

IWC/MAY18/CCPG/12

Conservation Committee Workplan

Conservation Committee



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – Work Plan for the intersessional period 2016-20

Sources: IWC64 & IWC65 Conservation Committee reports; IWC64 & IWC65 Chair's Reports.

Revised as at May 2018

| Aim | Deliverable/Action | Progress | Responsibility | Timescale | Funding allocated |
|--|---|--|---|-----------|-------------------|
| Strategic Planning and Reporting | | | | | |
| Develop a coherent strategy to aid work planning and raise awareness of the work of the Conservation Committee. | Develop a broad vision statement and an outward facing Strategic Plan for its delivery. | Completed. Adopted at IWC66. | Australia. UK. | | N/A |
| | Draft and agree thematic strategic plans for the priority areas of work identified in the outward facing Strategic Plan | A thematic strategic plan for CMPs will be developed for consideration by the CC at IWC68. A draft strategic plan for Bycatch will be developed for consideration by the CC at IWC67. | Relevant Standing Working Groups and other working groups | | See below |
| | Reach out to other IGO partners and identify potential funding donors to provide voluntary contributions to support conservation management actions. | | Secretariat | | |
| | Develop a coherent work plan with resources identified where possible. | | Conservation Committee Vice Chair | | |
| Ensure effective implementation of Conservation Committee recommendations and cross-fertilisation with the Scientific Committee. | Establish a Steering Group to be made up of: Chair and Vice Chair of Conservation Committee, Chair and Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee, representatives from Australia, Argentina, Belgium, USA, Secretariat and convenors of the Conservation Committee preparatory meeting. [NEEDS AMENDMENT TO REFLECT ADOPTION OF TOR FOR CCPG] | The Work of the joint CC/SC has included the development of a database of recommendations that will be presented to the Conservation Committee and Commission at IWC67 | Conservation Committee Chair Scientific Committee Chair | | |
| | Establish regular joint meetings (including agreeing Terms of Reference) of the Conservation Committee/Scientific Committee to facilitate the progression of recommendations. | Joint CC/SC meetings were held immediately after the Scientific Committee meetings in 2015,2016,2017 and 2018 | Conservation Committee Chair Scientific Committee Chair | | |
| | Undertake an analysis of Conservation Committee recommendations, including providing a consideration of successes and barriers to effective implementation | | Intersessional preparatory drafting group of the CC/SC working group | | |
| Ensure effective reporting to and from the Conservation Committee | Review the current Conservation Committee country reporting template to ensure it remains fit for purpose and delivers the necessary information | Proposed revisions to the reporting process and template will be presented to the CC at IWC67 | Conservation Committee Chair/vice Chair Secretariat | | |

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| | Ensure the information provided by countries in their reports to the Conservation Committee is used effectively in delivering its strategic goals | | Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat | | |
| | Increase the number of country reports provided to the Conservation Committee. | | Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat | | |
| Sustainable management of whale and dolphin watching | | | | | |
| Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of whalewatching operations on cetaceans. Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on whalewatching. | Revise and update, as necessary, the 5-Year Strategic Plan for Whalewatching. | A draft outline is currently being reviewed by the SC and then will go under further refinement by the WWWG for presentation to IWC 67 CC | Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair | | |
| | Develop and publish the online whale watching Handbook, seeking input from the Scientific Committee as appropriate. | Handbook completion is on track for IWC 67 and relevant sections are currently under final review with WWWG and SC | Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair IWC Secretariat | | |
| | Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing whalewatching and progress any opportunities for capacity building. | An Indian Ocean Rim Association network has been established to build sustainable whale and dolphin watching tourism in the Indian Ocean region. The first newsletter will be developed before IWC67. | Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair | | N/A – Australia will coordinate network for first 12 months |
| | Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities. | Discussed in the WG and part of strategic plan revision | Conservation Committee Secretariat Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair | | |
| | Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of whalewatching. | Not currently prioritized, but can be for next intersessional period. | Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair | | |
| Conservation Management Plans | | | | | |

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| Further the development and implementation of conservation management plans (CMPs) | Complete a mid-term review of the 2014-2020 CMP WG work plan, to identify progress to date and to inform future priorities, including the status of expenditure under, and guidelines for the use of, the CMP fund. | <p>The mid-term review is underway and a revised work plan will be presented to the CC at IWC67.</p> <p>The mid-term review provides an update on each of the CMPs, and update actions e.g. removing completed or superseded actions and prioritising actions that can be achieved over the next years.</p> <p>We will include the status of expenditure of the CMPs fund in the report to the CC at IWC67.</p> <p>Guidelines for use of the fund are being considered as part of the mid-term review.</p> | Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans | Intersessionally | N/A |
| | Develop a work plan to progress the development of regional inventories, including the Arctic and Indian Oceans. | <p>A review of the usefulness of the Pacific inventory will be conducted over the next intersessional period. Recommendations on future inventories will be provided to the CC at IWC68.</p> | Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans | Intersessionally | TBC |
| | Maintain CMP guidelines, templates and funding principles on the IWC website for use by members wishing to undertake a CMP. | These are being updated as part of the mid-term review of the CMP work plan. | Secretariat | Ongoing | N/A |
| | Develop a list of priority species for future CMPs | A list of priority species will be included in the report to the CC at IWC67. It will be updated based on advice from the SC-CMPs group at SC67b. | <p>Scientific Committee</p> <p>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</p> | Intersessionally | N/A |
| | Refine the inventory of cetacean conservation measures in the Pacific Islands Region and report to the next meeting of the SWG-CMP; | As above, a review of the usefulness of the Pacific inventory will be conducted over the next intersessional period. | <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</p> <p>SPREP/Australia</p> | Intersessionally | TBC |
| | Request the Scientific Committee to review the Oceania Humpback Recovery Plan and assess whether there are gaps that can be | The SWG-CMP will discuss this with the SC-CMPs group, along with other suitable candidates for CMPs. | Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans | | |

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| | addressed by the IWC; and submit reports on the implementation of the Humpback Recovery Plan. | | SC-CMP Group SPREP/Australia | | |
| | Support discussions between scientists and relevant range state governments to continue to further progress development of an Arabian Sea humpback whales CMP | At the CMS CoP in October 2017, a Concerted Action for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale was agreed. Strong supporting statements were made by Pakistan, UAE, Ecuador, India, Oman, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the IWC Secretariat. Letters were sent to Omani and Indian Commissioners in December 2017. India responded in April 2018 expressing support for developing a CMP. | Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans | Ongoing | TBC |
| | Implement the nine high priority actions that were identified in the Southwest Atlantic Southern right whale CMP . | CMP is in place and being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC67. | Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans CMP Coordinator (Brazil) | Ongoing | |
| | Implement the Southeast Pacific Southern right whale CMP , focusing on the short term objectives in the early implementation stages. | CMP is in place and being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC67. | Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans CMP Coordinator (Chile) | Ongoing | |
| | Implement the Northwest Pacific Gray Whale CMP , focusing on CMP review and operationalising the MoU | CMP is in place and is being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC67. | Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans CMP Coordinator (Japan) | Ongoing | |
| | Implement the Franciscana dolphin CMP , focusing on establishing coordination and monitoring processes | CMP is in place and is being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC67. | Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans CMP Coordinator (Argentina) | Ongoing | |
| | Consider actions arising from May 2013 meeting of the SWG-CMP, to determine if these still remain a priority in light of the 2014-2020 work plan and the proposed mid-term review: The actions are listed below. | An action plan focusing on deliverables for 2018-2020 will be included in the revised work plan | Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans | Intersessionally | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review guidelines on the use of the CMP fund. | The CMP funding principles are being reviewed and revised as part of the mid-term review. This will take into account the financial work being undertaken centrally within the | | | |

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| | | Secretariat, as well as the work of the ICG-SF and VCF-SG. | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a list of recommendations to be provided to the IWC communications officer for the development of media to promote CMPs | New communications actions will be included in the revised work plan. | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft a proposal for submission to the Scientific Committee on how CMPs can be addressed by the Scientific Committee, and how Scientific Committee information related to CMPs can be provided to proponents. | A new SC-CMPs group was established in 2017. Ensuring effective two-way communication between the groups will be a key focus for the next two years. | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the ICG-SF to review the World Bank's Global Program on Oceans guidelines, and if appropriate, draft a proposal seeking funding for marine debris. | N/A – decision not to proceed with threat-based CMPs at this point. We are working with the ICG-SF on funding for CMPs generally. | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a 10-year framework for CMPs to guide the work of the SWG. | New CMPs thematic strategic plan to be developed for IWC68. | | | May require funding – TBC |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the SWG-CMP terms of reference in light of the group's broader working agenda. | Will be considered as part of the mid-term review. | | | |
| Whale Sanctuaries and protected areas | | | | | |
| Provide conservation and management input into reviews of proposed and existing whale sanctuaries as appropriate. | Work with the Scientific Committee to ensure the Conservation Committee contributes to the review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SoS) from a policy and management perspective. | | Conservation Committee Chair | | |
| | Work with the Scientific Committee to ensure the Conservation Committee contributes to the review of the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary (SAWS) from a policy and management perspective. | | Conservation Committee Chair | | |
| Ship Strikes | | | | | |
| <p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of ship strikes on cetaceans at a population and individual level.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on ship strikes.</p> | Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing ship strikes and progress any opportunities for capacity building. | | Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat Ship Strikes Working Group | | SC Research budget Netherlands USA |

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| | Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities. | | Conservation Committee Secretariat Ship Strikes Working Group David Matilla (IWC entanglement adviser) | | |
| | Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of ship strikes. | | Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat | | |
| | Ensure the maintenance of a dedicated IWC ship strike data co-ordinator and consider reports on the development of the IWC ship strike databases. | | Conservation Committee Scientific Committee | | |
| | Maintain dialogue with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government of Sri Lanka with regards the risk of ship strike to blue whales • The Government of Greece with regards ship strike risk to sperm whales | The Secretariat has established a dialogue with the Sri Lanka Government, including a meeting between the Secretary and Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife (Gamini Jayawickrama) to draw attention to the discussion of ship strikes and ways in which the Commission may assist. | IWC Secretariat Scientific Committee | | |
| | Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications. | | Conservation Committee | | |
| | Develop a Ship Strikes Strategic Plan to include data gathering and mitigation and to ensure effectiveness of the IWC ship strikes database. | | Ship Strikes Working Group Chair | | |
| | Facilitate the submission of data to the Ship Strike database and inclusion in voluntary conservation reports | | Conservation Committee | | |
| Marine Debris | | | | | |
| Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of marine debris on cetaceans at a population and individual level. | Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing marine debris and progress any opportunities for capacity building. | | Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat | | |
| Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to | Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities. | | Conservation Committee Secretariat | | |

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| ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on marine debris. | | | David Matilla (IWC entanglement adviser)Secretariat | | |
| | Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of marine debris. | | Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat | | |
| | Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications. | | Conservation Committee | | |
| Bycatch | | | | | |
| Further develop and implement the work of the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative. | Develop and implement a costed workplan and strategic plan for the initiative. | Outline of strategic plan developed. Strategic assessment of potential work areas near complete | Bycatch coordinator Standing Working Group Bycatch Expert Panel on Bycatch Conservation Committee | Development of work plan & draft strategic plan by IWC67; Implementation of workplan 2018-2020 | |
| | Provide technical advice and capacity building to contracting and non-contracting governments in tackling bycatch, through pilot projects and from direct requests for assistance. Identify capacity development needs and monitor progress. | | Bycatch Coordinator Bycatch Expert Panel Standing Working Group on Bycatch Conservation Committee Secretariat David Matilla (IWC entanglement adviser)Secretariat | 2019-ongoing | |
| | Engagement with FAO and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and other IGOs, NGOS to strengthen monitoring, reporting and management of bycatch. | Attendance at FAO technical workshop on mitigation measures for marine mammal bycatch; planned attendance at COFI and RSN meeting July 2018. Engagement with IOTC and other RFMOs. Ongoing engagement with CMS, ASCOBAMS and ACCOBAMs and NAMMCO | Bycatch Coordinator Conservation Committee Standing Working Group on Bycatch Expert Panel | 2018-ongoing | |

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| | Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of bycatch through the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative. | | Standing Working Group on Bycatch Conservation Committee Secretariat Bycatch Coordinator | | |
| | Develop recommendations based on the findings and outputs arising from the BMI, including pilot studies, and engagement with IGOs and relevant workshops and publications. | | Conservation Committee Standing Working Group on Bycatch Bycatch Coordinator | | |
| Anthropogenic Sound | | | | | |
| <p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on anthropogenic noise.</p> | Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing anthropogenic noise and progress any opportunities for capacity building, in particular with regards the IMO (<i>IWC/64/Rep5</i> , <i>IWC/64/Rep1</i>). | | Conservation Committee Secretariat Intersessional Group on Anthropogenic Sound | | |
| | Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities. | | Conservation Committee Secretariat Intersessional Group on Anthropogenic Sound | | |
| | Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of anthropogenic noise. | | Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat | | |
| | <p>Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Marine Activities on Cetaceans in the Arctic (<i>IWC/65/Rep07 Rev1</i>) • Planned workshop on the evaluation of stress and sound (<i>IWC66 rep1 (2015) 12.4.3</i>). | | | | |
| Other Threats | | | | | |

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| Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of chemical pollution on cetaceans. | | | | | |
| Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of climate change on cetaceans. | | | | | |
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