

THE SC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVE: COMMUNICATING THE WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE TO IWC COMMISSIONERS AT IWC69 AND BEYOND

A paper by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee

Introduction

The overall objective of the Scientific Committee (SC) Communication Initiative is to develop new communication tools and material tailored specifically to the Commission. The new tools will provide accessible summaries to sit alongside the SC report. The SC report will continue to provide a record of the discussions and recommendations of the SC in a detailed and technical format which the SC recognises is less accessible to other audiences.

Tools and Opportunities

The Scientific Committee has identified the following key tools and opportunities to communicate more effectively with the Commission.

- 1) **SC Summary document:** a succinct and non-technical document summarising the work of the SC during the intersessional period, to be circulated approximately one month before the Commission meeting.
- 2) **Presentation to the Commission Plenary:** an audio-visual presentation lasting 40-60 minutes, using the slot allocated to the SC near the beginning of the plenary agenda
- 3) **In the margins of Commission plenary:** a small, impartial 'science hub,' staffed both in-person and remotely, making available SC expertise to Commissioners and observers throughout the plenary.
- 4) **Sub-committee Factsheets:** a series of digital factsheets covering different SC topics.

Process, Governance and Funding

Distilling the work of the SC down to a small number of key topics is extremely challenging. Convenors will be invited to nominate topics using agreed criteria. The final selection of issues and findings to highlight to the Commission will be made by the Chair and Vice Chair of the SC.

A Steering Group will support the SC leadership in developing, implementing and evaluating this Communications Initiative.

It is anticipated that this Initiative will evolve and feedback will be sought from those receiving and providing information. Post-IWC69 evaluation will include an audience survey.

Next Steps

The SC Communications Initiative will be launched at IWC69. The full draft proposal is accessible [here](#). The SC is grateful for the opportunity to share these plans with the Commission and welcomes any feedback.