

Final progress report on Conservation Committee Work Plan 2016- 2020

September 2020

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	Ongoing. A strategic plan for Bycatch was endorsed by the CC at IWC67 A thematic strategic plan for CMPs will be developed for consideration by the CC at IWC68. A ship strikes strategic plan was endorsed at IWC66.	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.	Ongoing	Secretariat		
	Develop a coherent work plan with resources identified where possible.	Ongoing. An interim CC workplan will be agreed by the CC at its virtual meeting in 2021. A new draft four year workplan will be discussed by the Conservation Committee at IWC68	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.	Complete At IWC66, the Commission endorsed Terms of Reference (see Annex 1) for annual Conservation Committee Planning Group meetings which would help set the agenda for the biennial Conservation Committee meeting and ensure progression of the Conservation Committee work plan in the intersessional period. The Work of the joint CC/SC has included the development of a database of recommendations that was	Conservation Committee Chair Scientific Committee Chair		

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		endorsed by Conservation Committee and Commission at IWC67			
	Establish regular joint meetings (including agreeing Terms of Reference) of the Conservation Committee/Scientific Committee to facilitate the progression of recommendations.	Ongoing. 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	Complete. Initial analysis done and led to recommendations on the development of a database of recommendations.	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	Ongoing. Proposed revisions to the reporting process and template were endorsed at IWC67. Progress will be reported to the virtual CC meeting in Sept 2020 with a view to developing a pilot Conservation Database by IWC68.	Conservation Committee Chair/vice Chair Secretariat		
	Ensure the information provided by countries in their reports to the Conservation Committee is used effectively in delivering its strategic goals	Ongoing. To be taken into account in development of the Conservation Database.	Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat		
	Increase the number of country reports provided to the Conservation Committee.	Ongoing. This is an objective of the Conservation Database and engagement will be sought with countries to determine how barriers to reporting can be overcome.	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 whale watching.	Revise and update, as necessary, the 5-Year Strategic Plan for Whale watching.	Complete. Revisions were endorsed at IWC67	Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair		
	Develop and publish the online whale watching Handbook, seeking input from the Scientific Committee as appropriate.	Complete with further development ongoing. The Handbook has been completed and was warmly welcomed at IWC67. A consultancy contract was awarded for developing further content for the Handbook. Progress will be reported to the virtual Conservation Committee meeting in 2020.	Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair IWC Secretariat		
	Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing	Ongoing. An Indian Ocean Rim Association network has been established to build sustainable whale and dolphin watching tourism in the	Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat		N/A

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	whalewatching and progress any opportunities for capacity building.	Indian Ocean region and the IWC is exploring opportunities to engage with this network.	Standing Working Group on Whale Watching Chair		
	Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities.	Ongoing	Conservation Committee Secretariat Standing Working Group on Whale Watching Chair		
	Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of whalewatching.	Ongoing. This can be done on an ongoing basis using outputs from the IWC database of recommendations.	Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat Standing Working Group on Whale Watching Chair		
Conservation Management Plans					
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>Complete</p> <p>A mid-term review of the work plan was undertaken during the 2016-18 intersessional period, and a revised work plan was submitted to the Conservation Committee and Commission for endorsement at IWC67.</p> <p>A revised workplan will be presented to the CC at IWC68.</p>	Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans	Complete	N/A
	Develop a work plan to progress the development of regional inventories, including the Arctic and Indian Oceans.	Recommendations on future inventories will be provided to the CC at IWC68.	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.	Complete. These were reviewed and updated, as necessary, as part of the mid-term review of the CMP work plan. They will remain under biennial review as needed.	Secretariat	Biennial	N/A

