

# **2022 Scientific Committee (SC68D) PRELIMINARY DRAFT Plenary Agenda**

**SUB-GROUP AGENDAS WILL BE DEVELOPED BY THE RELEVANT CONVENORS**

## **1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

- 1.1 Chair's welcome and opening remarks**
- 1.2 Remembrances**
- 1.3 Appointment of rapporteurs**
- 1.4 Meeting procedures and schedule**
- 1.5 Establishment of sub-committees and Working Groups**

## **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

## **3. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS**

- 3.1 Documents submitted**
- 3.2 National Progress Reports**
- 3.3 Data collection, storage and manipulation**
- 3.4 Guidance for the format of recommendations and discussion of Recommendations Database**
- 3.5 Review of Commission resolutions from 2018**

## **4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS [OBSERVER]**

- 4.1 Summary of Secretariat co-operation with other organisations**
- 4.2 African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO) [no official SC observer but report welcome]**
- 4.3 Arctic Council [no official observer but report welcome]**
- 4.4 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) [Secretariat]**
- 4.5 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) [Secretariat]**
- 4.6 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) [Secretariat]**
  - 4.6.1 Scientific Council*
  - 4.6.2 Conference of Parties*
  - 4.6.3 Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)*
  - 4.6.4 Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)*
- 4.7 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) [no official observer but report welcome]**
- 4.8 Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) [Secretariat]**
- 4.9 Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)**

*4.9.1 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) [no official observer but report welcome]*

*4.9.1 Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)[Secretariat]*

**4.10 IUCN Task Force on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (formerly ICMMPA) [Panigada and Mattila]**

**4.11 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) [Haug]**

**4.12 International Maritime Organisation (IMO) [Leaper and Secretariat]**

**4.13 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [Cooke, Reeves]**

**4.14 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) [Secretariat, Moronuki]**

**4.15 North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES) [Tamara]**

**4.16 Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean [Nelson]**

**4.17 Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) [Secretariat]**

**4.18 Marine Traffic [Secretariat and Leaper]**

**4.19 Other**

## **5. GENERAL ASSESSMENT AND MODELLING ISSUES (IST)\***

**5.1 Use of ISTs for consideration of species' and populations' status**

**5.2 Progress on previous recommendations**

**5.3 Biennial workplan**

## **6. AWMP IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED MATTERS (IST)\***

**6.1 Implementation Review of West Greenland bowhead whales**

**6.2 Plan for Implementation Review of West Greenland common minke whales**

**6.3 Progress on previous recommendations**

**6.4 Biennial workplan**

## **7. STOCKS SUBJECT TO ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING (ASW)\***

**7.1 New information and progress on recommendations**

*7.1.1 Eastern Canada/West Greenland bowhead whales*

*7.1.2 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas bowhead whales*

*7.1.3 North Pacific gray whales*

*7.1.4 Common minke whale stocks off East Greenland*

*7.1.5 Common minke whale stocks off West Greenland*

*7.1.6 Fin whales off West Greenland*

*7.1.7 Humpback whales off West Greenland (see Items 6.1 and 8.2.7)*

*7.1.8 Humpback whales off St. Vincent and the Grenadines (see Items 6.1 and 8.2.7)*

**7.2 Biennial workplan**

**8. WHALE STOCKS NOT SUBJECT TO DIRECTED TAKES BY CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS \*****8.1 Comprehensive or In-depth Assessments (IA)\***

- 8.1.1 Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific humpback whales*
- 8.1.2 Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific sei whales*
- 8.1.3 Progress on in-depth assessment of western North Pacific common minke whales*
- 8.1.5 Biennial workplan*

**8.2 Potential new assessments: progress on previous recommendations and prioritised workplan (SH and NH)\***

- 8.2.1 Non-Antarctic blue whales in the Southern Hemisphere (SH)*
- 8.2.2 Antarctic blue whales (SH)*
- 8.2.3 Southern Hemisphere right whales not the subject of CMPs (SH)*
- 8.2.4 North Pacific blue whales (NH)*
- 8.2.5 North Atlantic sei whales (NH)*
- 8.2.6 North Atlantic right whales (NH)*
- 8.2.7 North Atlantic humpback whales (NH)*
- 8.2.8 Rice's whales (NH)*
- 8.2.9 Biennial workplans*

**8.3 New information (if provided) for other northern stocks (NH)\***

- 8.3.1 North Atlantic blue whales (NH)*
- 8.3.2. North Atlantic common minke whales (NH)*
- 8.3.2 East Greenland-Svalbard-Barents Sea (Spitsbergen) bowhead whales (NH)*
- 8.3.3 Unusual mortality events affecting northern stocks (NH)*
- 8.3.2 Biennial workplan*

**8.4 New information (if provided) for other Southern stocks (SH)\***

- 8.4.1 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales*
- 8.4.2 Southern Hemisphere fin whales (SH)*
- 8.4.3 Biennial workplan*

**8.5 Progress on previous recommendations****9. STOCKS THAT ARE OR HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS (CMP)\*****9.1 Stocks with existing CMPs: new information and progress with previous recommendations\***

- 9.1.1 SE Pacific southern right whales (with SH)*
- 9.1.2 SW Atlantic southern right whales (with SH)*
- 9.1.3 North Pacific gray whales (with IST, ASW)*
- 9.1.4 Franciscana (with SM)*

**9.2 Progress with identified priorities\***

- 9.2.1 Arabian Sea Humpback whales*
- 9.2.2 Central American humpback whales*
- 9.2.3 Mediterranean sperm whales*
- 9.2.4 Mediterranean fin whales*
- 9.2.5 South American river dolphins*

**9.3 Progress on previous recommendations**

**9.4 Biennial workplan**

**10. STOCK DEFINITION AND DNA TESTING (SD-DNA)**

**10.1 Provide advice to other sub-groups on population structure for requested stocks\***

*10.1.1 North Pacific gray whales*

*10.1.2 Franciscana*

*10.1.3 Sotalia guianensis*

**10.2 DNA data quality**

**10.3 DNA guidelines checklist**

**10.4 Recommendations on the avoidance of sample depletion**

**10.5 Review terminology used for stock structure related terms used within the IWC**

**10.6 Discussion of new genetic approaches (if submitted) for use by the Scientific Committee in addition to stock structure issues**

**10.7 Progress on previous recommendations**

**10.8 Biennial workplan**

**11. CETACEAN ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES AND STOCK STATUS (ASD)\***

**11.1 Review of abundance estimates\***

*11.1.1 Franciscana*

*11.1.2 Southern Hemisphere non-Antarctic blue whales*

*11.1.3 Antarctic blue whales*

*11.1.4 North Pacific humpback whales*

*11.1.5 North Pacific sei whales*

*11.1.6 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales*

*11.1.7 Southern Hemisphere right whales*

*11.1.8 Eastern North Pacific gray whales*

*11.1.9 North Atlantic right whales*

*11.1.10 North Atlantic common minke whales*

*11.1.11 North Pacific common minke whales*

*11.1.12 Other species/stocks identified intersessionally by SC convenors*

**11.2 Update and review abundance table maintained by the IWC**

**11.2 Review and refine abundance review process**

**11.3 Methodological issues**

*11.3.1 Amendments to RMP guidelines to consider model-based abundance estimates*

*11.3.2 Progress on simulation software to evaluate methods for abundance estimates*

*11.3.3 Consider diagnostic methods for mark-recapture models*

**11.4 Provide advice to the Commission on the status of stocks**

**11.5 Progress on previous recommendations**

**11.6 Biennial workplan**

**12. BYCATCH AND ENTANGLEMENTS (HIM)\*****12.1 IWC's Bycatch Mitigation Initiative\****12.1.1 Update on progress of Expert Panel**12.1.2 Review new information on bycatch for priority locations and focal species for pilot projects**12.1.3 Review new information for identifying pilot projects or capacity building**12.1.4 Assist BMI in identifying bycatch hotspots by reviewing cetacean distribution, fishing effort and bycatch**12.1.5 Review of other activities and provision of advice, if requested***12.2 Collaboration on bycatch mitigation with IGOs (including FAO, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and others) \*****12.3 Review bycatch risk assessments\*****12.4 Review new methods and estimates of entanglement rates, risks and mortality\*****12.5 Reporting of bycatch and entanglements (both small and large cetaceans) including National Progress Reports\*****12.6 Review mitigation measures for preventing bycatch and entanglement, including pingers****12.7 Review of topics related to Hector's and Maui dolphins in New Zealand (with SM)****12.8 Consider definition for  $r_{max}$  for small cetaceans for use by the Scientific Committee****12.9 Progress on previous recommendations****12.10 Biennial workplan****13. SHIP STRIKES (HIM)****13.1 Review new methods and estimates of rates of ship strikes, risk of ship strikes and mortality (including review progress on ship strike database)****13.2 Mitigation of ship strikes in high risk areas***13.2.1 Review progress towards assessing and mitigating ship strikes in previously identified high risk areas**13.2.2 Provide advice on routing measures**13.2.3 Review new research relevant to mitigation***13.3 Co-operation with IMO Secretariat and relevant IMO committees****13.4 Review progress for obtaining Automated Information System (AIS) data****13.5 Progress on previous recommendations****13.6 Biennial workplan****14. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (E)****14.1 Chemical pollution—Review progress on intersessional work of Pollution 2025****14.2 Diseases of concern—Review intersessional work on emerging diseases****14.3 Strandings and mortality events***14.3.1 Review progress of steering committee for IWC Strandings Initiative**14.3.2 New information on unusual mortality events***14.4 Review results from intersessional workshop on climate change****14.5 Review progress from intersessional work on impacts to cetaceans from underwater noise****14.6 Review progress on recommendations on marine debris****14.7 SOCER report (Polar regions)**

**14.8 Review strategy to better integrate E workplan with other Committee sub-groups**

**14.9 Review progress on developing and using a “One Health” approach**

**14.10 Progress on previous recommendations**

**14.11 Biennial workplan**

## **15 ECOSYSTEM MODELLING**

**15.1 Workshop on the Role of Cetaceans in Ecosystem Functioning: Gap Analysis**

*15.1.1 Review outcomes and recommendations*

*15.2 Review results of ecosystem modelling in the Antarctic Ocean and northeast Atlantic Ocean*

**15.3 Progress on multi-species distribution models (MSDMs)**

**15.4 Progress with development of individual-based energetic models (IBEMs)**

**15.5 Modelling of competition among whales and relationships between whales and prey**

**15.6 Standing topics\***

*15.6.1 Progress on considering effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations*

*15.6.2 Review progress on evaluation of krill distribution and abundance*

**15.7 Review progress on estimating pre-exploitation and current abundance of large whale populations**

**15.8 Progress on previous recommendations**

**15.9 Biennial workplan**

## **16. SMALL CETACEANS**

**16.1 Small Cetacean Use as Aquatic Wildmeat**

*16.1.1 Discuss framework for making progress on identified issues/areas*

*16.1.2 Review other information*

**16.2 Ongoing and Potential CMP for Small Cetaceans\***

*16.2.1. Franciscana*

*16.2.2. South American River Dolphins*

*16.2.3. Asian River Dolphins*

*16.2.4. Conservation planning and communication with IUCN ICPC*

**16.3 Progress Intersessional Correspondence Groups and Previous Recommendations\***

*16.3.1 Sotalia guianensis*

*16.3.2 Finless porpoise*

*16.3.3 Beaked whales*

*16.3.4 Strait of Gibraltar killer whales*

*16.3.5 Tursiops taxonomy*

*16.3.6 Review progress on developing a framework for review of recommendations*

*16.3.7 Other*

**16.4 Small Cetacean Task Team Progress**

*16.4.1. Review of task team procedures*

*16.4.2. South Asian River Dolphin task team*

*16.4.3 Africa-focused Sousa task team*

*16.4.4 Lahille's Dolphin task team*

**16.5 Review direct takes and live captures of small cetaceans**

*16.5.1 Evaluation of Previous Recommendations Related to Direct Takes*

*16.5.2 Live Captures*

**16.6 Status of the voluntary fund for small cetacean conservation research**

**16.7 Biennial workplan**

**17. WHALE WATCHING**

**17.1 Assess the impacts of whale watching and swim-with-whale operations on cetaceans**

*17.1.1 Studies on assessing impacts, (i) short-term; (ii) mid- to long-term; (iii) swim-with operations; (iv) emerging issues of concern; and (v) emerging technology*

