



135 Station Road, Impington, Cambridge, UK, CB24 9NP;
Tel: +44 1223 233397 - Fax: +44 1223 232876
E-mail: secretariat@iwc.int

PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUEST

1. PROPOSAL TITLE

Please provide the title of the project or the name of the workshop/meeting.

Essential computing support to the Secretariat for IA and IST for assessments of several species

2. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL AND ITS EXPECTED OUTCOME

Give a very brief overview (max 150 words) on your proposal and its expected outcomes. Use bullet point to list outcomes. Be succinct and clear as this may be used to summarise your project for the report.

The Committee is currently engaged in an In-depth assessment of Western North Pacific common minke whales in the IA sub-group. In addition, the Committee needs to start an Implementation Review of North Atlantic fin whales in the IST sub-group in 2024. In both cases, the Committee has developed a complex assessment model structure towards this end. A key task in this process is to develop and validate the code for this model, together with its variants which are required for the associated sensitivity tests; these are the core components of this process. Experience has shown that the Secretariat staff alone cannot handle this complete process themselves, so that computing support is needed, especially given the recent retirement of an experienced Secretariat staff member in this area.

3. RELEVANT IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE GROUPS OR SUB-GROUPS

List all the IWC Scientific Committee groups or sub-groups that the outcomes of this work would be relevant to and provide a brief (1-2 lines) explanation of how it would contribute more widely to their ongoing programmes of work. Where possible, do not simply list only the sub-committee within which or for which the project proposal was generated.

The work is required for the IA and IST sub-committees.

4. TYPE OF PROJECT (PLEASE TICK)

Research project	
Modelling	X
Workshop/meeting	
Database creation/maintenance	
Compilation work/editing (e.g. on whalewatching regulations, SOCER, etc.)	
Other (please specify below)	X
Computing support for Secretariat	

5. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL AND ITS CONNECTION WITH SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS (DO NOT EXCEED 1500 WORDS)

(A) BACKGROUND, RATIONALE, AND RELEVANCE TO THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY THE IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE :

Provide a clear explanation of the background and rationale for the proposal and its relevance to Scientific Committee identified priorities. Clearly identify the most relevant and recent Scientific Committee recommendations.

This is described under section 2 above. The In-depth assessment of Western North Pacific common minke whales is a current Scientific Committee priority, especially to integrate the results from a wide range of research conducted by and reported to the Committee over recent years on the common minke whales in this region, coupled to considerable interest in the results which it will generate regarding the current status of the constituent stocks. The completion date for this work is unclear at this moment, but it is likely that similar in-depth assessments of other whale populations (e.g. North Atlantic humpbacks and Antarctic blue whales) will follow that completion and also require similar support. In addition, IST is revisiting the previous Implementation Review's modelling and code for the North Atlantic fin whales. The next Implementation Review is scheduled to begin in 2024. All of these will require the Secretariat staff's time. Given the demands on the Secretariat, this proposal is to provide computing support to the Secretariat to accomplish the coding tasks.

(B) SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OR TOR AND DELIVERABLES/OUTCOMES:

Provide the specific objectives and the expected deliverables. In the case of workshops and meetings, include the Terms of Reference (ToR) and expected outcomes.

To assist in developing, validating and running the computer code for assessment models as needed for the next 2 years. The assessments include, but may not be limited to the In-depth assessment of Western North Pacific common minke whales, Implementation Review of North Atlantic fin whales, and subsequently for other whale populations subject to such assessments (such as the North Atlantic humpback whales, Antarctic blue whales, and the North Pacific blue whales).

(C) METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH/WORK PLAN/ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Specify the methods to be applied (novel methods require more explanation than standard ones) and the broad workplan – the detailed timetable appears under Item 5 below.

In the case of workshops and meetings, include the broad work plan including any pre-requisites for the workshop/meeting to take place (apart from funding, e.g. completed analyses, papers etc.) and administrative details (e.g. location, dates, number of participants).

The general approach is standard, and has been applied for previous *Implementation Reviews* and In-depth Assessments. The general approach involves developing population dynamic models that are conditioned so that they fit the currently available data regarding stock structure hypotheses, catch histories, abundance trends, and other human-related mortalities, such as bycatch. Develop trials/sensitivity analyses used to investigate the implications of various uncertainties in the available data. Use the models and trials to evaluate the current status of the stock relative to an appropriate time in the past and project the model to evaluate future status provided scenarios of future human mortalities.

