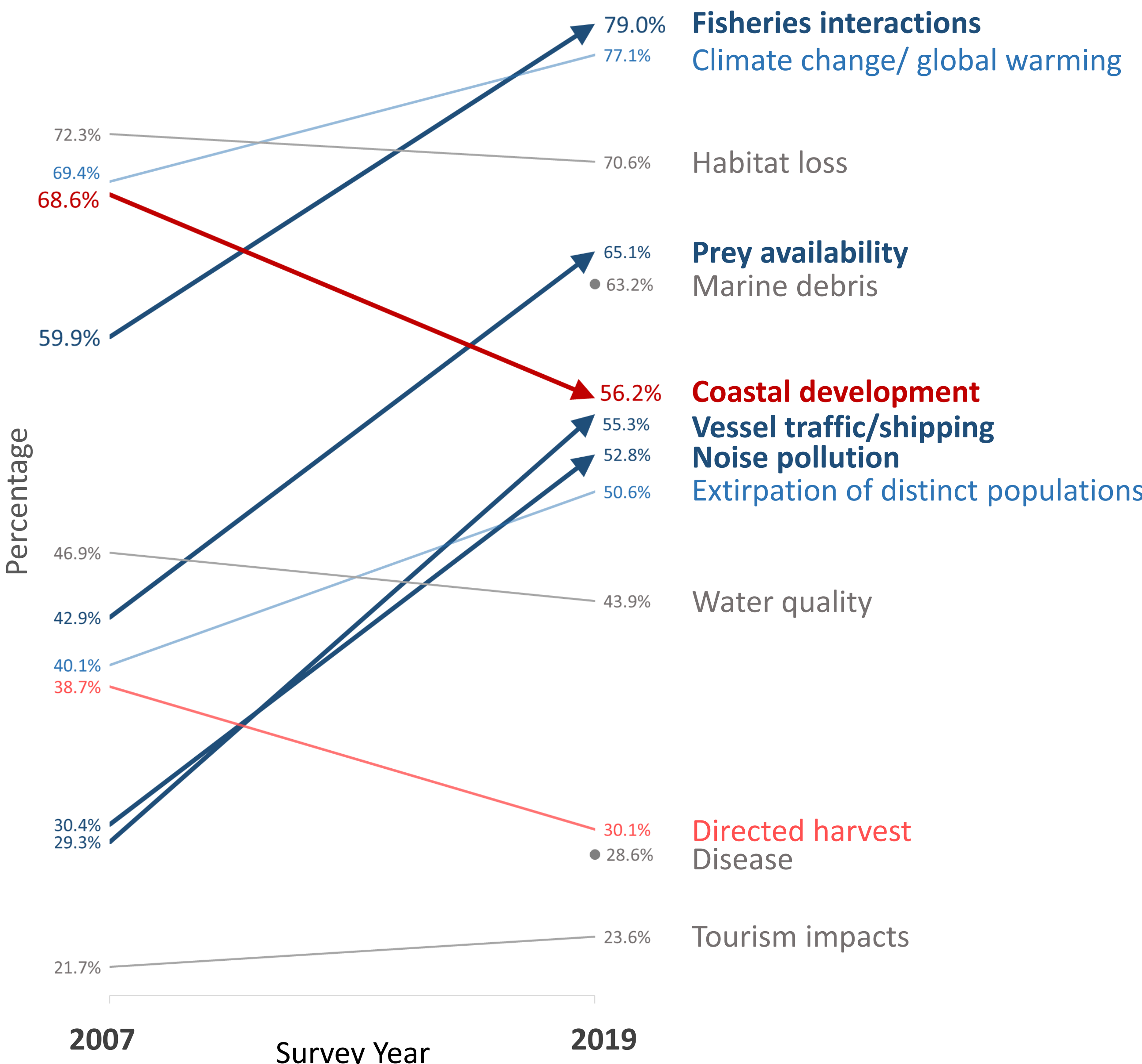
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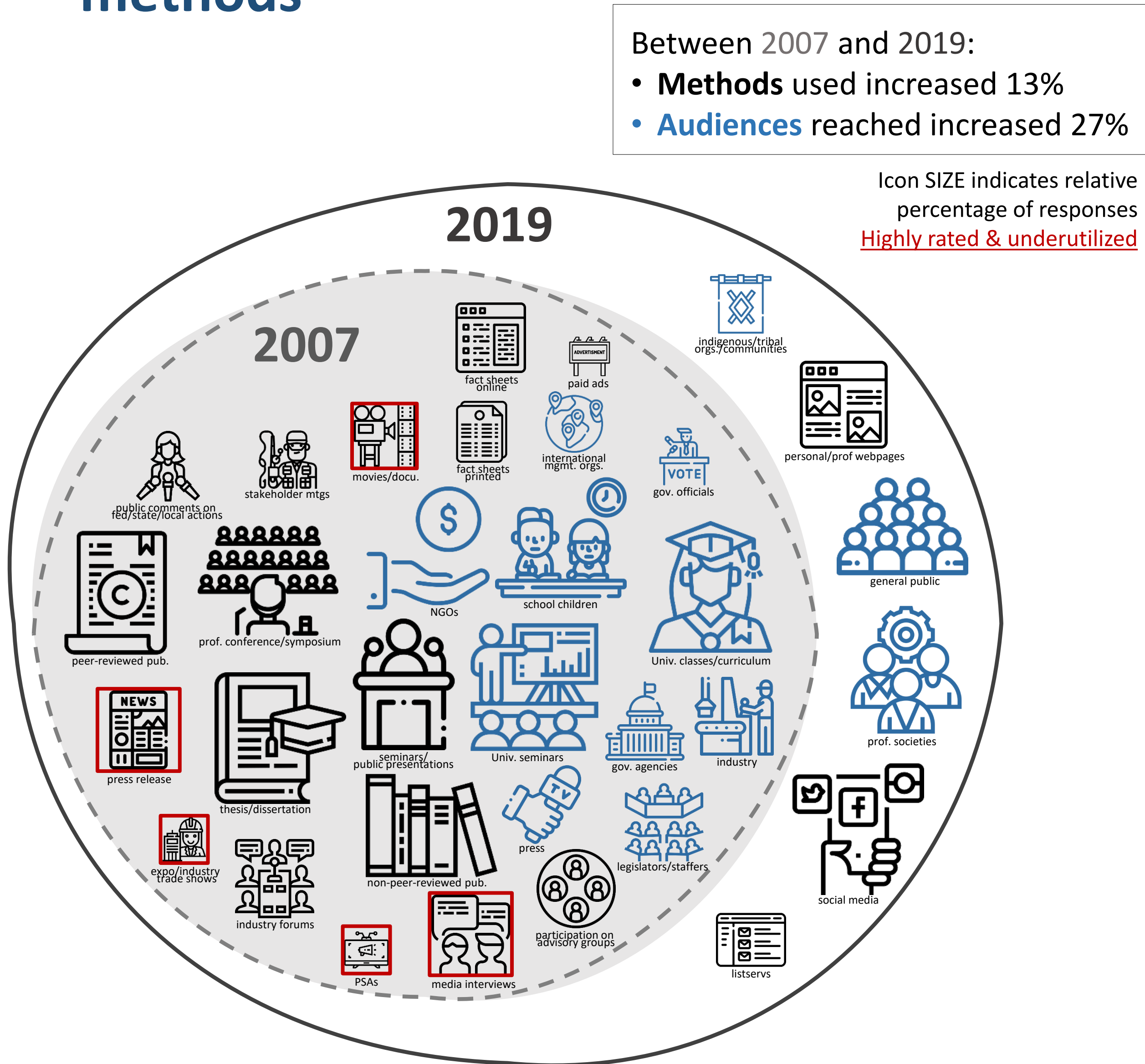
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Key findings from a comparison of surveys and a literature review:

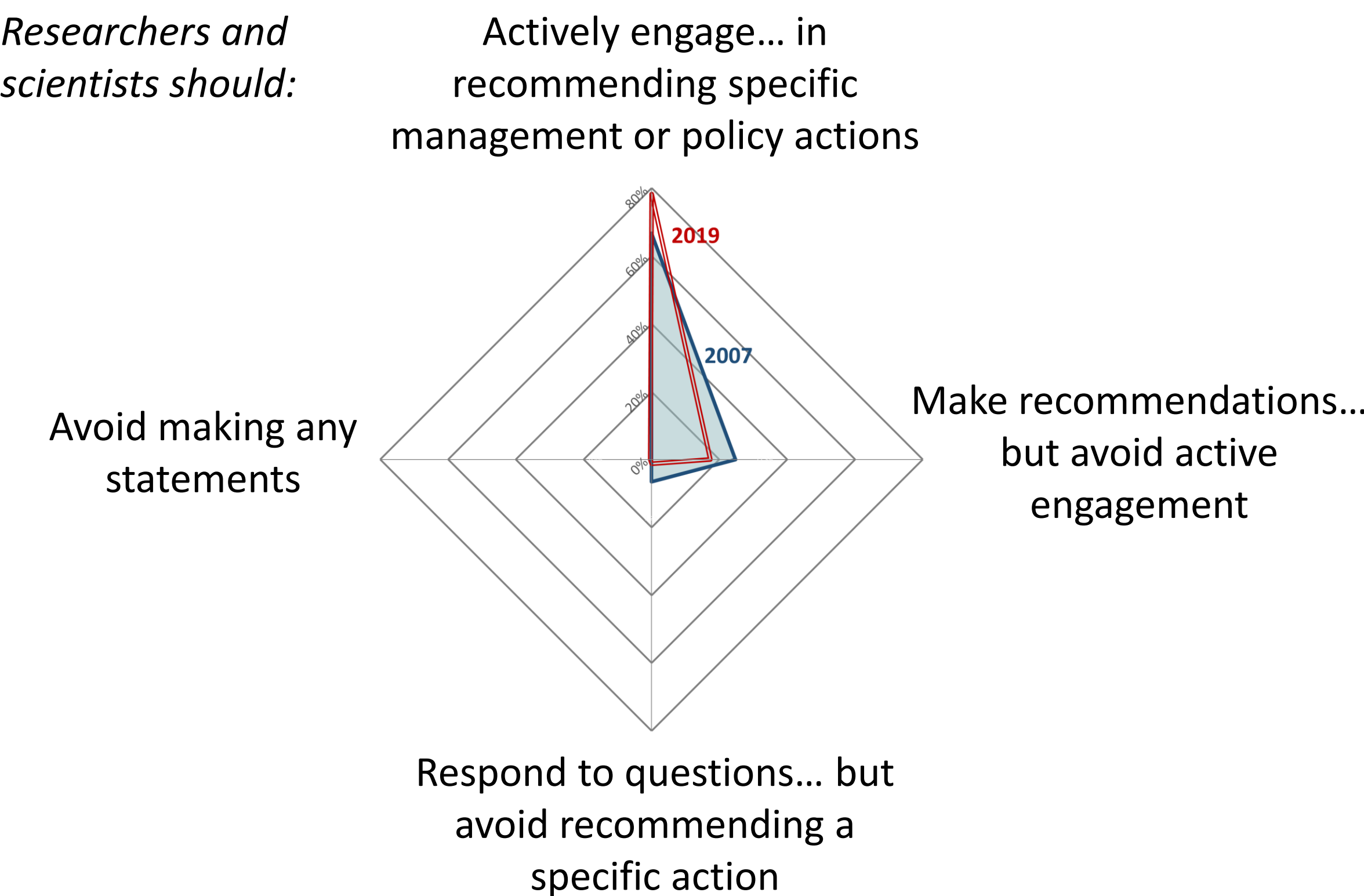
1. Conservation issues of highest concern shifted dramatically between survey years



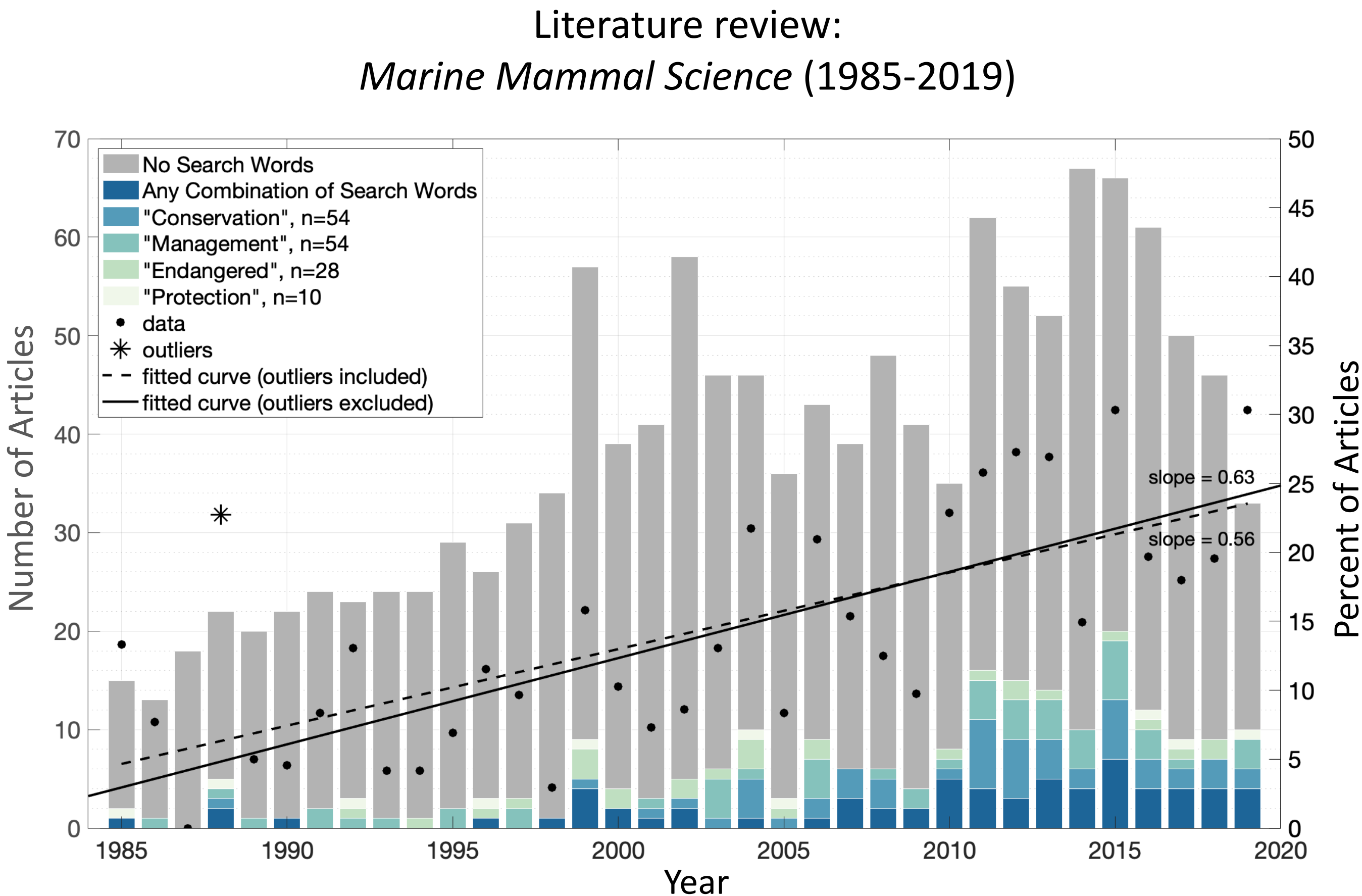
3. Researchers/scientists are reaching a broader audience using a wider variety of methods



2. Attitudes are aligning towards active engagement in recommending policy or management actions



4. Authors are emphasizing conservation in research-focused papers more often



Survey: Communicating Science for the Conservation of Marine Mammals

This survey was conducted as an independent project by Roxanne J Carini, PhD, during her one-year Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship at the Marine Mammal Commission.

The purpose of this survey was to better understand attitudes/opinions and levels of engagement of those who work on marine mammal issues regarding how scientific results are applied to marine mammal conservation, policy, and management.

A similar survey was originally designed and conducted in 2007 by Vicki Cornish and Raychelle Daniel, while working for the Ocean Conservancy. The survey was re-administered, with minor changes for modernization, to assess current attitudes and how they might have changed since 2007. The survey consisted of multiple choice, check-box, rating, and open-ended questions related to marine mammal conservation. It was administered through Survey Monkey for a period of eight weeks. Participation is voluntary and anonymous.

The survey was not submitted to the Institutional Review Board (survey uses human subjects) for review due to time constraints, and therefore, peer-reviewed publication will not be pursued. However, the results will be distributed to the MARMAM list-serve and shared broadly with interested government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and others interested in improving communication efforts related to the conservation of marine mammals. Scan QR code for full access to the data and results summary.

If you have any questions about the survey or results, please contact the principal investigator at rcarini@mmc.gov.

Demographics of Survey Respondents:

Geographic Region	48.5% US, 25% unknown (from 2019), 11.5% Europe, 6% UK/Ireland, 6.5% CAN, 53% other countries
Level of Education	30% undergrad, 40% masters, 30% doctorate (88% science degrees)
Occupation	82.5% research/science, 60% conservation, 56% education, 42.5% students (undergrad/grad), 30% management, 32% outreach, 23% policy, 23% tourism, 15.5% rescue/response/rehab, 14% consulting, 9% animal husbandry/trainer, 4% industry, 1.5% military
Relevant Region of Research	33% NW Atlantic, 25% NW Pacific, 20% California Current/NE Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico, <20% other regions, global research represented
Funding Source	66.5% public, 58% private, 31% personal/unfunded
Field of Research	45-61% : conservation, behavioral ecology, habitat/distribution, or population biology/abundance 23-37% : acoustics/communication, fisheries interaction, policy/management, foraging ecology, health

Literature Review:

Marine Mammal Science (1985-2019)

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Using MATLAB Text Analytics and Statistics & Machine Learning toolboxes, searched for use of the words conservation, management, endangered, and protection within the title, abstract, and key words of each article (notes, reviews, books, errata, etc. not included). Data current as of 09 October 2019. Scan QR code for full access to the data and processing code.

Acknowledgements:

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For DATA:

