1 **Supplementary Material**

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3 *Participant Backgrounds (as stated by the experts)*

4 - Zoo and wildlife vet

5 - Animal welfare science, animal behaviour science, animal welfare ethics, animal welfare assessment systems, conservation welfare

6 science, neonatal and mother-young sciences, pain assessment and management, science-based welfare standards, slaughter science,

7 wildlife welfare science

8 - Welfare specialist with interest in cetacean science

9 - Probably a generalist, some cetacean and welfare knowledge

10 - I would have no problem being called a welfare specialist. But if you had asked me initially to describe my expertise I would have said

11 'animal welfare scientist' and 'ethologist'.

12 - A cetacean specialist who places an emphasis on animal welfare

13 - Cetacean scientist

14 - Cetacean scientist

15 - Animal welfare biologist

16 - Welfare specialist

17   •   "Cetacean expert with special knowledge (strandings) and focus on welfare

18   •   Cetacean conservationist with a special interest in welfare

19   •   Cetacean scientist

20   •   I think I would classify myself as a cetacean conservationist. I oversee the research with the humpback whales (and collaborate on many

21   different projects), but they are personally not my main focus (I am a shark and ray scientist). The research that I do with humpback

22   whales is to help with their conservation, but I am not directly working with them personally.

23   •   Cetacean scientist with experience in understanding and mitigating human impact (i.e. entanglement and ship strikes). And some

24   exposure to ideas of welfare issues for wild cetaceans.

25   •   Welfare specialist (mostly working with dairy cattle).

26   •   Cetacean welfare scientist.

27   •   I am a veterinarian in charge of the stranding network of cetaceans in Reunion Island, and a biologist. My expertise is focused on

28   dolphins' ecology (photo-identification, abundance, feeding habits, sociality) and on humpback whales (photoid, acoustic and habitat). I

29   am also in charge of the welfare of cetaceans in the NGO I work for.

30   •   I guess I would say my expertise would be in cetaceans. However, my PhD (which I am only a year into) is focussed around welfare

31   science and cetaceans. But until my PhD my work focussed on marine mammals generally, so probably cetacean scientist.

32   •   Welfare science specialist with specific expertise in the application of five domains model