(D) SUGGESTIONS FOR OUTREACH

Please, note that successful proponents will be requested to produce ad hoc material that will be used by the IWC Secretariat for dissemination and outreach.

The product from the work proposed is code for the assessments in question that will be used by the IWC Secretariat to provide key outcomes from this process.

6. TIMETABLE FOR ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

Specify the timetable for project activities and expected out puts separately. For projects with multiple distinct elements please indicate interim goals and timeframes. Add as many rows as you need to the tables below. If publications are an expected output please note whether you will submit the manuscript to the IWC's Journal of Cetacean Research and Management.

Activity to be undertaken	Key person(s)	Start(mm/yy)	Finish (mm/yy)
Computer coding and associated activities	Carryn de Moor, Cherry Allison	06/22	05/24

Expected outputs	Completion date (mm/yy)
Computer code and results from the course of the assessments.	Throughout the course of the two year period indicated

7. RESEARCHERS' (OR STEERING GROUP) NAME(S) AND AFFILIATION

Please, also specify if the project team has any direct connection (e.g. same research group or institute, collaborator on common project) with people involved or likely to be involved in taking the funding decision (e.g. IWC SC heads of delegations, SC convenors, etc.). Add as many rows as you need to the table below.

Name	Affiliation	Connection with decision
Carryn de Moor	University of Cape Town	Provides computing support in conjunction with Cherry Allison
Cherry Allison	Independent consultant	Conducts work required on trials in conjunction with Carryn de Moor
Isidora Katara	IWC Secretariat	Conducts work required on trials in conjunction with Carryn de Moor and Cherry Allison
Doug Butterworth	University of Cape Town	Advice on work being conducted
Andre Punt	University of Washington, Seattle	Advice on work being conducted
Greg Donovan	Convenor of IST	Advice on work being conducted
Debra Palka	Convenor of IA	Advice on work being conducted

8. TOTAL BUDGET

Breakdown into: (1) salaries/wages (include name/position of each individual and breakdown of time and duties i; (2) travel/subsistence expenses (breakdown by person and justification) unless for IPs for workshops where a total estimate based on an average for the total number of IPs is acceptable; (3) services (e.g. aircraft/vessel time, consultancy fees, ARGOS fees, etc.); (4) reusable capital equipment (e.g. reusable equipment such as a hydrophone, cameras, etc. Note that this equipment will have to be registered at the IWC Secretariat and will remain property of the IWC at the end of the project), (5) expendable capital equipment (e.g. consumables, tags, stationery), (6) shipping costs, (7) insurance costs, (8) in kind co-funding (specify whether other funding is available for personnel/name, equipment, venues, etc.). Note that "Overheads" are not admissible. Add as many rows as you need to the table below.

Type	Detailed description	Cost in GB pounds
(1) Salaries (by person)	Carryn de Moor: 2 years @ 2.5 months/year @ 4600 pounds per month	23000
	Cherry Allison: year 1 @ 5000 and year 2 @ 3000 pounds	8000
	De Moor and/or Allison for North Atlantic fin whale Implementation Review: year 2 @ 7000	7000
(2) Travel/subsistence (by person or est. total for IPs)	Carryn de Moor and Cheery Allison to attend annual SC meetings for 2023 and 2024 @ 2000 pounds per person per meeting	8000
(3) Services (by item)		
(4) Reusable equipment		
(5) Consumables		
(6) Shipping (by Item)		
(7) Insurance (by item)		
(8) Co-funding		
(9) Other		
Total 2022-23		20,500
Total 2023-24		25,500
Grand Total		46,000

9. DATA ARCHIVING/SHARING

Please state your plans for data archiving and sharing. Note that data collected primarily under IWC grants are considered publicly available after an agreed period of time for publication of papers, usually about two years. The work of the IWC depends on the voluntary contribution of data to the various databases and catalogues IWC supports. Please consult the Secretariat (secretariat@iwc.int).

10. PERMITS (PLEASE TICK)

Do you have the necessary permits to carry out the field work and have animal welfare considerations been appropriately considered?	N/A
Do you have the appropriate permits (e.g. CITES) for the import/export of any samples?	N/A

If 'Yes' please provide further details and enclose copies where appropriate: