



INTERNATIONAL  
WHALING COMMISSION

The Red House  
135 Station Road  
Impington, Cambridge  
CB24 9NP, UK

t. +44 (0) 1223 233971  
e. [secretariat@iwc.int](mailto:secretariat@iwc.int)  
[www.iwc.int](http://www.iwc.int)

RJL/JAC/32851  
6 January 2021

Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments  
and Members of the Scientific Committee  
**IWC.ALL.385**

**Working Group on Operational Effectiveness: Updated timeline**

On 3 September 2020 the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (WG-OE) held a virtual meeting to discuss comments received from the WG as well as other Contracting Members and accredited observers. In light of Covid-19 and the postponement of IWC68, the WG-OE has further revised its timetable to use the longer intersessional period to develop and refine the proposals.

The revised timetable is as follows:

- 29 January 2021 – circulate updated papers for further comment
- 15 March 2021 – deadline for comments on draft papers
- May/June 2021 – virtual WG-OE following the Scientific Committee meeting
- 8 July 2021 – final papers circulated 60 days prior to IWC68

The WG-OE seeks to maximise outreach and engage as widely as possible with IWC member governments and stakeholders. All those who have not already engaged are encouraged to do so and can use the extended period to consider the proposals and provide comments.

Comments in English, French or Spanish are welcome. The Co-Chairs are working with the Secretariat to provide simultaneous translation in French and Spanish at the May/June 2021 virtual meeting of the WG-OE.

The WG-OE remains open to Member participation. Please contact the Secretariat for additional information.

Lisa Phelps, USA  
(WGOE Co-Chair)

Gemma Harper, UK  
(WGOE Co-Chair)

*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*

---

*Chair:* Andrej Bibic (Slovenia)  
*Vice-Chair:* Amadou Télivel Diallo (Republic of Guinea)  
*Executive Secretary:* Rebecca Lent