

# SC/68B/RP/12

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## CMP - Workshop to develop a proposal to a Conservation Management Plan on the Central America Humpback Whales

IWC



INTERNATIONAL  
WHALING COMMISSION



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## PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUEST

### 1 . PROPOSAL TITLE

Please provide the title of the project or the name of the workshop/meeting.

Workshop to develop a proposal to a Conservation Management Plan on the Central America Humpback Whales

### 2 . BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL AND ITS EXPECTED OUTCOME

Give a very brief overview (max 150 words) on your proposal and its expected outcomes. Use bullet point to list outcomes. Be succinct and clear as this may be used to summarise your project for the report.

Scientists and government personnel of the countries where the humpback whale population of Central America is distributed will participate in a workshop to develop the humpback whale CMP for this region, which was recommended by SC-CMP at IWC68a. In IWC68a, the SC-CMP recommended that this population be treated as a priority population for the development of a CMP. A workshop steering Group (SG) has been established to prepare the workshop agenda, as well as inviting the scientific community involved in the monitoring of humpback whales in Central America and the appropriate government personnel to provide the government support required by the CMP. The workshop will be held in the City of La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico, and will last 3 days.

Workshop outcomes will include a report:

i) Central American humpback whale CMP completed.

### 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.

The Central America population of humpback whales is small and is particularly vulnerable to anthropogenic threats and hence the outcomes of the workshop will have relevance to Conservation Management Plans (CMP), Non-deliberate Human-induced Mortality of Cetaceans (HIM) and In- depth Assessment (IA).

### 4 . TYPE OF PROJECT (PLEASE TICK)

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Workshop/meeting | X |
|------------------|---|

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

**(A) BACKGROUND, RATIONALE, AND RELEVANCE TO THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY THE IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:**

*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.*

Scientific rationale

The Central America population, or Distinct Population Segment (DPS), according with NOAA, is described as humpback whales that breed in waters off Central America (Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala), and southern Mexico in the North Pacific Ocean, migrate along the coast of Mexico, and feed along the west coast of the United States.

This population, or DPS is listed as endangered and the most recent estimation is 783 whales (CV = 0.170)(Wade, 2017).

This small population is particularly vulnerable to anthropogenic threats. These humpback whales are bycaught on their feeding ground off California. This bycatch occurs mainly in the crab fishery and poses a major threat to the conservation of this depleted population. Off the west coast of Baja California, Mexico and mainland coast of Mexico there were 95 records of entanglement between 2004 and 2017. Vessel strikes also pose an additional threat on the west coast of the U.S. and to this population as it traverses some of the busiest ports on the west coast of the United States.

The Humpback Whale Biological Review Team (BRT) from NOAA concluded that: "The potential for this population to be at high risk of extinction is considered largely reflecting uncertainty regarding population size and population trend; and that the threats identified are likely to impact the population in its entirety"; "The breeding ground of this DPS occupies a unique ecological setting, and its primary feeding ground is in a different marine ecosystem from most other populations. The loss of this population would also result in a significant gap in the range the species".

**(B) SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OR TOR AND DELIVERABLES/OUTCOMES:**

*Provide the specific objectives and the expected deliverables. In the case of workshops and meetings, include the Terms of Reference (ToR) and expected outcomes.*

Terms of reference

At IWC68a, the SC-CMP recommended the Central American Humpback whale population be treated as a priority population for CMP development. The proponents indicated an intention to submit a draft CMP to SC68b. A workshop took place from 9-10 March in Panama City, Panama, to discuss the development of this CMP, including biological and ecological aspects, threats, mitigation and monitoring. The workshop was attended by 21 participants from eight countries (US, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama). Due to the contingency of the pandemic, it was not possible to finalize the agreement of the collaboration among the different countries involved in this process and the decision was to present this year the report of the workshop and continue with the elaboration of the draft of the CMP during a second workshop, and present the proposal of the CMP to be presented in the IWC SC on 2021.

Objective of the workshop

Present and discuss the information available on the population structure, abundance, distribution and threats of the humpback whales of the Central America population, to develop a CMP..

Objective of the CMP

The overall goal of this conservation plan is to manage human activities that affect Central America humpback whales and maximize the population's chances for recovery, based on the best scientific evidence.

Outcome

A meeting report that will include a comprehensive summary of the workshop.

Formal proposal to develop a CMP for the Central America Humpback Whales population unit.

### (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).

Workshop steering committee: A steering committee shall be established to help plan the workshop/pre-meeting including developing a workshop agenda, detailed budget, and soliciting workshop funding from outside the IWC, interfacing with representatives of workshop venue on logistical issues, inviting workshop participants, and coordinating the completion of the workshop report.

Participating scientists will be asked to provide all available information on humpback whale distribution, abundance, behavior, and threats in their countries. Government personnel will be asked to send information on the legislation that exists in their countries regarding the protection and conservation of humpback whales.

These documents will be included in the version in development of the CMP.

Workshop participants: Workshop participants: The total number of participants in the workshop will not exceed 26 persons. It will include 14 researchers, eight government representatives, Two co-convenors of CMP, a member of the Conservation Committee, SWGCMP, and the Conservation Committee chair.

The workshop steering committees will be responsible for inviting participants to the workshop. The workshop budget will fully cover the costs of all invited experts but other participants may need to cover their own costs.

Format of workshop: 'invitation only' workshop

Timetable for workshop: 3 days

Expected number of participants including suggested 'Invited Participants' (areas of expertise and names).

#### Participants

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Robert Brownell Jr.        | Steering Group, Co-Convenor CMP SC                  |
| 2. Jorge Urbán R.             | Steering Group, Co-Convenor CMP SC                  |
| 3. Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho       | Steering Group, Chair of the Conservation Committee |
| 4. Miguel Iñiguez             | Steering Group,                                     |
| 5. Lorena Vilorio-Gómora      | Steering Group, Researcher (México)                 |
| 6. Dulce Ma. Avila            | Government of Mexico                                |
| 7. Airam López Roulet         | Government of Guatemala                             |
| 8. Luis Pineda                | Government of El Salvador                           |
| 9. IWC Commissioner           | Government of Nicaragua                             |
| 10. Eugenia Arguedas          | Government of Costa Rica                            |
| 11. Ryan Wulff                | Government of USA                                   |
| 12. John Calambokidis         | Researcher (USA)                                    |
| 13. Scott Baker               | Researcher (USA)                                    |
| 14. Kristin Rasmussen         | Researcher (Panamá/Costa Rica)                      |
| 15. Daniel Palacios           | Researcher (Costa Rica/Panamá)                      |
| 16. Pamela Martínez-Loustalot | Researcher (México)                                 |
| 17. Astrid Frisch             | Researcher (México)                                 |

|                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 18. Christian Ortega   | Researcher (Colima, México)      |
| 19. Katherina Audley   | Researcher (Guerrero, México)    |
| 20. Francisco Villegas | Researcher (Oaxaca, México)      |
| 21. Ester Quintana     | Researcher (Guatemala)           |
| 22. Melvin Castaneda   | Researcher (El Salvador)         |
| 23. Joelle de Weerd    | Researcher (Nicaragua)           |
| 24. Lissette Trejos    | Researcher, Government of Panama |
| 25. Julio Casas        | Researcher, Government of Panama |
| 26. Jay Barlow         | Researcher (USA)                 |

#### Draft Agenda

1. Election of the Chair and Rapporteurs of the Workshop
2. Presentation of participants
3. Review and approval of the agenda
4. Introduction to the Central America humpback whale population
5. Review of the Report of the Panama workshop (SC/68B/CMP/25)
6. Discussion Priorities/needs of e.g. countries
7. Establishment of a drafting group
8. Next steps

#### (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.

Text to upload at the IWC website as well as the CMP Newsletter will be provided by the organizers of the workshop

## 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)   |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| Organization of the workshop     | Steering Group                                | 1 June 2020      | 25 February 2021 |
| Workshop, La Paz, B.C.S., México | Steering Group and participants               | 25 February 2021 | 27 February 2021 |
| Develop CMP proposal             | Government representatives and Steering Group | 27 February 2021 | 1 April 2021     |

| Expected outputs  | Completion date (mm/yy) |
|---|-------------------------|
| CMP proposal submitted to the IWC 69A Scientific Committee, CMP SWG, CC | 27 April 2021           |

## 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 |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Jorge Urbán           | Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur        |                          |
| Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho  | Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales | Chair                    |
| Miguel Iñiguez        | Fundación Cethus - Argentina                       |                          |
| Lorena Viloria-Gómora | Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur        |                          |
| Robert Brownell       | International Marine Resources, NOAA               |                          |

## 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)                                 | The salaries of those invited to participate in the workshop will not be covered by the workshop budget   | -                      |
| (2) Travel/subsistence (by person or est. total for IPs) | Costs (flight, transportation, lodging, and food) of each participant will be covered in full by the workshop budget. 800/participant, 23 participants                                | 18,400                 |
| (3) Services (by item)                                   | local transportation<br>cost of venue   | 450<br>4,100           |
| (4) Reusable equipment                                   | -   | -                      |
| (5) Consumables  | Minor consumables   | 185                    |
| (6) Shipping (by item)                                   | -   |                        |
| (7) Insurance (by item)                                  | -   | -                      |
| (8) Co-funding   | NGO's, ( 8 participant)<br>UABCS (Cost of venue, local transportation, power point projector/microphone system, Catering for event (i.e., coffee breaks/lunches, Minor consumables ). | -6400<br>-5275         |
| (9) Other  |   | -                      |
| <b>Total</b>   |   | (23,135) <b>11,460</b> |

## 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](mailto:secretariat@iwc.int)).

## 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 |