

SC/68A/RP/04

SH - Databases (Groch/Rowntree)
Photo-Identification comparison of
southern right whales in Brazil and
Argentina to contribute to IWC project:
Multi-ocean analysis of southern right
whale demographic parameters and
environmental



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION



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PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUEST

1. PROPOSAL TITLE

Photo Identification comparison of southern right whales in Brazil and Argentina to contribute to IWC project: Multi-ocean analysis of southern right whale demographic parameters and environmental correlates

2. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL AND ITS EXPECTED OUTCOME

This study aims to complete a comparison of southern right whale photo identification catalogues from Brazil and Argentina to provided data for the comparison of population demographics of southern right whales in Southern Hemisphere wintering grounds (SCSH67B_WP12 Pro Forma Phase 1).

This study is a component of the SORP project Theme 6 - The right sentinel for climate change: linking foraging ground variability to population recovery in the southern right whale.

Outcomes:

- Complete photo identification catalogue comparison between Brazil (1987-2018) and Argentina (1971-2015), in order to compare southern right whale demographic parameters including: abundance trend, calving interval, age of first parturition, survival and mortality

3. RELEVANT IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE GROUPS OR SUB-GROUPS

List all the IWC Scientific Committee groups or sub-groups that the outcomes of this work would be relevant to and provide a brief (1-2 lines) explanation of how it would contribute more widely to their ongoing programmes of work. Where possible, do not simply list only the sub-committee within which or for which the project proposal was generated.

Conservation Management Plan (CMP) Sub-Committee: South West Atlantic southern right whales.

Southern Hemisphere – multi-ocean analysis of southern right whales to compare demographic parameters including abundance trends and changes to calving intervals.

4. TYPE OF PROJECT (PLEASE TICK)

Research project	X
Modelling	

Workshop/meeting	
Database creation/maintenance	X
Compilation work/editing (e.g. on whalewatching regulations, SOCER, etc.)	
Other (please specify below)	

5. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL AND ITS CONNECTION WITH SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS (DO NOT EXCEED 1500 WORDS)

<p>(A) BACKGROUND, RATIONALE, AND RELEVANCE TO THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY THE IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:</p> <p><i>Provide a clear explanation of the background and rationale for the proposal and its relevance to Scientific Committee identified priorities. Clearly identify the most relevant and recent Scientific Committee recommendations.</i></p> <p>The SH sub-committee of the IWC SC67b recommended full catalogue matching between the Brazilian and Argentine catalogues in order to provide the best available data on calving rates, abundance and trend.</p> <p>Southern right whales are a priority species for the IWC SC68A. This proposal contributes to key priorities of the IWC to allow for assessment of a multi-ocean, multi-national collaborative project that utilises almost five decades of annual southern right whale photo identification and sightings data from four countries and three continents.</p> <p>Collating the Brazil and Argentina datasets is a critical step towards a comparative study of population demographics of southern right whales in the SH will improve our understanding of species status, and strengthen information to inform conservation management.</p>
<p>(B) SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OR TOR AND DELIVERABLES/OUTCOMES:</p> <p><i>Provide the specific objectives and the expected deliverables. In the case of workshops and meetings, include the Terms of Reference (ToR) and expected outcomes.</i></p> <p>Full catalogue matching between the Brazilian and Argentine catalogues (including 925 and 3,500 individuals respectively) to provide the best available data for global comparative assessment of southern right whale demographic data.</p> <p>Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Provision of dataset for modelling with photo ID resights from the Brazilian (1987-2018) and Argentine (1971-2015) combined catalogues ii. IWC paper – Southern right whale photo ID comparison of Brazil and Argentina dataset.

(C) METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH/WORK PLAN/ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Specify the methods to be applied (novel methods require more explanation than standard ones) and the broad workplan – the detailed timetable appears under Item 5 below.

In the case of workshops and meetings, include the broad work plan including any pre-requisites for the workshop/meeting to take place (apart from funding, e.g. completed analyses, papers etc.) and administrative details (e.g. location, dates, number of participants).

Proposed steps:

1. Photo identification cross matching between Argentine and Brazilian catalogues, containing 3,500 and 925 individuals respectively. These photographs will be processed and matched using the Hiby-Lovell system
2. Presentation to IWC SC 2020.

Researchers will also contribute to an intersessional working group that will progress the IWC Project: Multi-ocean analysis of southern right whale demographic parameters and environmental correlates.

(D) SUGGESTIONS FOR OUTREACH

Please, note that successful proponents will be requested to produce ad hoc material that will be used by the IWC Secretariat for dissemination and outreach.

Outreach opportunities include:

- Intern or student project to generate educational material
- Presentation of results at IWC 2020

6. TIMETABLE FOR ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

Specify the timetable for project activities and expected outputs separately. For projects with multiple distinct elements please indicate interim goals and timeframes. Add as many rows as you need to the tables below. If publications are an expected output please note whether you will submit the manuscript to the IWC's Journal of Cetacean Research and Management.

Activity to be undertaken	Key person(s)	Start(mm/yy)	Finish (mm/yy)
Uploading of the Brazilian catalogue to the Hiby-Lovell system	Karina Groch	06/19	11/19
Catalogue matching using the Hiby-Lovell system	Vicky Rowntree	12/19	05/20

Expected outputs	Completion date (mm/yy)
Uploading of the Brazilian catalogue to the Hiby-Lovell system	11/19
Photo identification cross matching between Argentine and Brazilian catalogues	05/20
Presentation to IWC SC 2020.	05/20

7. RESEARCHERS' (OR STEERING GROUP) NAME(S) AND AFFILIATION

Please, also specify if the project team has any direct connection (e.g. same research group or institute, collaborator on common project) with people involved or likely to be involved in taking the funding decision (e.g. IWC SC heads of delegations, SC convenors, etc.). Add as many rows as you need to the table below.

Name	Affiliation	Connection with decision
Mariano Sironi	Instituto de Conservacion de Ballenas/Whale Conservation Institute/Ocean Alliance	
Vicky Rowntree	University of Utah, USA	

Karina Groch	Projeto Baleia Franca/Instituto Australis, Brazil	
Miguel Iñíguez	Fundación Cethus, Buenos Aires	

8. TOTAL BUDGET

Breakdown into: (1) salaries/wages (include name/position of each individual and breakdown of time and duties i; (2) travel/subsistence expenses (breakdown by person and justification) unless for IPs for workshops where a total estimate based on an average for the total number of IPs is acceptable; (3) services (e.g. aircraft/vessel time, consultancy fees, ARGOS fees, etc.); (4) reusable capital equipment (e.g. reusable equipment such as a hydrophone, cameras, etc. Note that this equipment will have to be registered at the IWC Secretariat and will remain property of the IWC at the end of the project), (5) expendable capital equipment (e.g. consumables, tags, stationery), (6) shipping costs, (7) insurance costs, (8) in kind co-funding (specify whether other funding is available for personnel/name, equipment, venues, etc.). Note that "Overheads" are not admissible. Add as many rows as you need to the table below.

Type	Detailed description	Cost in GB pounds
(1) Salaries (by person)	Karina Groch (processing of Brazilian catalogue in the Hiby-Lovell system)	£750
	Vicky Rowntree (catalogue matching between Brazil and Argentina)	£1,250
(2) Travel/subsistence (by person or est. total for IPs)		
(3) Services (by item)		
(4) Reusable equipment		
(5) Consumables		
(6) Shipping (by Item)		
(7) Insurance (by item)		
(8) Co-funding		
(9) Other		
Total		£2,000

9. DATA ARCHIVING/SHARING

Please state your plans for data archiving and sharing. Note that data collected primarily under IWC grants are considered publicly available after an agreed period of time for publication of papers, usually about two years. The work of the IWC depends on the voluntary contribution of data to the various databases and catalogues IWC supports. Please consult the Secretariat (secretariat@iwc.int).

Metadata to be provided to IWC.

10. PERMITS (PLEASE TICK)

Do you have the necessary permits to carry out the field work and have animal welfare considerations been appropriately considered?	N/A
Do you have the appropriate permits (e.g. CITES) for the import/export of any samples?	N/A

If 'Yes' please provide further details and enclose copies where appropriate:

Appendix 2 – DRAFT SCORING SHEET

If a project presents multiple primary objectives which are achieved using sub-projects, a sheet should be used to evaluate each single sub-project. Note that not all criteria are equally applicable depending on the nature of the project (e.g. field work versus workshops).

IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING - REVIEW CRITERIA - TEST			
TITLE OF THE PROJECT/sub-projects:			
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:			
Key criteria	Explanation of scoring	Score	Supporting Remarks
Relevance to Scientific Committee priorities			
1	How well aligned are the scientific outcomes of the project/activity with the current SC priority areas?	1 - Not aligned/poorly aligned (e.g. too vague or generic reference to general SC priorities) 2 - Reasonably aligned (e.g. some aspects may be vague or links are not clear) 3 - Well aligned (e.g. outcomes clearly deliver in the most part on priority areas, may also address longer term or potential future issues). 4 - Closely aligned (e.g. of interest for multiple sub-groups or delivers on specific SC high priority topics/recommendations in the immediate or short term).	
2	To what extent will the outcomes of the project/activity contribute to improvements in the conservation and management of cetaceans?	1 - Not at all 2 - Poorly 3 - Reasonably or over the longer term 4 - Well or over the medium term 5 - Excellently or to almost immediate effect	
Note: if in each of the two above key criteria under this section the project does not score singularly at least 2 points, do not proceed in further evaluation. Of course, proposals within a sub-group would only be developed if in their estimation scores were of 4 or above.			
Approach and methodology			
3	What degree of scientific merit/value is there in carrying out the work?	1 - Not demonstrated or of low scientific value 2 - Useful/basic scientific value 3 - Very good scientific value 4 - Excellent/innovative scientific value	
4	Is the proposed methodology scientifically sound and feasible in terms of field and analytical methods?	1 - Feasibility unrealistic & poor methodology or not properly addressed 2 - Feasibility & methodology acceptable but would benefit from some substantial amendments	

		3 - Feasibility & methodology good, some small changes beneficial 4 - Feasibility & methodology excellent or a highly promising innovative approach to an important question facing the Committee		
5	What is the likelihood of success based on the proposed overall approach and methodology?	1 – No chance of success 2 - Low chance of success/better approaches available 3 - Medium chance of success/some changes to the approach necessary 4 - High chance of success/little or no changes to the approach necessary		
5a	Are objectives of the research likely to be achieved within the proposed time-frame?	1 – No or unlikely 2 – Partially or potentially ambitious 3 - Yes with some minor suggestions 4 – Yes		
5b	Are any proposed intermediary targets timely and achievable?	1 – No or unlikely 2 – Partially 3 - Probably 4 - Yes		
5c	Is the proposed time-frame/work necessary (e.g. can the project produce results in a shorter time period)?	1 – No or unlikely 2 – Partially 3 - Probably 4 - Yes		
5d	Is the sample size adequate to achieve the stated objectives?	1 – Not demonstrated/not properly addressed 2 – No or unlikely (too low/too high) 3 – Probably (additional analysis needed) 4 - Yes		
6	Is the project likely to affect adversely the population(s) involved?	1 - Not properly addressed/ unknown 2 - Yes severely 3 – Possibly at a low level 4 - No		
6a	IF YES , are analyses provided on simulations of the effects using different time-frames for the project if applicable?	1 – No 2 – Partially 3 - Yes		
Note: if in each of the above key criteria under this section the project does not score singularly at least 2 points, do not proceed in further evaluation. Of course, proposals within a sub-group would only be developed if in their estimation scores were of 3 or above.				
Project team and Project management				

7	To what extent does the team have the relevant expertise, experience, and balance?	1 – Poor or not demonstrated 2 – Sufficient 3 - Very good 4 - Excellent		
8	Contingency plan: To what extent have potential problems/risks been considered and appropriate mitigation proposed?	1 – Poor or not demonstrated 2 – Sufficient but could be improved 3 - Fully or requiring only minor suggestions or not applicable		
Value for Money				
10	Does the project represent good value for money?	1 – No or significant amendments would be needed 2 – Yes but with some minor amendments 3 – Yes		
11	Have sufficient links been made to the wider research community/other organisations/capacity building.	1 – No 2 – Some but significant amendments needed 3 – Yes but with some minor additions 4 – Yes or not applicable		