

IWC/MAY18/CCPG/03

Update on progress in engaging other organisations

IWC Secretariat



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

Update on progress in engaging other organisations

Submitted by the Secretariat

May 2018

At IWC66 the Commission adopted a number of recommendations relevant to engagement with other organisations, including recommendations transmitted by the Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee. The Secretariat is working with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conservation Committee, Standing Working Groups and other IWC experts as required to take forward these recommendations and to be proactive in identifying and communicating opportunities for strengthening engagement. This paper provides an update on implementation of these IWC recommendations, and suggestions on next steps. In addition, it discusses how the Secretariat and Conservation Committee could work together more closely on engaging other organisations, and recommendations that could be put to IWC67.

The CCPG is invited to:

- comment on progress to date
- agree on next steps with engagement
- comment on the proposal on the role of the Conservation Committee

1. Review of implementation

Table 1. provides an overview of progress with implementation of recommendations for engaging other organisations endorsed by the Commission at IWC66 and relevant to the Conservation Committee agenda. A further report on progress will be provided to the Conservation Committee at that meeting.

2. Highlights and further opportunities

The summary below provides some further information on highlights and proposed next steps

Strengthened engagement with FAO and COFI on bycatch including participation in the FAO technical consultation on gear marking, and participation by the Chair of the Conservation Committee, Bycatch Coordinator and other members of the IWC Community in the recent FAO workshop on marine mammal bycatch.

Next steps: (i) Secretariat participation in FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) meeting in July 2018 including with a proposed side event on bycatch (ii) Engagement in FAO follow up to the marine mammal bycatch workshop.

Engagement in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process: The Secretariat attended the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (the UN Oceans Conference) in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017, to promote the IWC contribution to this SDG and to engage in relevant discussions. Several interventions were made including a plenary intervention highlighting the issue of Bycatch. In addition, the IWC submitted Voluntary Commitments to the Conference (<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/>) on Bycatch, Entanglement, Whale Watching and an overarching commitment on the Conservation and Management of Cetaceans.

Engagement with UNCLOS: The Secretariat submitted a contribution to the report of the UN Secretary General on Anthropogenic Underwater noise to the Open Ended Informal Consultative

Group on Oceans and Law of the Sea which will focus on Anthropogenic Underwater noise at its meeting on 18-22 June 2018.

Next steps: Given that the Secretariat can not prioritise attendance at this meeting it would be very grateful for any Contracting Members or observers who will attend to report back from the meeting, including on recommendations and opportunities for the IWC and Conservation Committee to help take these forward.

Continued engagement with IMO in cooperation with the Scientific Committee, including the provision of a paper to the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee, providing an update of recent information related to the extent and impacts of underwater noise from shipping. The Secretariat and the convenor of HIM met with the IMO Secretariat in the margins of the MEPC to discuss the opportunities for further cooperation.

Next steps: (i) Continue engagement with the IMO on noise and, where appropriate, contribute to discussions on the inclusion of this topic in the work plan of the MEPC (ii) Continue engagement on the issue of ship strikes and, working with SC experts, engage in any relevant re-routing proposals (iii) engage in any other issues of mutual interest such as marine debris and voyage planning.

Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions¹. The IWC Secretariat joined this group in October 2018 but has not yet had the opportunity to attend a meeting

Next steps: (i) Executive Secretary to attend meeting of BLG at the next opportunity (ii) Secretariat to attend the forthcoming CBD Conference of Parties in November 2018 (iii) To further consider and take forward opportunities to cooperate with BLG members.

Continued collaboration with CMS- Including Secretariat participation at the CMS COP12 in October 2017 and contribution to the development of CMS Resolutions in several areas and joint delivery of the Whale Watching Handbook

Next steps: (i) Continued collaboration with the CMS on the Whale Watching Handbook (ii) Collaboration on the development of a Conservation Management Plan for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale (iii) Collaboration on other areas of mutual interest, including bycatch and strandings.

Work towards strengthening engagement with RFMOs – including discussions between the IWC and IOTC, ICCAT and IATTC Executive Secretaries and bycatch coordinator on opportunities to collaborate on this issue.

Next steps: Executive Secretary and bycatch coordinator to attend the Regional Secretariat Network (RSN) meeting (in advance of and following the COFI meeting) and to make a presentation on bycatch issues, to discuss opportunities for IWC and RFMOs to work together.