*17.1.2 Review responses to MAWI questionnaire*

**17.2 Finalize IWC's General Principles for Whale Watching after intersessional discussion with the Conservation Committee and Secretariat**

**17.3 Progress with regional reviews of whale watching**

*17.3.1 Sri Lanka*

*17.3.2 Reunion and Zanzibar*

*17.3.3 Timor-Leste*

*17.3.4 Indian Ocean Sanctuary*

**17.4 Collaborative work within the IWC\***

*17.4.1 Update on IWC's Whale Watching Handbook*

*17.4.2 Communication with Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Whale Watching*

*17.4.3 Collaboration with other SC sub-groups on platforms of opportunity and citizen science*

**17.5 Progress on previous recommendations**

**17.6 Biennial workplan**

**18. WHALE SANCTUARIES (SAN)**

**18.1 Updates from relevant sub-committees on new information relevant to the Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SOS) management plan**

**18.2 New information for Indian Ocean Sanctuary**

**18.3 Progress on previous recommendations**

**18.4 Biennial workplan**

**19. EXTINCTION INITIATIVE**

**20. IWC LIST OF RECOGNISED SPECIES**

**21. IWC DATABASES AND CATALOGUES (PH AND GDR)**

**21.1 Guidelines for IWC catalogues and photo-ID databases (PH)**

**21.2 Progress with existing or proposed new catalogues (PH)**

*21.2.1 Right whale photo catalogues*

*21.2.2 Happywhale database*

*21.2.3 Flukebook*

*21.2.4 Southern Hemisphere Blue Whale Catalogue (SHBWC)*

*21.2.5 Antarctic Blue Whale Catalogue (ABWC)*

*21.2.6 Fin whale photo catalogues*

*21.2.7 Humpback whale photo catalogues*

*21.2.8 Other photo-identification catalogues*

**21.3 Progress with existing IWC databases (GDR, Secretariat)**

*21.3.1 Summary of IWC databases and current priorities*

*21.3.2 IWC National Progress Reports*

*21.3.3 Review database procedures, evaluate possible integration and consolidation of existing databases, and define rules for accessing data*

**21.4 Potential future IWC databases (GDR)**

*21.4.1 IWC database proposal pro forma*

*21.4.2 New proposals for IWC databases*

**21.5 Biennial workplan**

**22. MULTINATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AND NATIONAL RESEARCH CRUISES THAT REQUIRE IWC ENDORSEMENT (ASI)**

**22.1 IWC-POWER and co-operation with Japan**

**22.2 Southern Ocean Research Partnership (IWC-SORP)**

**22.3 IWC-ATLAFCO collaboration for capacity building and cetacean surveys**

**22.4 National cruises that require IWC oversight**

**22.5 Review and provide advice on plans for future surveys**

**22.6 Workplan**

**23. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR THE CURRENT AND NEXT BIENNIUM**

**23.1 Status of funded research, workshop proposals, data processing and computing needs**

*23.1.1 Funded proposals for 2022*

*23.1.2 Funded proposals in previous years still ongoing*

*23.1.3 Report on fund reallocations and contingencies for the Research Fund, Voluntary Fund for Small Cetaceans and SORP Voluntary Fund*

**23.2 Proposed budget for 2023-2024 developed under the Committee's guidelines**

**24. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES FOR THE BIENNIUM 2023-2024 AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR 2023**



**25. WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE**

**25.1 Updates on Rules of Procedure and Handbook of the Scientific Committee**

**25.2 Reporting to the Commission and related matters**

**25.3 Capacity building and succession plan for Scientific Committee**

**25.4 Update on Data Availability requests and consideration of potential updates/clarifications**

**25.5 Committee involvement in the IWC recommendations database**

**25.6 Governance Review**

**25.7 Joint Conservation Committee-Scientific Committee Working Group**

**25.8 Any other matters**

**25.9 Biennial workplan**

**26. PUBLICATIONS**

**27. ADOPTION OF REPORT**