

SC/68A/GEN/01 Rev1

Agenda SC68A



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

Revised 2019 Scientific Committee Plenary Agenda

An asterisk indicates that there is a Chair's note on the item included at the end of the document

Sub-group agendas will be developed by the relevant convenors and probably will have more sub-items than shown here for the plenary agenda.

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS*

- 1.1 Chair's welcome and opening remarks**
- 1.2 Appointment of rapporteurs**
- 1.3 Meeting procedures and time schedule**
- 1.4 Establishment of sub-committees and Working Groups**
- 1.4 Computing arrangements**

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA*

3. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS*

- 3.1 Documents submitted**
- 3.2 National Progress Reports on research**
- 3.3 Data collection, storage and manipulation**

4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS*

- 4.1 African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO)**
- 4.2 Arctic Council**
- 4.3 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
- 4.4 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)**
- 4.5 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)**
 - 4.5.1 Scientific Council*
 - 4.5.2 Conference of Parties*
 - 4.5.3 Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)*
 - 4.5.4 Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)*
- 4.6 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)**
- 4.7 Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)**
- 4.8 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)**
- 4.9 International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (ICMMPA)**
- 4.10 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)**
- 4.11 International Maritime Organisation (IMO)**
- 4.12 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**
- 4.13 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)**
- 4.14 North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES)**
- 4.15 Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean**

5. GENERAL ASSESSMENT AND MODELLING ISSUES (IST)*

5.1 Evaluate the energetics-based model and the relationship between $MSYR_{1+}$ and $MSYR_{mat}$

5.2 Implications of *ISTs* for consideration of species' and populations' status

5.3 Progress on previous recommendations and on the workplan

6. RMP IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED MATTERS (IST)*

6.1 Completion of the *Implementation Review* of western North Pacific Bryde's whales

6.2 *Implementation Review* of western North Pacific common minke whales

6.3 Workplan

7. AWMP IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED MATTERS (IST)*

7.1 *SLA* development for the common minke whales off East Greenland

7.2 Progress with testing outstanding carryover and interim relief allocation provisions for some *SLAs* and consequent updates to the Aboriginal Whaling Scheme

7.3 Preparation for 2020 *Implementation Review* for North Pacific gray whales

7.4 Workplan

8. STOCKS SUBJECT TO ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING (ASW)*

8.1 New information and progress on recommendations

8.1.1 Eastern Canada/West Greenland bowhead whales

8.1.2 North Pacific gray whales

8.1.3 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas bowhead whale

8.1.4 Common minke whale stocks off East Greenland

8.1.5 Common minke whale stocks off West Greenland

8.1.6 Fin whales off West Greenland

8.1.7 Humpback whales off West Greenland

8.1.8 Humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines

8.2 Workplan

9. WHALE STOCKS NOT SUBJECT TO DIRECTED TAKES*

9.1 Comprehensive or In-depth Assessments (IA)*

9.1.1 Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific humpback whales

9.1.2 Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific sei whales

9.1.3 Workplan

9.2 Potential new assessments: progress on recommendations and workplan*

9.2.1 Non-Antarctic Southern Hemisphere blue whales (SH)

9.2.2 Antarctic blue whales (Areas III and IV) (SH)

9.2.3 Southern Hemisphere fin whales (SH)

9.2.4 Southern Hemisphere right whales not the subject of CMPs (SH)

9.2.5 North Pacific blue whales (NH)

9.2.6 North Atlantic sei whales (NH)

9.2.7 North Atlantic right whales (NH)

9.2.8 North Pacific right whales (NH)

9.2.9 North Atlantic humpback whales (NH)

9.2.10 Workplan

9.3 New information and workplan for other northern stocks (NH)*

9.3.1 Gulf of Mexico Bryde's whales

9.3.2 Other species if new information is presented

9.3.3 Workplan

9.4 New information and workplan for other Southern stocks (SH)*

9.4.1 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales

9.4.2 Other species if new information is presented

9.4.3 Workplan

10. STOCKS THAT ARE OR HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS (CMP)*

10.1 Stocks with existing CMPs: new information and progress with past recommendations

10.1.1 SE Pacific southern right whales

10.1.2 SW Atlantic southern right whales

10.1.3 North Pacific gray whales

10.2 Progress with identified priorities

10.2.1 Humpback whales in the northern Indian Ocean including the Arabian Sea

10.2.2 Mediterranean fin whales

10.3 Workplan including plans to address Franciscana and South American river dolphins in 2020

11. STOCK DEFINITION AND DNA TESTING (SD-DNA)*

11.1 Advice on stock structure to other sub-groups as required

11.2 New genetic (and other) techniques for species, stock and individual identification

11.3 IWC DNA data quality and genetic analyses guidelines

11.3.1 Update DNA quality guidelines (including Next Generation Sequencing data and precautions when using GenBank)

11.3.2 Consideration of need to update analytical guidelines

11.4 Reference databases and standards for diagnostic DNA registries

11.5 Progress on previous recommendations

11.6 Workplan (including plans to focus on use of simulation tools such as TOSSM in 2020)

12. CETACEAN ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES, STOCK STATUS (ASI)*

12.1 Summary of abundance estimates and update of IWC consolidated table

12.2 Methodological issues

12.2.1 Model-based abundance estimates (and amendments to RMP guidelines)

12.2.2 Review new survey techniques/equipment

12.3 Consideration of the status of stocks including results of pre-meeting

12.4 Progress on previous recommendations

12.5 Workplan

13. BYCATCH AND ENTANGLEMENTS (HIM)

13.1 Progress with the IWC Bycatch Mitigation Initiative*

13.1.1 Priorities and report from workshop

13.1.2 Progress on collaboration on bycatch-related issues with other organisations including FAO and IOTC

13.2 Review new methods and estimates of entanglement rates, risks and mortality (large whales)*

13.2.1 Review proposal for global entanglement database

13.3 Mitigation measures for preventing large whale entanglement*

13.4 Review new methods and estimates of bycatch rates, risks and mortality (small cetaceans)*

13.4.1 Consideration of 'rapid risk assessment' tools

13.4.2 Consideration of remote electronic monitoring and vessel tracking

13.5 Scientific aspects of mitigation measures for small cetaceans*

13.6 Review of information in National Progress reports on bycatch and entanglement

13.7 Progress on previous recommendations

13.8 Workplan

14. SHIP STRIKES (HIM)*

14.1 Review new methods and estimates of rates of ship strikes, risk of ship strikes and mortality (including review progress on ship strike database)

14.2 Mitigation of ship strikes in high risk areas

14.2.1 Review progress towards assessing and mitigating ship strikes in previously identified high risk areas

14.2.2 Consideration of methods to identify 'high risk' areas including report of IMMA workshop

14.3 Co-operation with IMO Secretariat and relevant IMO committees

14.4 Progress on previous recommendations

14.5 Workplan

15. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (E)*

15.1 Chemical pollution

15.1.1 Final report of the Pollution 2020 project

15.1.2 Afterlife of Pollution 2020 products (e.g., sPOC model and contaminants map)

15.2 Diseases of concern

15.3 Strandings and mortality events

15.3.1 Update on the IWC Strandings Initiative

15.3.2 New information on unusual mortality events

15.4 Noise

15.4.1 Update on co-operation with IMO

15.4.2 New information (e.g. report from OceanCare)

15.4.3 Planning for 2020 focus session

15.5 Progress on workshop to consider marine debris

15.6 Other matters (only if new information e.g. cumulative effects, SOCER)

15.7 Progress on previous recommendations

15.8 Workplan

16. ECOSYSTEM MODELLING*

16.1 Cooperation with CCAMLR on multi-species modelling including progress with workshop(s)

16.2 Progress on species distribution models (SDMs) and ensemble averaging, including preparation of guidelines

16.3 Modelling of competition among whales including progress with IBEMs

16.4 Standing topics

16.4.1 Progress on considering effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations

16.4.2 Review the information on krill distribution and abundance from NEWREP-A

16.4.3 Progress with workshop on ecosystem functioning including co-operation with CMS

16.5 Progress on previous recommendations

16.6 Workplan

17. SMALL CETACEANS*

17.1 Review of small cetaceans in African waters

17.2 Poorly documented hunts of small cetaceans for food, bait or cash and changing patterns of use

17.3 Small cetacean task team

17.4 Review direct takes and live captures of small cetaceans

17.5 Status of the voluntary fund for small cetacean conservation research

17.6 Progress on previous recommendations

17.7 Workplan

18. WHALE WATCHING

18.1 Assess the impacts of whale watching and swim-with-whale operations on cetaceans

*18.1.1 Progress on the 3rd workshop on Modelling and Assessment of Whale Watching Impacts (MAWI)
Studies on assessing impacts*

18.1.2 Potential case-studies: status of whale watching in east Africa and wider Indian Ocean

18.1.3 Co-operation with CMS on human-induced behavioural changes in cetaceans including developing 'in water interactions guidelines'

18.2 Update on progress on activities related to the new Whale Watching Five-year strategic plan

18.3 Platform of opportunity data

18.4 Progress on previous recommendations

18.5 Workplan

19. SPECIAL PERMITS (SP)*

19.1 NEWREP-A

19.1.1 New information

19.1.2 Overview and conclusions

19.2 NEWREP-NP

19.2.1 New information

19.2.2 Overview and conclusions

19.3 JARPN II consolidated report

19.3.1 Presentation by proponents

19.3.2 Discussion and conclusions

20. WHALE SANCTUARIES

20.1 Updates from relevant sub-committees on new information relevant to the SOS management plan

21. REPORT FROM WORKSHOP ON CETACEAN TAG DEVELOPMENT AND GUIDELINES FOR TAGGING BEST PRACTICES

22. IWC LIST OF RECOGNISED SPECIES

23. IWC DATABASES AND CATALOGUES*

23.1 Guidelines for IWC catalogues and photo-ID databases (PH)

23.2 Progress with existing or proposed new catalogues (PH)

23.2.1 Integration of eastern South and Central Pacific blue, humpback and fin whale photo-catalogues

23.2.2 Antarctic Humpback Whale Catalogue (AHWC)

23.2.3 Arabian Sea Whale Network's Flukebook

23.2.4 Southern Hemisphere Blue Whale Catalogue (SHBWC)

23.2.5 Antarctic Blue Whale Catalogue (ABWC)

23.2.6 Southern Hemisphere fin whale photo catalogues

23.3 Progress with existing IWC databases (PH)

23.4 Potential future IWC databases (PH)

23.4.1 Global databases related to entanglement response and bycatches

24. IWC MULTINATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AND NATIONAL RESEARCH CRUISES THAT REQUIRE IWC ENDORSEMENT (ASI)*

24.1 IWC-POWER

24.2 Southern Ocean Research Partnership (IWC-SORP)

24.3 National cruises that require IWC oversight

25. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR THE CURRENT BIENNIUM*

25.1 Status of funded research, workshop proposals, data processing and computing needs

25.1.1 Funded proposals for the current biennium 2019-20

25.1.2 Funded proposals in previous years still ongoing

25.1.3 Report on funds reallocations and contingencies for the Research Fund, Voluntary Fund for Small Cetaceans and SORP Voluntary Fund

25.2 Proposed budget for 2020

26. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR 2020

27. WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE*

27.1 Updates on Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee and working methods

27.2 Biennial reporting and related matters including development of the budget in light of the timing of the Commission's financial year and longer-term planning

27.3 Succession plan for key Scientific Committee experts

27.4 Update on data availability requests and consideration of potential updates/clarifications

27.5 Committee involvement in the IWC recommendations database

27.6 Matters related to 'Annex P'

27.7 Matters related to the Governance Review

27.8 Workplan

28. PUBLICATIONS

29. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

30. ADOPTION OF REPORT

Chair's notes to the agenda

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The Scientific Committee (SC68a) will meet in Nairobi, Kenya, from 10 to 22 May 2019. It will be preceded by:

- (1) Bycatch Mitigation Initiative Workshop (not a Scientific Committee workshop and by invitation only);
- (2) An aquatic bushmeat workshop, with a focus on Africa (convenor Porter; Lindsay.jp@gmail.com); and
- (3) A pre-meeting of the Standing Working Group on Abundance, Status of Stocks and International Cruises (ASI) will focus on how to evaluate abundance estimates computed using non-standard software, how to consider abundance produced from population models and how to report status of stocks in a standard manner (convenor: Givens; geof@geofgivens.com)

(2) and (3) are open to all members of the Scientific Committee; however, given the capacity of the meeting rooms, you must contact the relevant convenors (see contact details above) before making travel arrangements and registering for the pre-meetings on the IWC portal (<https://iwc.int/sc68a>).

Unlike in recent years, there will **not** be a meeting of the 'Joint Working Group between the Conservation Committee and the Scientific Committee' following the Scientific Committee meeting.

The list of intersessional correspondence groups and their terms of reference can be found at <https://iwc.int/correspondence-groups> (note: for most up-to-date listing see Annex Y revised as circulated with IWC.SC.218). Mention is made of some of these groups in my notes below but note that progress on the work of all of the groups will be reviewed in the sub-committees.

Item 1.3: Meeting procedures and time schedule

The tentative time schedule is given below:

Date	Items	Comments
7-9 May	Pre-meetings and workshop.	
10 May	Welcome (9:00-10:00) Plenary morning session (10:00-12:00). Afternoon: Read documents (and possibly sessions of sub-groups).	Welcome, including a brief presentation of the meeting procedures. Items 1-4; plans for Item 19 (SP), 24-26 (Budget and workplan) and 27 (Working methods).
11 May	Plenary morning session (8:30-11:00). Afternoon: Read documents (and possibly sessions of sub-groups). Head of Delegation meeting (11:00). Secretariat, Convenors and rapporteurs (tbd)	Continue Item 19 (SP), 24-26 (Budget and workplan) and 27 (Working methods) A meeting with convenors and rapporteurs will be held (time to be decided) to ensure consistency of reporting style with a focus on recommendations
12 - 18 May	Predominantly sub-committees (possibly some plenary meeting sessions).	To complete sub-committee agendas and agree reports. Head of Delegations meeting (18 May).
19 May	<i>Tentative</i> rest day.	Subject to cancellation if insufficient progress is made.
20-22 May	Plenary sessions. Intention to finish no later than 5pm on 6 May.	To complete agenda and agree report, including work plan, budget and draft initial agenda for 2020.
23 May	09:00-11:00 - Convenors to complete editorial work on sub-committee and plenary reports (including references, intersessional correspondence groups and workplans). 11:00-16:00 - Convenors meeting to consider <i>inter alia</i> the draft initial agenda, priorities, possible changes in organisational structure implied by the draft initial agenda or by discussions during the meeting, development of the preliminary list of Invited Participants.	

As noted above, it is my intention to begin to address some specific plenary matters early in our meeting. The topic of Special Permits will have a reduced agenda in 2019 as Japan has announced that it will be leaving the IWC taking effect 30 June 2019, that it will no longer be catching whales in the Antarctic and that it will undertake commercial whaling within its waters in the western North Pacific. SP will therefore focus on results provided by Japan and a final report on progress with recommendations from previous meetings. A discussion paper will be provided by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Head of Science on the overall implications of the effects of Japan's withdrawal on the work of the Scientific Committee.

You will notice that the previous practice of initial 15-min meetings of sub-groups during the reading period will be discontinued. Instead, members of the Scientific Committee will have the opportunity to provide input on all sub-group

draft Agendas from two weeks before the meeting (i.e. **26 April 2019**), up to the day before the Plenary. Comments will be taken into account by the relevant convenors who will provide revised draft agendas, if necessary, on the opening day of the Plenary. Election of chairs, final adoption of agendas and identification of documents will occur during the first session of each sub-group.

At the Scientific Committee meeting in 2018 we had 121 sessions available for 17 sub-group deliberations over a seven-day period, based on three concurrent sub-group meetings for each of five work sessions per day, starting at approximately 08:30 and ending at 18:30. This schedule allows for *ad hoc* working groups or even Plenary sessions to meet in the evening (e.g. from around 18:45 to 21:30), or for occasional longer sessions of sub-groups. However, it is my intention to minimise evening sessions as much as possible to allow: (1) rapporteurs to draft reports; and (2) more time for small break out groups (e.g. to do simulation runs and testing) during the meeting. Given that there may be more special sessions with remote participation, the timing of those will reflect availability of those remote participants.

Item 1.4: Establishment of sub-committees and working groups

The following 15 sub-groups (Table 1) have been identified following SC67b. To simplify matters, note that some old ‘standing working groups’ are now called ‘sub-committees’. It is important that you consult the registration and document submission details that can be found on the website to register for sub-groups: (<https://iwc.int/sc68a>).

As the main work of the SWG on the AWMP was completed at SC67b, given the similar nature of the work and the personnel, I have decided to form a single new sub-committee combining much of the work of the old RMP and AWMP work, the ‘sub-committee on *Implementation Reviews* and *Simulation Trials*’ (IST). It will deal with quantitative matters dealt with by both the old RMP sub-committee and the SWG on the AWMP including, *Implementation Reviews*, the finalisation of the East Greenland *SLA* and remaining quantitative matters from carryover and interim relief simulations as part of the Aboriginal Whaling Scheme. Receipt of new biological and information on stocks subject to aboriginal subsistence whaling will be dealt with by a new sub-committee on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (ASW). Note that the new Schedule adopted by the Commission in 2018 does not require the Scientific Committee to undertake an annual review of management advice for any of these stocks.

Table 1

Committee sub-groups and convenors for 2018

Sub-committees/working group name	Convenor	Co-convenor
Scientific Committee Plenary, including sessions on Special Permits, SC/SP	Suydam (robert.suydam@north-slope.org)	Zerbini (alex.zerbini@noaa.gov)
<i>Ad hoc</i> Working group on Photo-id, PH	Olson (paula.olson@noaa.gov)	
Standing Working Group on Abundance estimates, stock status and international cruises, ASI	Zerbini (alex.zerbini@noaa.gov)	Givens (geof@geofgivens.com)
<i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Sanctuaries, SAN	Parsons (ecm-parsons@earthlink.net)	
Sub-committee on <i>Implementation Reviews</i> and <i>Simulation Trials</i> , IST	Donovan (greg.donovan@iwc.int)	Brandon (jbrandon@gmail.com)
Sub-committee on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling, ASW	Walløe (lars.walloe@medisin.uio.no)	
Working Group on Stock Definition and DNA testing, SD&DNA	Lang (aimee.lang@noaa.gov)	Tiedemann (tiedeman@uni-potsdam.de)
Sub-Committee on In-depth Assessments, IA	Palka (Debra.Palka@noaa.gov)	Herr (Helena.herr@uni-hamburg.de)
Sub-Committee on the other Northern Hemisphere whale stocks, NH	Robbins (jrobbins@coastalstudies.org)	
Sub-Committee on the other Southern Hemisphere whale stocks, SH	Jackson (Jennifer.Jackson@bas.ac.uk)	Bell (Elanor.Bell@add.gov.au)
Sub-Committee on Conservation Management Plans, CMP	Brownell (rlbcetacea@aol.com)	Urban-Rámirez (jurban@uabcs.mx)
Sub-Committee on Non-deliberate Human-Induced Mortality of cetaceans, HIM	Leaper (russell@ivytdemon.co.uk)	Currey (rohan.currey@gmail.com)
Sub-Committee on Environmental Concerns, E	Hall (ajh7@st-andrews.ac.uk)	Holm Patricia Holm (patricia.holm@unibas.ch)
Standing Working Group on Ecosystem Modelling, EM	Kitakado (kitakado@kaiyodai.ac.jp)	
Sub-Committee on Small Cetaceans, SM	Porter (lindsay.jp@gmail.com)	Trujillo (Fernando@omacha.org)
Sub-Committee on Whale watching, WW	New (lfn36@hotmail.com)	

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda is based upon the priority items identified last year, guidance from the Commission from its biennial meeting in October 2018 in Brazil and practical considerations related to the location of the meeting and the available Invited Participant funding, to obtain maximum benefit over the two-year period.

I recognise that some Contracting Governments do not believe that certain topics should be on the Commission and/or Scientific Committee Agendas. The appropriate forum to discuss such views is in the Commission. It is not within my mandate as Chair to exclude items specifically requested for inclusion by the Commission (e.g. by Resolution). To facilitate plenary and sub-committee discussions, I will follow the practice of past years and strongly request that any objections to specific items or topics on the Agenda be raised briefly under this Agenda Item during plenary and then provided in writing to the rapporteur for inclusion in our report. It is not acceptable for these objections to be repeated during discussions of the items in the plenary sessions or during sub-committee or working group meetings. A written reference in the relevant reports to the statements made here under Item 2 will be sufficient. However, as occurred last year, I would also like to entertain some discussion with relevant Heads of Delegation on ways to improve this situation and eventually have national delegates contributing to the work of all sub-groups despite different views over the IWC competence of their respective Countries.

According to the Committee's Rules of Procedure, comments to this draft Agenda '*will normally be considered for incorporation into the draft agenda presented to the opening plenary only if received by the Chair 21 days prior to the beginning of the Annual Meeting*' (i.e. **20 April 2019**).

ITEM 3: REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

Item 3.1: Documents submitted

As in previous years, you **must** use the online system for **registration** and for **submission of documents**. This is done through the IWC Meeting Portal (see link at <https://iwc.int/sc68a>).

Following on from our discussions of improvements in working methods in recent years, please note that:

- (1) only primary documents and For Information papers that are directly relevant to the Committee's/sub-groups agendas will be accepted – acceptance will be determined by the convenors of the relevant sub-groups who will take the advice when appropriate of convenors of intersessional groups – if in any doubt at all please submit your proposed document title and a short summary of what it will contain to the relevant convenor (see above) before you write the paper;
- (2) the 'classic' agenda item 'other' will not appear on sub-group's agendas – should important and urgent new findings become available after the initial deadline for comments on the full agenda (21 days before the meeting i.e. 20 April 2019), the topic may be added to the agenda at the start of the plenary session.

The deadline for primary papers is 7 days before the start of the meeting (i.e. **3 May 2019**). *Exceptional* cases will be evaluated by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Head of Science in light of their importance to the agenda. Documents will be distributed wholly electronically (website and memory sticks) by the Secretariat.

Item 3.2: National Progress Reports on research

Despite considerable effort and costs to develop an online system to encourage and facilitate reporting (progress report data is submitted via the online facility at <https://portal.iwc.int>) many countries still fail to submit the required reports. As such, the Committee recommended last year that all Contracting Governments electronically submit National Progress Reports. Heads of Delegations are strongly encouraged to ensure that national progress reports are compiled and uploaded. Under this Item (and probably return to it later in the meeting to allow for consideration by sub-committees), we will discuss status of the National Progress Reports and any difficulties encountered with respect to online data entry and the report from the Intersessional Correspondence Group convened by Double to address this.

Item 3.3: Data collection, storage and manipulation

Under this agenda item, Allison (Secretariat) will report on catch data and other statistical material, progress of data coding projects and verification projects.

ITEM 4: COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Cooperation with other organisations is increasingly important as has been identified by the Commission. Many of the organisations on this list are ones that have met since our last meeting and with whom we exchange observers. They are included in alphabetical order. Observers, please, send your reports to the Secretariat no later than **5 April 2019** (secretariat@iwc.int). In addition, the Secretariat will provide a paper summarising its considerable work on this topic. If possible, we will consider these on Day 1 (10 May). To save time, there will be no presentations and I will assume that Committee members have read these. I will ask members whether there are any general questions or comments that should be addressed under this Agenda Item. Note that this item is largely a reporting and administrative item - directly relevant scientific matters will be dealt with fully under appropriate Agenda Items and, as necessary, within sub-groups.

ITEMS: 5-19

These items have been prepared in consultation with the Convenors to take specifically into account relevant Commission Resolutions and Agenda Items. Note that the Committee Agenda here does not necessarily repeat the fully detailed sub-committee Agenda Items, however this year I have tried to provide a reasonably comprehensive version. We hope that this will help the communication process and guide your expectations. Note also that some of the Agenda Items here will incorporate discussions from more than one sub-group – this is indicated on the Agenda itself.

PLEASE NOTE THAT, in order to guarantee a better working environment and improve our way to deliver our advice to the Commission, the Committee has been engaged in a challenging restyling of its working methods, also in regard to how it conducts its business at the annual meeting and intersessionally. This entails, *inter alia*, (a) a more careful scrutiny of documents that are discussed during the sub-group week to ensure that they are relevant to primary items on the agenda; (b) a stricter organisation of the timing of all sessions to try to maintain evenings free; and (c) an improved approach to the drafting of Chair's summaries and recommendations.

ITEM 5: GENERAL ASSESSMENT AND MODELLING ISSUES (IST)**Item 5.1: Evaluate the energetics-based model and the relationship between $MSYR_{1+}$ and $MSYR_{mat}$**

This item will only be discussed if a new paper(s) is submitted.

Item 5.2: Implications of *IST*s for consideration of species' and populations' status

This item will be discussed in light of the results of the pre-meeting.

ITEM 6: RMP-IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED MATTERS (IST)**Item 6.1: Completion of the *Implementation Review* of Western North Pacific Bryde's whales**

The results of trials to evaluate different future survey strategies will be provided by the Secretariat.

Item 6.2: *Implementation Review* of North Pacific common minke whales

The results of the 'Report of the First Intersessional Workshop on the Implementation Review for western North Pacific minke whales' will be reviewed and the tasks assigned under our Requirements and Guidelines for the 'First Annual Meeting' will be undertaken.

Item 6.3: Workplan

The Committee will review its workplan for RMP *Implementation Reviews* in the light of Japan's withdrawal from the IWC effective after 30 June 2019. The discussion paper will be provided by the Chair, Vice-Chair and Head of Science on the overall implications of the effects of Japan's withdrawal on the work of the Scientific Committee will also include the effects on RMP-related work.

ITEM 7: ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED MATTERS (IST)**Item 7.1: *SLA* development for the common minke whales off East Greenland**

The Committee agreed last year that it would develop an *SLA* for the East Greenland hunt of common minke whales in addition to those already expected and agreed. A paper will be provided. The Commission has requested that this be completed by 2020.

Item 7.2: Progress with testing outstanding carryover and interim relief allocation provisions for some *SLAs* and consequent updates to the Aboriginal Whaling Scheme

The Committee agreed last year that it would develop simulation trials to test the carryover and interim relief allocations for the remaining *SLAs*. A paper will be provided. The Commission has requested that this be completed by 2020.

Item 7.3: Preparation for 2020 *Implementation Review* for North Pacific gray whales

An *Implementation Review* for North Pacific gray whales was originally scheduled for 2019 but for reasons related to meeting location and additional work, the Steering Group agreed that the *Implementation Review* should be postponed until 2020 so this item will update the planning for that work.

ITEM 8: STOCKS SUBJECT TO SUBSISTENCE WHALING (ASW)

The new sub-committee on ASW will review new information on stocks subject to aboriginal hunts in between scheduled *Implementation Reviews*. In 2018, the Commission renewed catch/strike limits for all the aboriginal subsistence whaling hunts. Those limits are in place from 2019 to 2025 and will be extended for subsequent six-year periods if certain provisions are met including no changes in the strike limit requests and no changes in the scientific advice that hunts will not harm the stock. The Committee has agreed that the best way to provide advice to the Commission on such hunts is through long-term *SLAs*. Note that the new Schedule does not require annual provision of advice by the Committee.

Item 8.1: New information and progress on recommendations*Item 8.1.7: Humpback whales off West Greenland*

Last year, the Committee suggested that it was time to consider a new in-depth assessment for NA humpback whales and this possibility will be discussed under Item 9.2.9 this year.

Item 8.1.8: Humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines

Last year, the Committee recommended that a 'new' western North Atlantic humpback whale abundance estimate based upon the data from the MONAH programme be presented by the USA. If presented, this will be discussed first by the ASI group.

ITEM 9: WHALE STOCKS NOT SUBJECT TO DIRECTED TAKES (IA, SH, NH)

Under this agenda item the Committee considers: (1) those stocks in the process of (or final preparations for) an in-depth assessment (i.e. North Pacific sei whales and North Pacific humpback whales); (2) Southern Hemisphere (SH) stocks for which a recent in-depth assessment has occurred or for which data are being assembled to see if an in-depth assessment is feasible (right, fin and blue whales); and (3) Northern Hemisphere (NH) stocks for which a recent in-depth assessment has occurred or for which data are being assembled to see if an in-depth assessment is feasible (North Pacific blue whales, North Atlantic and North Pacific right whales, North Atlantic sei whales, and North Atlantic humpback whales). Items related to the stock structure and abundance of these stocks will be dealt with early in the meeting by the sub-groups on SD&DNA and ASI.

9.1: Comprehensive or In-depth Assessments (IA)

Note that the Committee agreed a consolidated approach to Comprehensive or in-depth assessments last year.

9.1.1: Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific humpback whales

An intersessional correspondence group under Clapham (Annex Y) was established to take forward the work from the First Intersessional Workshop on the Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific humpback whales. Last year, the Committee had recommended a series of steps including a large-scale matching effort of post-2005 photo-id efforts to assist in efforts to (1) consolidate and prioritise the stock structure hypotheses developed at the first Workshop from a modelling perspective and, as possible, develop appropriate draft presence/absence and mixing matrices for consideration at the next Workshop; (2) facilitate the additional work on abundance estimates including that identified at the First Workshop; and (3) finalise plans for a second Workshop when this is believed appropriate, ideally prior to SC68b. The Committee will receive a report from this intersessional group.

9.1.2: Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific sei whales

An intersessional correspondence group under Cooke (Annex Y) was established to continue progress on developing the comprehensive assessment to further data preparation and development of the assessment model.

Item 9.2: Potential new assessments: progress on recommendations and workplan*9.2.1: Non-Antarctic Southern Hemisphere blue whales (SH)**9.2.2: Antarctic blue whales (Areas III and IV) (SH)*

The work on blue whales largely relies on progress made intersessionally by a steering group and a correspondence group and responses to recommendations on future work made at last year's Scientific Committee meeting.

An intersessional Steering Group under Olson and Jackson (Annex Y) was established to continue working on the Southern Hemisphere Blue Whale photo-identification catalogue (which includes pygmy and Antarctic blue whales) to progress towards population assessment; particularly to assess temporal and spatial progress on catalogue and preparation of Australian catalogue for quality coding.

An intersessional correspondence group under Brownell and Kato (Annex Y) was established to match up Antarctic blue whale baleen plates at the Smithsonian Institution with the original catch data in Japan.

9.2.3: Southern Hemisphere fin whales (SH)

Last year, the Committee agreed that population structure should be the focus of future efforts to assess Southern Hemisphere fin whales, including work on acoustic methods and on a review of Discovery marking. The Committee also encouraged a number of other studies and progress will be reviewed.

9.2.5: North Pacific blue whales (NH)

An intersessional correspondence group under Branch (Annex Y) was established to review available data needed for an assessment of North Pacific blue whales.

9.2.6: North Atlantic sei whales (NH)

The Committee established an intersessional correspondence group under Cholewiak and Mallette (Annex Y) to review available data for a future assessment.

9.2.7: North Atlantic right whales (NH)

The Committee has expressed serious concern over the status of this species and made a number of recommendations including that the USA submit a comprehensive review of status.

9.2.8: North Pacific right whales (NH)

The Committee has expressed serious concern over the status of this species and new information will be welcomed.

9.2.9: North Atlantic humpback whales (NH)

The Committee last year agreed that it was appropriate to consider how and when to organise a new in-depth assessment of North Atlantic humpback whales. This work will begin at this year's meeting.

9.3: New information and workplan for other northern stocks (NH)

These items will only be discussed if new information is presented

9.3.1: Gulf of Mexico Bryde's whales

The Committee expressed great concern over this stock and looks forward to an update from the USA on progress with recommendations.

9.3.2: Other species (only if new information is presented)

If presented, new information on North Pacific fin whales, Omura's whales, North Atlantic blue whales (if joint Iceland/Canada/USA analyses are read) will be considered.

9.4: New information and workplan for other Southern stocks (SH)*9.4.1: Southern Hemisphere humpback whales*

An intersessional correspondence group, under Weinrich (Annex Y), was established to examine approaches to obtain reliable estimates of abundance from sighting surveys for of Breeding Stock D.

9.4.2: Other species (only if new information is presented)

If presented, new information on Southern right whales off South Africa, Australia and Area IV feeding grounds will be considered.

ITEM 10: STOCKS THAT ARE OR HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS (CMP)

This agenda item considers stocks, with a specific focus on progress with scientific aspects, that are: (1) the subject of existing CMPs or (2) are likely candidates for a CMP or have been suggested to be candidates. Items related to the stock structure and abundance of these stocks will be dealt with early in the meeting by the sub-groups on SD&DNA and ASI.

Item 10.1: Stocks with existing CMPs: new information and progress with past recommendations

New information and progress on recommendations will be reviewed.

Item 10.2: Progress with identified priorities*10.2.1: Humpback whales in the northern Indian Ocean including the Arabian Sea*

To take into account the availability of experts, this will be discussed early in sub-committee week

10.2.2: Mediterranean fin whales

Progress with the development of a joint CMP with ACCOBAMS will be presented

Item 10.3: Workplan including plans to address Franciscana and South American river dolphins in 2020

The Committee had originally intended to review new information and recommendations for CMPs for Franciscana and South American river dolphins in 2019. Because of the location and relative expense to bring South American experts to the 2019 meeting, it has been agreed that South American river dolphins will be reviewed at the 2020 meeting.

ITEM 11: STOCK DEFINITION AND DNA TESTING**Item 11.1: Advice on stock structure to other sub-groups as required**

The sub-committee will review stock structure issues and provide advice for other sub-groups early in the meeting.

Item 11.2: New genetic (and other) techniques for species, stock and individual identification

The Committee will consider papers relevant to this topic and will undertake a comparison of methods for SNP development and assessment. An intersessional correspondence groups will provide advice on software packages and their use to the Committee.

Item 11.3: IWC DNA data quality and genetic analyses*Item 11.2.1: Update DNA quality guidelines to include discussion of NGS data*

Intersessional correspondence groups will provide advice on avoidance of sample depletion updating the guidelines to include data produced using next generation sequencing approaches. There will also be discussion of the need to update analytical guidelines and further consideration of terminology.

Item 11.4: Reference databases and standards for diagnostic DNA registries

The Committee will receive voluntary updates on this topic as in previous years.

ITEM 12: CETACEAN ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES AND STOCK STATUS (ASI)

In recent years (see IWC, 2014a), the Committee has recognised the need for consistency in the way it reviews and categorises abundance estimates, which in the past were reviewed only within the sub-group to which they were submitted. Since 2017, all abundance estimates were reviewed by a dedicated Working Group on Abundance Estimates, Stock Status and International Cruises (WG-ASI) and the advice passed on to the relevant sub-group early in the meeting, if it was needed urgently. WG-ASI is also tasked with the development of a table of an agreed set of abundance estimates for use by the Committee and a biennial document compiling abundance estimates for the Commission and the public that provided a broad overview by species and ocean basin, and by specific areas if appropriate. In addition, the WG-ASI will provide a biennial overview of the status of whale stocks, largely based upon completed assessments and or RMP/AWMP *Implementations* or *Implementation Reviews*. Therefore, under this agenda item the Committee will report on: the development of a biennial document that compiles agreed abundance estimates including a basin wide summary (Item 12.1); (2) consider methodological issues, including amending the Guidelines to conduct surveys and analyse survey data for use in the RMP to consider spatial modelling approaches (Item 12.2); (3) development of a summary of information on the status of stocks (based on completed assessments or *Implementations*; Item 12.3). The summary of abundance estimates and the status of stocks is intended to be made available on the IWC website soon after the Scientific Committee report is published.

Item 12.1: Summary of abundance estimates and update of IWC consolidated table

An intersessional correspondence group, under Zerbini was established to: (1) coordinate the review of abundance estimates by the ASI Working Group and (2) appoint expert small groups to conduct the review of abundance estimates required for this year's meeting.

Item 12.2: Methodological issues

The Committee will review the report from a pre-meeting to be held on 7-8 May 2019 to develop a process to validate non-standard software and methods used in computing abundance estimates reviewed by the Committee and how to treat estimates computed from population models. In addition, a correspondence group under Fortuna was established to (1) develop a set of specific instructions for the amendment of the RMP guidelines to consider model-based abundance estimates and (2) select a candidate to amend the RMP Guidelines according to these instructions. Discussions on amending the RMP guidelines will be conducted later during the ASI sub-committee sessions. Priority will be given to review abundance estimates needed during the meeting.

Item 12.3: Consideration of the status of stocks including results of pre-meeting

Because the Scientific Committee is expected to provide advice on 'status', the pre-meeting referred to above will also consider how to summarise the results of (a) stocks considered under the RMP and AWMP, (b) stocks considered under in-depth assessments and (c) whether it is possible to provide some indication of status for stocks not considered under (a) and (b).

ITEM 13: BYCATCH AND ENTANGLEMENTS (HIM)

This Item consolidates the discussions of bycatch for large whales and small cetaceans with respect to both estimation and scientific aspects of mitigation. Because of the holding of the meeting of the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative Expert Panel and the presence of some experts there relevant to Committee discussions, relevant issues will be discussed early in the sub-committee period

Item 13.1: Progress with the IWC Bycatch Mitigation Initiative

This item will include reporting on the Bycatch Expert Panel workshop held immediately prior to the SC, with a focus on the Indian Ocean. Collaboration with other organisations including FAO and IOTC will also be discussed under this item.

Item 13.2: Review new methods and estimates of entanglement rates, risks and mortality (large whales)

This will be discussed if new information is provided.

Item 13.3: Mitigation measures for preventing large whale entanglement

The Committee will receive an update on the IWC's entanglement response initiative.

Item 13.4: Review new methods and estimates of bycatch rates, risks and mortality (small cetaceans)

The Committee will review progress on recommendations made regarding bycatches in Peru and Brazil last year. It will also receive advice from the Intersessional Correspondence Group under Slooten about general issues that need to be considered whenever bycatch inferences are based on strandings data. Papers have also been encouraged on 'rapid risk assessment' tools and Remote Electronic monitoring.

Item 13.5: Scientific aspects of mitigation measures for small cetaceans

The Committee will review progress on mitigation measures depending on what new information is available.

ITEM 14: SHIP STRIKES

This Item consolidates the discussions of ship strikes with respect to both estimation and scientific aspects of mitigation.

Item 14.1: Review new methods and estimates of rates of ship strikes, risk of ship strikes and mortality

An intersessional correspondence group under Leaper (Annex Y) was established to continue to assist the ship strike co-ordinators in reviewing cases submitted to the IWC global database and to provide advice on how to reduce the backlog of cases.

Item 14.2: Mitigation of ship strikes in high risk areas

An intersessional correspondence group under Leaper (Annex Y) was established to: (1) Consider how best to respond to requests for advice on routing measures, (2) consider how to collate information regarding cetaceans in the Western Arctic and Bering Strait migratory routes, and (3) provide input into the IMMA process related to shipping. The Committee will hear a report from the IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop, held in April 2019, to investigate the utility and process of using IMMAs to help identify areas of high risk for ship strikes, using the Mediterranean Sea as a test case.

Item 14.3: Co-operation with IMO Secretariat and relevant IMO committees

The Committee will also receive an update on the Intersessional work of the Secretariat with range states and IMO with respect to ship strike mitigation.

ITEM 15: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (E)

The Commission and the Scientific Committee have increasingly taken an interest in the environmental threats to cetaceans. In 1993, the Commission adopted resolutions on research on the environment and whale stocks and on the preservation of the marine environment (e.g. IWC, 1996; 1997; 1998; 1999; 2010a). As a result, the Committee formalised its work by establishing a Standing Working Group that has met every year subsequently.

The State of the Cetacean Environment Report (SOCER) has been prepared annually under Parsons and Stachowitsch but because of budget challenges will not be produced in 2019 but will be developed for 2020.

Given the difficulties in some key participants being able to travel to Nairobi, more use than usual use of remote participation may occur in this group during sub-committee week.

Progress with the work of the stranding initiative

Item 15.1: Chemical pollution

The Committee will review the final report on the POLLUTION 2020 project, and data integration and mapping of POPs and mercury and their trends. The Committee will provide advice here in light of Resolution 2016-4. An intersessional correspondence group under Holm (Annex Y) was established to progress the IWC's priorities and plans beyond the Pollution 2020 programme.

Examination of impacts of spilled heavy fuel oil on cetaceans was planned for 2019 but has been postponed until 2020.

Item 15.2: Diseases of concern

The Committee will review new information. However, the expected review of the pathology and epidemiology of *morbillivirus* and *Brucella* has been postponed until 2020. An intersessional correspondence group under Stimmelmayer

(Annex Y) was established to: (1) finalise the IWC cetacean diseases of concern (CDoC) website redesign and content, (2) determine best approach to maintain information in website and the consultation/discussion forum, (3) work with the Strandings Initiative (see Item 15.4). This topic has also been postponed until 2020.

Item 15.3: Strandings and mortality events

Under this item the Committee will receive an update on the IWC Strandings Initiative from the Secretariat.

Item 15.4: Noise

The Committee will receive an update on cooperation with the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee. It will also consider new information.

In addition, the Committee will receive an update from the intersessional correspondence group under Cholewiak Annex Y) that was established to plan for pre-meeting in 2020 on noise.

Item 15.6: Progress on a workshop to consider marine debris

The Committee will review progress for an intersessional workshop on marine debris planned to be held in conjunction with the ECS and SMM joint meeting in Barcelona in autumn 2019.

ITEM 16: ECOSYSTEM MODELLING

Each year, under this Item the Committee reviews new work on a variety of issues related to ecosystem modelling, falling under three areas: (1) reviewing ecosystem modelling efforts undertaken outside the IWC; (2) exploring how ecosystem models can contribute to developing scenarios for simulation testing of the RMP; and (3) reviewing other issues relevant to ecosystem modelling within the Committee. Given Resolution 2016-3 (Resolution on Cetaceans and Their Contributions to Ecosystem Functioning), Ecosystem services was added in 2017 as new standing topic.

Item 16.1: Cooperation with CCAMLR on multi-species modelling including progress with a joint workshop

The Committee will continue to discuss cooperation with CCAMLR and progress on planning of a joint Workshop between IWC-SC and SC-CAMLR WG-EMM.

Item 16.2: Progress of species distribution models (SDMs) and ensemble averaging, including preparation of guidelines

An intersessional correspondence group under Murase (Annex Y) was established to develop guidelines and recommendations for best practice in species distribution modelling.

Item 16.4: Standing topics

Under this standing agenda item, the Committee will receive updates on items that are planned for future biennia or for which not sufficient progress was made to change previous recommendations. No substantial discussion is expected under this item, but just reports, including progress on effects of long-term environmental variability of whale populations; krill distribution and abundance from NEWREP-A; and progress on a workshop ecosystem functioning including co-operation with CMS. On this last item, an intersessional correspondence group under Ritter (Annex Y) is preparing for a workshop on gap analysis of cetaceans and ecosystem functioning.

ITEM 17: SMALL CETACEANS

Item 17.1: A review of small cetaceans in African waters

Given the location of this meeting, the Committee will review information about small cetaceans in African waters.

Item 17.2: Poorly documented hunts of small cetaceans for food, bait or cash and changing patterns of use

Under this item the Committee will receive the report of the pre-meeting on aquatic bushmeat.

Item 17.4: Small cetacean task team

A Steering group under Simmonds (Annex Y) that was established to assist the Scientific Committee in providing timely and effective advice on situations where a population of cetaceans is or suspected to be in danger of a significant decline that may eventually lead to its extinction; the ultimate aim being to ensure that extinction does not occur.

Item 17.5: Review takes of small cetaceans

The Committee will consider new information on directed takes and live captures contained in National Reports and from other sources. Incidental takes will be considered by HIM under Item 8.6.

Item 17.7: Status of the voluntary fund for small cetacean conservation research

The Committee will receive a report on projects awarded in 2018 under the Voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research.

ITEM 18: WHALE WATCHING

The IWC Resolutions 1993-9 and 1994-14 directed Member States to submit information on whale watching. With Resolution 1996-2, the Commission directed the Scientific Committee to begin examining whale watching and its impacts. The first report from the Sub-Committee on Whale watching was in 1998 with Terms of Reference regarding: (1) scientific protocols for research on the effects of whale watching; (2) the scientific basis for management; (3) research on the efficacy of mitigation; (4) criteria for selection of suitable areas for long-term studies on the effects of whale watching on cetaceans.

Item 18.1: Assess the impacts of whale watching on cetaceans

The Committee will review progress on (1) the 3rd workshop on Modelling and Assessment of Whale Watching Impacts (MAWI); (2) assess possible case studies in east Africa and the wider Indian Ocean, and (3) co-operation with CMS on human-induced behavioural changes.

The Committee will also receive an update from several Intersessional Correspondence Groups: (1) Swim-with-whale operations, under Rose, that was established to assess the extent and potential impact of swim-with-whale operations, (2) Human-induced behavioural changes of concern under Simmonds; (3) Communication with the Conservation Committee under Parsons; (4) Communication with the Indian Ocean Rim Association under Ferriss; and (5) River dolphin interactions with commercial interactions under Trujillo.

ITEM 19: SPECIAL PERMITS

The SP working group (SP) will receive new information from: (a) NEWREP-A; and (b) NEWREP-NP. Proponents will also provide information on the JARPN II consolidated report.

Please note that under this this agenda item, the Committee will provide a final overview of progress on its recommendations for NEWREP-A or NEWREP-NP rather than the detailed review that has occurred at recent annual meetings. It is not expected that this topic will be considered after 2019.

ITEM 20: WHALE SANCTUARIES

Under this Item the Committee will discuss progress with Management Plan for the Southern Ocean Sanctuary that was adopted at the last Commission meeting.

ITEM 21: REPORT FROM WORKSHOP ON CETACEAN TAG DEVELOPMENT AND GUIDELINES FOR TAGGING BEST PRACTICES

A workshop to review improvements on cetacean tag attachments, to review studies to assess effects of tags on cetaceans and to review a document with recommendations for tagging best practices was jointly organized by the IWC, the US Office of Naval Research and by NOAA in 2017/2018. A report of the workshop, including recommendations for further developing tag attachment methods and for minimizing tag effects, will be presented under this agenda item. In addition, the document describing best practices of cetacean tagging will be circulated for consideration and possibly endorsement by the SC.

ITEM 22: IWC LIST OF RECOGNISED SPECIES

The Committee has agreed to follow the list developed by the Society for Marine Mammalogy. This item provides an opportunity to discuss any updates or changes.

ITEM 23: IWC DATABASES & CATALOGUES (PH)

The IWC is increasingly acting as a repository of data (including genetic samples, currently archived at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA, US). These include: the IWC catch database; the National Progress Report database; the IWC sightings database (IWC-DESS) which holds sightings and effort data from the IWC IDCR, SOWER and POWER cruises as well as data submitted under the RMP; the IWC photographic archive for the IWC IDCR, SOWER and POWER cruises; a number of photo-identification catalogues (e.g. Southern Hemisphere blue whales, Antarctic humpback whales, various species from IWC-POWER etc.); the global ship strikes database and possibly a future global entanglement database.

This item will address: (1) common guidelines and principles for IWC databases including data availability; (2) design issues and (3) provide a summary of holdings. Information and analyses using data will continue to be discussed under the relevant items. The Secretariat will report on progress made on IWC Global Data Repositories and National Reports.

The Committee will receive updates from the following Intersessional Correspondence Groups, (1) to continue the compilation of technical appendices for photo-ID guidelines under Olson and (2) to search for missing SOWER photos under Matsuoka. Progress will be reviewed on existing and proposed new catalogues.

ITEM 24: IWC MULTINATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMMES (ASI)

The Committee will review the report of the IWC-POWER Technical Advisory Group and the Planning Committee that met in Tokyo in 2018 (SC/68a/Rep01) and consider options for the future in light of Japan's withdrawal from the IWC – note that the 2019 cruise will go ahead. The Committee will also review progress under the Southern Ocean Research Partnership (SORP) programme. This item will integrate advice from several sub-groups. The item will integrate advice from the NH, IA and ASI sub-groups.

ITEM 25: SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR THE CURRENT BIENNUM

The Committee will provide a brief update on all activities carried out during the last intersessional period with the status on the current funding.

ITEM 26: COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR 2020

The Committee will discuss priorities and an initial agenda for 2020. This will be based upon the workplans developed by sub-groups but will also allow discussion of relative priorities in Plenary, taking into account the Committee's workload.

ITEM 27: WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE**27.1: Updates on Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee and working methods**

The Committee will discuss these and review any proposed amendments. The Scientific Committee Handbook revised in 2018 is available online: <http://iwc.int/scientific-committee-handbook>.

27.2: Biennial reporting and related matters including development of the budget in light of the timing of the Commission's financial year

The Committee will consider these matters including a working paper by the Secretariat and the Chair and Vice-Chair relating to improving budgetary considerations taking into account efficiency, cost saving and future planning.

27.3: Succession plan for key Scientific Committee experts

Under this item the Committee will also receive an update from the intersessional correspondence group under Walløe (Annex Y) on the succession plan for SC expertise to identify a way or ways to address the issue of succession of key members of the Committee, particularly related to the *Implementation Review* and assessment processes (including modelling expertise).

27.4: Update on data availability requests and consideration of potential updates/clarifications

The Committee will review a report by the Chair of the DAG and suggestions for clarifications to the process

27.5: Committee involvement in the IWC recommendations database

The Secretariat will provide an update on the IWC recommendations database and the Committee will consider how it may assist in updating this and how it will benefit from its use in the future.

27.6: Matters related to 'Annex P'

This will be discussed in the light of previous discussions for updates.

27.7: Matters related to the Governance Review

The Committee will consider whether it wishes to update the advice provided last year,

ITEM 28: PUBLICATIONS

The Committee will review progress with publications including: the IDCR/SOWER Commemorative Volume; the Indo-Pacific Antarctic minke whale assessment paper; and consider a discussion document provided by the Secretariat showing some of the recent improvements to increase the SC's assistance to JCRM.

ITEM 29: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

I anticipate a very short discussion this year!

ITEM 30: ADOPTION OF REPORT

I will do my best to ensure that we finish before 5pm on the final day with a near-completed report.