



**Roberto Racca** is one of the principals and the Chief Communications Officer of JASCO Applied Sciences, a global company that specializes in the study of underwater sound, its effect on marine life, and ways to reduce the environmental impact of human-made aquatic noise. His career has been focused primarily on acoustics for the past twenty-five years or so, but he has worked previously and maintains an interest in other subjects of research including medical physics (development of improved cardiac valve prostheses), machine vision (tracking of waterborne targets from particle tracers to fish), multispectral imaging of fugitive greenhouse gases, and application of electro-optics in ultrahigh speed imaging and holography (for which he received the Hubert Schardin Medal of the German Physical Institute). In his underwater acoustics studies Dr Racca has travelled widely to remote regions from the arctic to the Brahmaputra, but no settings have captivated his interest (and his time) like Sakhalin Island and the population of Gray Whales that return there every summer; he has spent the last nearly 15 years working with industry and environmentalists on the protection of these whales from excessive exposure to underwater noise from hydrocarbon development.