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	Develop a list of priority species for future CMPs	<p>Ongoing. The Scientific Committee has advised that several species/populations should be considered priorities for CMP development. This means that range states can progress straight to the CMP drafting stage (rather than first preparing a nomination).</p> <p>A list of priority species is included in CMP work plan. It will be updated annually based on advice from the SC-CMPs group.</p>	<p>Scientific Committee</p> <p>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</p>	Ongoing	N/A
	Refine the inventory of cetacean conservation measures in the Pacific Islands Region and report to the next meeting of the SWG-CMP;	A review of the usefulness of the Pacific inventory will be presented to IWC68. This deliverable/action will be combined with the related action above in the 2021 CC workplan.	<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 addressed by the IWC; and submit reports on the implementation of the Humpback Recovery Plan.	The SWG-CMP will discuss this with the SC-CMPs group, along with other suitable candidates for CMPs.	<p>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</p> <p>SC-CMP Group</p> <p>SPREP/Australia</p>		
	Support discussions between scientists and relevant range state governments to continue to further progress development of an Arabian Sea humpback whales CMP	Ongoing. The Arabian Sea humpback whale has been recommended as a priority species for CMP development by the Scientific Committee. The IWC continues to actively engage with Countries and stakeholders in the region regarding the opportunity for a CMP on this species.	<p>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</p>	Ongoing	TBC
	Implement the nine high priority actions that were identified in the Southwest Atlantic Southern right whale CMP.	Ongoing. CMP is in place and being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC in September 2020.	<p>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</p> <p>CMP Coordinator (Brazil)</p>	Ongoing	
	Implement the Southeast Pacific Southern right whale CMP, focusing on the short term objectives in the early implementation stages.	Ongoing. CMP is in place and being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC in September 2020.	<p>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</p> <p>CMP Coordinator (Chile)</p>	Ongoing	

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	Implement the Northwest Pacific Gray Whale CMP, focusing on CMP review and operationalising the MoU	Ongoing. CMP is in place and is being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC in September 2020.	Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans CMP Coordinator (Japan)	Ongoing			
	Implement the Franciscana dolphin CMP , focusing on establishing coordination and monitoring processes	Ongoing. CMP is in place and is being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC in September 2020.	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.	Complete. An action plan focusing on deliverables for 2018-2020 is 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. 	Complete. CMP funding guidelines were reviewed and updated as part of the mid-term review.					
	<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 	Complete. The revised work plan includes new actions aimed at better promoting the CMP program.					
	<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. 	Complete. A new SC-CMPs group was established in 2017 and effective two way communication has been maintained between the two groups..					
	<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. 	Ongoing. New CMPs thematic strategic plan under development and will be presented to 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. 	Complete.					
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.	Complete. Draft SOS management plan was reviewed by the CC at IWC67.			Conservation Committee Chair		

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	Work with the Scientific Committee to ensure the Conservation Committee contributes to the review of the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary proposal (SAWS) from a policy and management perspective.	Complete. Review complete. Proposal not adopted by Commission. CC to review any future sanctuary proposals submitted.	Conservation Committee Chair		
Ship Strikes					
<p>Seek opportunities to implement the Ship Strikes Strategic Plan.</p> <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.	<p>Ongoing. Secretariat and Scientific Committee have continued engagement with the International Maritime Organization (IMO).</p> <p>The IWC joined with ACCOBAMS and IUCN in April 2019 to host a workshop exploring how Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) might be overlaid with shipping information to help identify high risk areas from ship strikes</p>	<p>Conservation Committee Chair</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Ship Strikes Working Group</p>		<p>SC Research budget</p> <p>Netherlands</p> <p>USA</p>
	Review progress of outreach activities and information dissemination, specifically offering advice on how best to enhance and expand outreach efforts.	To be undertaken in new ship strikes workplan presented to the CC in September 2020.	<p>Ship Strikes Working Group</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>David Matilla (IWC entanglement adviser)</p>		
	Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of ship strikes.	Ongoing. To be undertaken on an ongoing basis using outputs from the database of recommendations.	<p>Conservation Committee Chair</p> <p>Secretariat</p>		
	Ensure the continued maintenance, updating and promotion of the ship strike database. Work to foster the submission of data to the IWC ship strike database and finalize assessment of existing records.	Ongoing. To be a high priority in new ship strikes workplan.	<p>Conservation Committee</p> <p>Scientific Committee</p>		
	<p>Maintain dialogue with:</p> <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 	Ongoing. The Secretariat has established a dialogue with the Sri Lankan 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.	<p>IWC Secretariat</p> <p>Scientific Committee</p>		

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		The Secretariat wrote again to the Greek authorities in June 2018 to offer assistance.			
	Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications. Work with the Scientific Committee on the proposed workshop to assess Important Marine Mammal Areas and the applicability of this approach for identifying high risk areas for ship strikes.	Complete	Ship Strikes Working Group Scientific Committee		
	Support funding applications to implement the Ship Strikes Strategic Plan	Ongoing. Funding for a staffing support for a data manager is proposed to be sought before IWC68			
	Developed a costed work plan for presentation to IWC68 to ensure effective delivery of the Ship Strikes Strategic Plan, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee.	Ongoing. To be presented to the virtual CC meeting in September 2020.	Ship Strikes Working Group 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.	Ongoing. Marine Debris was the topic of an IWC workshop 3-5 December 2020. The report will be presented to the virtual CC meeting in Sept 2020 along with a proposed workplan 2020-21	Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat		
Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on marine debris.	Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities.	Undertaken by the expert workshop (above)	Conservation Committee Secretariat David Mattila (IWC entanglement adviser) Secretariat		
	Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of marine debris.	Ongoing. Can be undertaken on an ongoing basis using database of recommendations.	Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat		
	Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications.	Ongoing. Recommendations reviewed and follow up action suggested in proposed workplan 2020-21	Conservation Committee		

Bycatch					
Further develop and implement the work of the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative.	<p>Identify strategic opportunities for the BMI to work on cetacean bycatch</p> <p>Develop and implement 2020-2024 costed Workplan and continue to implement Strategic Plan for the initiative.</p>	<p>Workplan (2018-2020) progress reported separately.</p> <p>Complete: Pilot project locations identified and (Near complete) All IWC Commissioners from prioritised countries contacted about possible collaboration on BMI pilots projects;</p> <p>Ongoing RFMO & FAO engagement underway; Capacity building programme initiated.</p> <p>Complete: Indian Ocean bycatch workshop held & priorities identified</p> <p>Complete: New BMI workplan (2020-2024) to be submitted to virtual CC meeting in September 2020.</p>	<p>Bycatch coordinator Standing Working Group Bycatch Expert Panel Conservation Committee</p>	<p>2020-ongoing: Implementation of Strategic Plan</p>	
	<p>Identify capacity development needs of IWC contracting governments and non-contracting governments and main barriers in relation to tackling cetacean bycatch.</p> <p>Provide technical advice and capacity building to contracting and non-contracting governments in tackling bycatch, through experience gained in pilot projects, affiliated projects etc. Provide advice in response to direct requests for assistance and a dedicated capacity/training programme in collaboration with external partners and existing IWC programmes (e.g. CMPs, GWERN etc).</p>	<p>Complete: Indian Ocean cetacean bycatch workshop held in May 2019, identifying key challenges and needs for IWC and non-IWC governments across region for addressing this issue. Outreach with experts and government representatives in priority countries for pilot projects.</p> <p>Ongoing: Planned workshop on training on rapid bycatch risk assessment (ByRA toolkit) Colombia. ByRa toolkit manual translated into Spanish.</p> <p>Ongoing: Discussion with CMP-SWG Chairs on how to engage more closely with CMPs for bycatch action. Involvement in discussions on Asian River dolphin CMP development.</p>	<p>Bycatch Coordinator Bycatch Expert Panel Standing Working Group on Bycatch Conservation Committee Secretariat including IWC entanglement adviser/ Human Impact Reduction</p>	<p>2020-ongoing</p>	
	<p>Engagement with relevant IGOs (including FAO, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations & Bodies, CMS, NAMMCO), international bodies (e.g. World Bank, MSC, ICES), industry groups (ISSF etc) and research bodies and NGOS to strengthen collaboration and coordination in relation to bycatch work.</p>	<p>Complete: FAO. BMI coordinator participated in 2019 FAO expert workshop on developing technical guidelines to reducing marine mammal bycatch. Detailed comments from Coordinator, Expert Panel and Secretariat provided to FAO on draft 1 & 2 of guidelines. IWC Secretariat</p>	<p>Bycatch Coordinator Conservation Committee Standing Working Group on Bycatch Expert Panel</p>	<p>2020-ongoing</p>	

released a Circular alerting IWC Commissioners, national representatives and Scientific Committee members to comment period for draft guidelines. FAO Secretariat staff participated in SC68B meeting and presented on the draft Technical Guidelines. *Planned attendance at FAO COFI 2021 meeting *tbc.

RFMOs.

Complete: *Kobe bycatch working group*
IWC Secretariat participated in 2019 Joint tuna RFMO working group on bycatch (Kobe bycatch working group) meeting, December 2019. Held a dedicated side event (55 attendees) to raise awareness of cetacean bycatch & the need for RFMOs to assess and address this issue in a multi-taxa bycatch context.

Common Oceans ABNJ

Ongoing: Collaboration with Common Oceans ABNJ Phase 2 development team. Development and submission of cetacean bycatch project concept 'capsule'.

RFMO review document

Complete: IWC Secretariat commissioned a review document assessing 16 RFMOs for their cetacean bycatch management measures & suggested prioritisation for IWC engagement. External review by RFMOs, Secretariat staff, Bycatch Expert Panel, SWG and NGOs. Reviewed by SC68B. Submitted to CC68A meeting CC/68A/06.4.2/01.

IOTC

Ongoing
BMI Coordinator remotely participated in the 15th session of IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (2019). Presentation given on outcomes from BMI Indian Ocean Workshop.
Chair of IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch attended the BMI Indian Ocean bycatch workshop in Nairobi where specific opportunities for

		<p>engaging IOTC on cetacean bycatch were discussed. Chair of WPEB and IOTC Secretariat staff participated in SC68B meeting in HIM sub-committee. IOTC and IWC held a joint meeting in advance of 16th session of WPEB to discuss potential collaborative actions to address cetacean bycatch in Indian Ocean tuna fisheries. The Bycatch Coordinator participated in the 16th WPEB meeting and presented the main outcomes of the joint IOTC-IWC meeting.</p> <p>CMS Complete Collaboration with CMS and WWF in relation to technical review of Guidelines for the Safe and Humane Handling and Release of Bycaught Small Cetaceans from Fishing Gear - CMS Technical Series No.43. Document jointly submitted with CMS and WWF to IOTC WPEB.</p> <p>ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS. BMI Ongoing Coordinator part of the joint working group on bycatch. Planned attendance for first in-person meeting (postponed).</p> <p>NGOs Ongoing BMI coordinator regularly engages with a number of NGOs including Pew Foundation, WWF, WDC, HSI. Includes engaging NGO support (financial, in-kind, contacts etc) for Indian Ocean bycatch workshop (e.g. Pew, WWF). Collaboration planned in potential pilot projects (e.g. WWF, WDC). Coordination on RFMO engagement (WWF, Pew, WDC). Initial Discussions held with International Pole and Line Foundation and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership in relation to collaboration.</p>			
	<p>Report to the Commission on progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of bycatch through the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Progress report to be submitted to CC 68A meeting in 2020</p>	<p>Standing Working Group on Bycatch Conservation Committee Secretariat Bycatch Coordinator</p>	<p>2020- ongoing</p>	

	Develop recommendations based on the findings and outputs arising from the BMI, including pilot studies, affiliated projects and engagement with IGOs and relevant workshops and publications.	Ongoing: Recommendations from Report of the IWC Workshop on Bycatch Mitigation Opportunities in the Western Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea to be considered by CC 68A meeting in 2020.	Conservation Committee Standing Working Group on Bycatch Bycatch Coordinator	Ongoing	
	IWC Contracting Governments to Support the BMI as appropriate according to national circumstances including: -Through the development of appropriate national legislation and plans to tackle bycatch -Reporting of experiences and plans on bycatch into the BMI and through Conservation Committee Reports -Assistance in identifying potential funding sources to support the BMI (pilot projects/capacity development), and work with the Bycatch Coordinator to develop collaborative joint proposals.	Ongoing	Conservation Committee Standing Working Group on Bycatch	Ongoing	
Anthropogenic Sound					
Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans. Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on anthropogenic noise.	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. IWC/64/Rep1</i>).	Ongoing. Provision of a paper to the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), providing an update of recent information on underwater noise from shipping Since then the IWC has continued engagement with the International Maritime Organization on this issue, including attendance at a workshop on 'Quieting Ships to Protect the Marine Environment: Technical Workshop' organised jointly by the IMO and Canada and will engage in future IMO MEPC meetings where this will be discussed. Engagement with the UN including contribution to the report of the UN Secretary General on Anthropogenic Underwater noise to the Open Ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (18-22 June 2018) and Executive Secretary participation as a panellist at this meeting.	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.	Ongoing. Can be undertaken on an ongoing basis using outputs from the database of recommendations.	Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat		
	Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications including: <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>). 	This will be a focus of new workplan activities which are proposed and will be discussed at the virtual meeting of the CC in September 2020.			
Other Threats					
Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of chemical pollution on cetaceans.		Intersessional efforts to develop a CC workplan on chemical pollution ongoing and progress will be reported to IWC68			
Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of climate change on cetaceans.		Intersessional efforts to develop a CC workplan on chemical pollution ongoing and progress will be reported to IWC68			