

## Virtual Special Meeting of the IWC - September 2021

### Joint presentation from Scientific and Conservation Committees (*VSM Agenda item 3.2.3.*)

*Prepared by SC Outgoing Chair Robert Suydam, Incoming SC Chair Alex Zerbini, SC Vice-Chair Lindsay Porter, CC Chair Lorenzo Rojas Bracho and CC Vice-Chair Cat Bell (UK)*

The Joint Conservation Committee-Scientific Committee Working Group (CC-SC WG) was established in response to Resolution 2014-4 where it was agreed to “*establish a working group between the Conservation Committee and the Scientific Committee in order to propose a procedure to facilitate the implementation and follow-up of conservation recommendations.*”

As part of the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (WGOE) process it was suggested that working groups have clear, fit for purpose terms of reference (ToR). As such the ToR for the CC-SC WG have been revised, with minimal changes in addition to adding some introductory language and rewording the bullet points. Comments on the draft revised ToR are encouraged and should be sent to the Chairs (Rojas-Bracho and Zerbini) during the intersessional period for review at the next CC-SC WG meeting in 2022. Final ToR will be presented to the Commission for consideration at IWC68.

The CC-SC WG requests the Commission during the VSM in September 2021 to support the implementation of the SC and CC-approved Conservation Management Plan for River dolphins from the Amazon, Orinoco and Tocantins-Araguaia (proponents Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru). Given the threats to the river dolphins both the Scientific and Conservation Committees have encouraged the proponents to move forward in the CMP’s implementation as there is strong support and the scientific aspects are sound.

Many thanks to the Commission for providing this opportunity for an update from the Conservation and Scientific Committees.