Ongoing collaboration with ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS on a range of issues of mutual interest. The Bycatch Coordinator and Head of Science will participate in the joint ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS working group on bycatch and ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS are participating in the IWC Standing Working Group on Bycatch and Strandings Steering Group. Potential is being explored for a joint CMP with ACCOBAMS for the Mediterranean Fin Whale.

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Next steps: (i) Continue discussions on joint CMP with ACCOBAMS for the Mediterranean Fin Whale (ii) further consider opportunities to develop collaborative projects on bycatch and strandings priorities, including joint fundraising.

Discussions with UNEP including ongoing work with UNEP-CEP to develop an MOU (following request of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and UNEP-SPAW and endorsement of proposal to develop an MOU at the last Commission meeting. Unfortunately, UNEP requirements have revealed some MOU clauses that the Secretariat (following consultation with the Bureau) is unable to agree intersessionally and that will require Commission approval.

The Secretariat has also begun discussions with UNEP regarding opportunities for meeting with them in the margins of the next Scientific Committee meeting in Kenya.

Next steps: (i) MOU to be forwarded for Commission endorsement at its next meeting (ii) continue exploring opportunities to collaborate with UNEP, including through a meeting in Nairobi if possible

Collaboration with the IORA Secretariat and Australia in the establishment of the Sustainable Whale and Dolphin Watching Tourism Network.

Next steps: Collaboration with the Network through provision of information to the newsletters, dissemination of the IWC Whale Watching Handbook, and as opportunities arise.

2. Role of the Conservation Committee

There has been a growing number of IWC recommendations relating to engagement with other organisations. While the Secretariat tries to take forward these recommendations as far as possible, Secretariat resources (time and funding) to do so are limited and require a high degree of prioritisation e.g. which meetings to attend and the need for expectations management of potential partners.

The Conservation Committee Planning Group may wish to consider how the Secretariat and Conservation Committee can work more closely together in engaging other organisations to strengthen implementation of these recommendations. This could include:

- Conservation Committee advising on priorities to help guide the Secretariat work plan
- Action by Contracting Member through a) attending meetings of priority IGOs and reporting back from meetings when the Secretariat is unable to attend and b) liaison with the Secretariat (where attendance is a priority) to discuss details of participation in IGO meeting. This has already taken place for several meetings but could be strengthened. The Secretariat could support this by providing the Conservation Committee meetings with lists of forthcoming meetings, including those that the Secretariat plans to attend, and asking for volunteers to support participation.
- Action by Contracting Members to liaise with their counterparts in other IGOs to take forward IWC priorities and to speak in support (where possible) of IWC interventions at those meeting.
- This can be supported by ongoing review of implementation of relevant recommendations by the Conservation Committee, particularly when the database of IWC recommendations becomes operational, in order to identify where action is needed and how they can be taken forward.

If the CCPG agree with these suggestions then they could be developed for submission to the Conservation Committee.

Table 1
IWC66 recommendations on engaging other organisations.

Sub-Committee	Theme	Recommendation	Progress (not started, underway, ongoing, unknown)	Comments
Conservation Committee	Ship strikes	The CC recommended continued engagement with IMO on the issue of ship strikes.	Ongoing	The Secretariat attended MEPC72 and met with the IMO Secretariat in the margins to discuss a number of opportunities for collaboration in ship strikes and other issues
Conservation Committee	Whale watching	The IWC could support the IORA Network by: Sharing information, best practice, experience and expertise with IORA Member States including through the development of the Whale watching Handbook, including with case studies relevant to the IORA region; o Providing capacity-building and training for IORA and its Member States as appropriate. o Providing guidelines on best practice and other IWC resources to the IORA Secretariat for circulation among IORA Member States o Seeking to engage with the IORA Secretariat and the IORA Network through scientific and technical Cooperation and, where appropriate, seeking funding, to support sustainable whale watching in the IORA region.	In progress	The Concept Note for the Network was circulated by the IORA Secretariat to IORA Member States in February 2018. A Network Newsletter will be produced to share information and facilitate capacity building and it is hoped the first issue will be circulated by June 30th 2018. The Australian Government will coordinate the Network for the first 12 months and is reporting to the IWC Scientific Committee in April on the Network and to request input to the Newsletter. An intersessional correspondence group was established by the SC to help communicate with IORA, and this group will be utilised once the Network is fully established. The CCPG will also be updated and asked for input. The Secretariat will continue liaison with the IORA Secretariat as the Network develops.
Conservation Committee	Whale watching	Explore ways to get additional industry input and outside expertise for the relevant sections of the Handbook	In progress	Discussion on this issue has begun in the margins of the Scientific Committee with representatives of Pacific Whale Foundation. In addition the Whale Watching Standing Working Group will be asked for advice and support with the implementation of this recommendation.
Conservation Committee	Whale watching	Explore opportunities for collaboration with relevant intergovernmental organisations (e.g. CMS, CBD, SPREP etc) in the development of the Handbook	In progress	The Handbook is being developed in collaboration with CMS who have provided funding for its translation. In addition several other IGOs (including SPREP and ACCOBAMS) have requested and agreed to provide case studies. The Handbook will be shared with the IORA Network, and additional case studies requested as appropriate.
Conservation Committee	Whale watching	Assist with recommendations related to the outcomes of the IORA workshop	In progress	Once the Network is formally established, the IWC will take forward these recommendations.
Conservation Committee	Whale watching	Add two new ex officio industry members to the WGWW from 2016-2018.	In progress	Discussion on this issue has begun in the margins of the Scientific Committee with representatives of Pacific Whale Foundation. In addition the Whale Watching Standing Working Group will be asked for advice and support with the implementation of this recommendation.
Conservation Committee	Whale watching	The CC recommended that the CMS join the Working Group that has been tasked to develop the Whale Watching Handbook.	Complete	CMS joined the working group in April 2017.
Conservation Committee	Marine debris	The Committee welcomed progress made in addressing the issue of marine debris and encouraged further collaboration.	In progress	The Secretariat has contacted UNEP regarding joining the Global Partnership on marine litter and is exploring opportunities to further collaborate with its members including the IMO. The Secretariat participated and ensured IWC input into the FAO technical consultation on gear marking and will speak in support of adoption of the guidelines at COFI in July 2018. It has taken forward discussions on collaboration with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) and participated at a GGGI side event at the UN Oceans Conference (June 2017).
Conservation Committee	Strategic	The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should accept the invitations to join the Biodiversity Liaison Group and to participate in SPREP's 2017 Conference on "Whales in a Changing Ocean".	Complete	The Secretariat joined the BLG in late 2016. The technical advisor to the Secretariat participated in SPREP's 2017 Conference.
2015 Scientific Committee	Non-Deliberate Human-Induced Mortality of Ceteaceans (Annex J) - Ship	The Committee recommends that the Secretariat works with interested parties (including Greece, ACCOBAMS and the shipping industry) and now move forward with Greece in order to develop a proposal for routing measures in accordance with IMO guidelines.	In progress	A letter was sent to the Greek government to offer support.
2015 Scientific Committee	Non-Deliberate Human-Induced Mortality of Ceteaceans (Annex J) - Ship strikes	The joint IWC and UNEP-CEP-SPAW Ship Strikes Workshop, hosted by Panama in June 2014 (IWC, 2014d) reviewed progress on the recommendations from the previous IWC/ACCOBAMS Workshop on ship strikes held in 2010 (IWC, 2011a). As a priority action, the Workshop recommended that the IWC build a long-term working relationship with the IMO including the submission of a substantive document to the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee. The Committee agrees that this would be a useful initiative.	Ongoing	The IWC submitted a document to the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (April 2016) which drew attention to work by the IWC on the issue of ship strikes including identification of high risk areas, potential mitigation measures and the IWC ship strike database. The paper was widely welcomed and the MEPC noted the information in the IWC paper and encouraged member Governments to make mariners and authorities aware of the need to report any incidents to the IWC Ship Strike Database. The IWC Secretariat and Russell Leaper (Convenor of HIM) met with the IMO Secretariat in January 2016. The meeting resulted in a number of follow up actions including continued engagement on blue whales in Sri Lanka, IWC input to the MEPC, the ship strikes database, marine debris and underwater noise. The Secretariat had opportunity to meet again with the IMO Secretariat in the margins of the MEPC in 2017 and 2018 to continue these discussions.

Sub-Committee	Theme	Recommendation	Progress (not started, underway, ongoing, unknown)	Comments
2015 Scientific Committee	Environmental C	The Committee noted that ACCOBAMS has a resolution that reaffirms that anthropogenic marine noise is a form of pollution which can have adverse effects on marine life (Resolution 5.15). ACCOBAMS plans to: (1) identify anthropogenic noise/cetaceans interactions hot spots within its area; and (2) map and develop a monitoring of sea ambient noise, particularly in cetaceans critical habitats. The Committee encourages presentation on a report of this work at next year's meeting.	Complete	Further information on ACCOBAMS work on noise has been reported into the SC. Opportunities for collaboration will be further explored.
2015 Scientific Committee	Environmental C	In terms of the development of suitable liaison with other IGOs (as previously recommended and elaborated in papers SC/66a/E04 and SC/66a/E05) - and noting that the Commission may need to interact with some of them on a number of topics (e.g. IMO on noise, ship-strikes and perhaps ship-originated wastes) – the Committee recommends that the Secretariat liaise with members of the SWG's intersessional working group to identify future opportunities	In progress	A number of opportunities were discussed and taken forward including contribution to UN Secretary General report on marine debris. Further opportunities being discussed in context of developing plans for, and engaging other IGOs in, a further SC workshop on marine debris
2016 Scientific Committee	Non-Deliberate Human-Induced Mortality of Cetaceans (Annex J) - Bycatch &	With respect to the identification of gear to assist in the development of mitigation measures and priorities, the Committee: (a) recommends that inter alia as part of its Cooperation with FAO, the Secretariat informs the July meeting that to be useful for identifying the origin of gear removed from entangled whales, 'marks' need to be in more than one place on the gear, and preferably either continuous or approximately of the order of a whale's length apart;	Complete	Secretariat attended the COFI meeting in July 2016, made a supportive statement on gear marking and provided this input. In addition, David Mattila participated in the FAO technical consultation on marine debris in February 2018.
2016 Scientific Committee	Non-Deliberate Human-Induced Mortality of Cetaceans	The Committee recommends that, if the IWC enters into a proposed MOU with UNEP-SPAW, it should include specific actions (e.g. outreach and reporting) to encourage the reporting of ship strikes from the region.	In progress	See comments on status of MOU preparations below
2016 Scientific Committee	Non-Deliberate Human-Induced Mortality of Cetaceans (Annex J) - Ship strikes	The Committee welcomes the positive engagement of the Secretariat and the Committee with IMO last year. It recommends that the Secretariat, relevant members of the Committee and Contracting Governments continue to engage with the IMO Secretariat and relevant IMO committees to bring the work of the IWC to their attention as appropriate.	Ongoing	IWC Secretariat attended IMO Marine Environmental Protection Committee 71 (MEPC71) in July 2017 and spoke in support of a paper submitted by Canada on underwater noise from shipping. On basis of recommendations from the SC, the IWC submitted an information paper to MEPC 72 in April 2018 on the impacts on cetaceans of underwater noise from shipping. The Secretariat attended MEPC72, as well as meeting with IMO in the margins to discuss a number of opportunities for collaboration in ship strikes and other issues.
2016 Scientific Committee	Environmental Concerns (Annex K) - Anthropogenic sound	With respect to noise issues in general, the Committee: (a) agrees that there is compelling evidence that chronic anthropogenic noise is affecting the marine acoustic environment in many regions and recognised emerging evidence that compromised acoustic habitat can affect some cetacean populations adversely; (b) agrees that the lack of scientific certainty should not hinder management actions to reduce ocean noise (or indeed other potential threats) and recommends that absence of scientific certainty should not prevent member nations from undertaking management efforts now to keep quiet areas quiet and make noisy areas quieter; (c) agrees that addressing ocean noise is essential to meet United Nations Sustainable Development targets with respect to reducing pollution and fully protecting 10% of coastal and marine areas; (d) recommends that the Commission develop a paper for submission to the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee, providing an update of recent information related to the extent and impacts of underwater noise from shipping; (e) recommends the continued development of clear and concise statements and compelling audio-visual tools to convey the importance and impact of ocean noise; (f) recognises that noise is one of many stressors whale populations face, and recommends mitigation of the most tractable stressors, such as noise, as a way to increase populations' resilience and improve their future prospects in the face of less tractable stressors, such as climate change. In consideration of protected areas, the Committee recommends that efforts to finalise a process to identify 'Important Marine Mammal Areas' should include integration of information on anthropogenic noise into site selection and management, and where possible, reduce ocean noise levels.	d) Complete f) In progress	(d) IWC Secretariat attended IMO Marine Environmental Protection Committee 71 (MEPC71) in July 2017 and spoke in support of a paper submitted by Canada on underwater noise from shipping. On basis of recommendations from the SC, the Secretariat an information paper, drafted by the convenor of HIM, to MEPC 72 in April 2018 on the impacts on cetaceans of underwater noise from shipping. This was noted under the relevant agenda item.

Sub-Committee	Theme	Recommendation	Progress (not started, underway, ongoing, unknown)	Comments
2016 Scientific Committee	Environmental Concerns (Annex K) - Marine debris	The Committee welcomes the progress made on engaging with other bodies on marine debris and thanks the Secretariat for assisting in this international outreach. The Committee: (a) encourages further international outreach and collaboration, including with the Global Partnership for Marine Litter and the Global Ghost Gear Initiative; (b) encourages the Secretariat to continue to work with the intersessional working group on marine debris under Simmonds (for members and terms of reference see Annex V) with respect to strengthening relationships with other international bodies working on this issue; (c) recommends that the intersessional working group works with the Secretariat to coordinate Committee input for a statement on gear marking at the forthcoming July UN COFI meeting.	(a) (b) Ongoing c) Complete	The Secretariat has contacted UNEP regarding joining the Global Partnership on marine litter and is exploring opportunities to collaborate with its members including the IMO. The Secretariat participated and ensured IWC input into the FAO technical consultation on gear marking and will speak in support of adoption of the guidelines at COFI in July 2018. It has taken forward discussions on collaboration with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) and participated at a GGGI side event at the UN Oceans Conference (June 2017).
2016 Scientific Committee	Whalewatching (Annex N) - progress on Commission's 5yr Plan and joint work with CC	The Committee welcomes the report of the workshop 'Building sustainable whale and dolphin watching tourism in the Indian Ocean region' workshop held in Colombo, Sri Lanka (SC/66/CC03). Many member states of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) are not Members of the Commission. The Committee recommends that the Secretariat remain in contact with IORA to facilitate communication and outreach with these countries. The Committee also agrees to make the Indian Ocean the focus of next year's regional review (see Item 15.4) and to set up an intersessional working group (members and terms of reference are given in Annex V) to help provide advice to IORA if appropriate and to facilitate communication between IORA and the Committee.		The Concept Note for the Network was circulated by the IORA Secretariat to IORA Member States in February 2018. A Network Newsletter will be produced to share information and facilitate capacity building and it is hoped the first issue will be circulated by June 30th 2018. The Australian Government will coordinate the Network for the first 12 months and is reporting to the IWC Scientific Committee in April on the Network and to request input to the Newsletter. An intersessional correspondence group was established by the SC to help communicate with IORA, and this group will be utilised once the Network is fully established. The CCPG will also be updated and asked for input. The Secretariat will continue liaison with the IORA Secretariat as the Network develops.
Resolution on Minamata Convention	Pollution	DECIDES to seek collaboration with the Conference of the Parties of the Minamata Convention to exchange information, contribute in monitoring mercury levels in cetaceans and advance progress for the protection of cetacean health and related issues.	Not started	Will be taken forward after the 2018 Scientific Committee and progress reported to IWC67
Resolution on Minamata Convention	Pollution	INVITES ALSO Contracting Governments to cooperate together and with the WHO to assess the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and on the marine environment including the provision of related monitoring data.	Unknown	Action for contracting governments
Resolution on Minamata	Pollution	REQUESTS that the Secretariat share this resolution with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and seeks ways to collaborate with its objectives.	Not started	Will be taken forward after the 2018 Scientific Committee and progress reported to IWC67
Resolution on Cetaceans and Their Contributions to Ecosystem Functioning	Ecosystem functioning	DECIDES to increase collaboration and Cooperation with governmental and non- governmental, regional, and international organisations to work on the contributions made by live cetaceans to ecosystem functioning issues, including the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna among other and Flora, among others,	Not started	A paper with relevant recommendations will be submitted by Chile to the CCPG at its meeting in May 2017. Secretariat to request advice on how this recommendation should be taken forward
Commission		The Commission welcomed progress on Cooperation with other organisations and the work of the Secretariat, Scientific Committee and other Committee's in this respect. It endorsed the next steps proposed in Document IWC/66/4.	In Progress	See individual recommendations below
Commission		(i) Secretariat to continue efforts to cooperate with the IMO on issues of mutual interest; (ii) Secretariat, in liaison with the Scientific Committee, to develop a paper for submission to the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee, providing an update of recent information related to the extent and impacts of underwater noise from shipping; (iii) Secretariat/Convenor of HIM to attend future IMO meetings, including the MEPC (as appropriate) and consider the opportunity for side bar presentations on particular issues; (iv) Secretariat to explore the potential advantages of IWC engagement with GESAMP.	Complete	IWC Secretariat attended IMO Marine Environmental Protection Committee 71 (MEPC71) in July 2017 and spoke in support of a paper submitted by Canada on underwater noise from shipping. On basis of recommendations from the SC, the Secretariat an information paper, drafted by the convenor of HIM, to MEPC 72 in April 2018 on the impacts on cetaceans of underwater noise from shipping. The Secretariat and the convenor of HIM met with IMO in the margins to discuss a number of opportunities for collaboration in ship strikes and other issues.

Sub-Committee	Theme	Recommendation	Progress (not started, underway, ongoing, unknown)	Comments
Commission		(i) Secretariat to participate in the FAO Technical Consultation on gear marking that is expected to commence in 2017, coordinating input with the Scientific Committee; (ii) The Secretariat continue its efforts to strengthen its relationship with FAO with regards to by-catch and entanglement and to explore opportunities for engagement on other issues.	(i) Complete (ii) Ongoing	(i) Secretariat participated in the Technical Consultation on gear marking guidelines in February 2018 and input advice from the SC and entanglement response network. Guidelines will be adopted by COFI in July 2018 and there are opportunities for the IWC to engage in their implementation (ii) The Bycatch Coordinator, and several other IWC representatives attended the FAO Expert Workshop on bycatch in Rome in March 2018 and there are a number of opportunities for engagement in ongoing FAO work. The Coordinator and the Executive Secretary will attend COFI in July 2017 and propose to do an IWC side event on bycatch.
Commission		Secretariat to continue to explore opportunities for cooperation with the CBD and to participate in its forthcoming 13th Conference of Parties in December 2016.	Ongoing	Though the Secretariat planned to attend the CBD COP, this trip unfortunately had to be cancelled. However, regular information exchange with the CBD is ongoing and the Secretariat plans to attend the COP in 2018 to highlight IWC work and to discuss further opportunities for collaboration
Commission		The IWC Secretariat to review the relevance of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to work of the IWC.	Not started	Propose that this is replaced by engagement in the development of a post 2020 strategic plan for biodiversity and related Targets.
Commission		The Secretariat propose accepting the invitation to join the Biodiversity Liaison Group provided at Annex 1 and to attend meetings in person or by teleconference.	Complete	The Secretariat joined this group in October 2016. Though the Secretariat has not yet been able to attend an in-person meeting due to scheduling difficulties, this is a priority in the coming year
Commission		Secretariat to continue its ongoing cooperation with CMS, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS and to take forward immediate areas for collaboration including development of best practice for strandings response and IWC input to CMS boat based whale watching guidelines.	Ongoing	In addition to regular information exchange, several areas of cooperation with CMS, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS are ongoing including on strandings response (discussions on joint work on necropsy protocols), whalewatching (see above) and bycatch (Bycatch Coordinator has joined the joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS working group on bycatch), and CMPS (discussions on joint CMP on Mediterranean Fin Whale with ACCOBAMS). The Secretariat attended the CMS COP in October 2017 and made substantive inputs against a number of agenda items and relevant to several CMS Resolutions on areas of mutual interest with the IWC, as well as taking forward discussions on a range of topics in the margins.
Commission		IWC Secretariat and Scientific Committee continue engagement with the Arctic Council on marine mammal and marine biodiversity issues, and Arctic disaster response plans and continuing to explore the potential for collaboration with	Not started	No further action as yet but will be picked up before IWC67
Commission		Continue liaison with the IUCN WGSP and with the IUCN Task Force on Marine Mammal Protected Areas, including to explore ways to progress the relevant IWC recommendations on ship strikes and anthropogenic noise	In progress	The IWC has been working with the IUCN Task Force on MMPA to explore the feasibility of a joint workshop to take an "in depth" look at the utility of using IMMA's and shipping data, to identify "high risk areas". This was endorsed by HIM at SC67B.
Commission		The Secretariat will continue its efforts to strengthen engagement with the RFMOs. In addition, the commission may wish to invite the Scientific Committee and Conservation Committees to raise any issues for communication to particular RFMOs on which IWC are represented as observers, or for the Executive Secretary to bring to the RSN.	In progress	The Executive Secretary and the Bycatch Coordinator will participate in RSN meetings at COFI in July 2018 and will raise the issue of bycatch for discussion. In addition, on the request of the SC, the Secretariat wrote to the IOTC to offer the assistance of the SC in their efforts to mitigate bycatch, and the ES and bycatch coordinator have since had follow up discussions with IOTC, ICCAT and IATTC Secretariats regarding opportunities to work together on this topic. Opportunities to further engage with RFMOs have been identified by the strategic assessment for the BMI and relevant recommendations will be presented to the Conservation Committee at IWC67.
Commission		IWC Secretariat to take forward further discussions with NAMMCO with respect to shared interests and identify any opportunities for closer collaboration.	Ongoing	The Executive Secretary attended the NAMMCO Council meeting in March 2018 and is engaged in follow up discussions on several topics of mutual interest
Commission		Secretariat to accept the invitation to participate in SPREP's 2017 "Whales in a Changing Ocean" Conference and to hold further discussions with SPREP on opportunities to strengthen collaboration and for joint fundraising efforts.	Complete	Secretariat attended this conference. Discussions with SPREP held in the margins of this and are being taken forward including on whale watching (SPREP contribution to the whalewatching handbook) and bycatch
Commission		IWC to continue engagement with CPPS and explore opportunities for further collaboration in the future.	In progress	Engagement on the upcoming Chile/Peru combined entanglement and stranding response training, in October. Following this, CCPS submitted a proposal to their members and received \$10,000 USD to help support the attendance of participants.
Commission		IWC Secretariat to continue its efforts to strengthen engagement with DOALOS including on issues relevant to UNCLOS.	In progress	Secretariat collated and submitted a report to DOALOS on "Anthropogenic Underwater noise" as a contribution to the Report of the UN Secretary General to the United Nations Open Ended Informal Consultative Process which will focus on noise as its next meeting in June 2018. There are opportunities for the IWC to participate at this meeting and to strengthen engagement with other organisations in follow up.
Commission		i) The Secretariat continue in its efforts to strengthen engagement with UNEP, with particular focus on opportunities to collaborate with UNEP regional offices and organisations; (ii) the Secretariat consider joining the Global	In progress	(i) The Secretariat is in contact with UNEP regarding meetings in the margins of the SC in 2019 to discuss areas of mutual interest and opportunities to collaborate (ii) the Secretariat has contacted UNEP to discuss joining the GPML

Sub-Committee	Theme	Recommendation	Progress (not started, underway, ongoing, unknown)	Comments
		Partnership on marine litter http://www.marinelitternetwork.org/page/global-partnership-marine-litter as a means of networking, information sharing, knowledge exchange and progress monitoring with respect to marine debris.		
Commission		Secretariat to continue discussions on and agree MoC with UNEP SPAW, working with the Scientific Committee as appropriate.	In progress	A draft MOU is under discussion but there are some technical issues to be referred to the Commission. An update will be provided to the CCPG in May 2017.
Commission		The Secretariat continue to take a watching brief on developments under UNEA.	Ongoing	See above
Commission		The IWC review the relevance of the SDGs to IWC work (ii) The IWC Secretariat keep a watching brief on and take forward (as appropriate) opportunities for engagement with the process for SDG review and implementation	Ongoing	The Secretariat attended the UN Oceans Conference (June 2017) where it highlighted the contribution of the IWC to the implementation of SDG14 in a number of IWC work areas. It made a plenary intervention highlighting the issue of bycatch, and the IWC submitted several voluntary commitments to the conference including on bycatch, entanglement, whale watching and an overarching commitment on the conservation and management of cetaceans https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments