

# Terms of reference Scientific Advisory Group SOS Dolfijn

## The Scientific Advisory Group

As part of the expansion and professionalization process of the research carried out by SOS Dolfijn, a Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) was founded in 2021. The SAG is an independent entity that can provide solicited and unsolicited, non-binding advice to SOS Dolfijn regarding ongoing research work or research opportunities, either on an ad hoc- or a more structural basis.

The aim of the SAG is to assist SOS Dolfijn in the judgement and response to ongoing scientific research, research opportunities, research proposals and collaboration requests. Core members of the SAG are three scientists with expertise in the field of marine mammal science, are all three independent of SOS Dolfijn and provide advice to SOS Dolfijn in a personal capacity (not based on any professional affiliation).

The SAG meets formally 4 times a year and may meet informally in between. Both the director and conservation officer of SOS Dolfijn attend the formal SAG meetings. Both are not part of the SAG nor have any influence on the advice of it. Either suggested by SOS Dolfijn or on advice of the SAG, external experts may be invited based by SAG to provide additional expert advice based on their knowledge or expertise. An evaluation with the director and conservation officer takes place annually.

The advice of the SAG is directed to the board and director of SOS Dolfijn. The board is informed of the advice of the SAG per e-mail or letter or in board meetings by the director of SOS Dolfijn. In some occasions the SAG or a representative of the SAG will be asked to join the board meeting for advice or consultation.

Members of the SAG will always strive to prevent situations where a conflict of interest may occur. If advice is requested on a topic or a project where there may be a conflict of interest with a SAG member, the SAG-member(s) in question will not be part of the discussion on that particular topic or project for the period where the conflict of interest arises. Neither will minutes of discussions/decisions on those topics or projects be shared with the SAG-member(s) in question while the conflict of interest occurs.

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For questions about the SAG, please contact the organization SOS Dolfijn by sending an e-mail to [info@sosdolfijn.nl](mailto:info@sosdolfijn.nl)