

Extract from 2020 IWC Scientific Committee Report (SC68B) regarding the Welfare Assessment Tool for Wild Cetaceans

IWC Secretariat

The Committee has regularly received updates on the development of a Welfare Assessment Tool for Wild Cetaceans (WATWC), which has now been published (Nicol *et al.*, 2020). The WATWC makes use of the 'Five Domains' model of animal welfare to ensure that all areas of potential welfare impact are considered, and Nicol *et al.* (2020) used it to assess real-world impacts of human activity, particularly whale watching, on Southern Resident killer whales. The Committee welcomed the publication of Nicol *et al.* (2020), commended the authors and was pleased to see that the collaboration initiated within its membership had been fruitful in this regard.

Recommendation from the SC:

SC2044 The Committee encourages further development and testing of the welfare assessment tool for wild cetaceans Nicol *et al.* (2020), noting that whale watching might provide further examples to be considered.

Reference:

Nicol C, Bejder L, Green L, Johnson C, Keeling L, Noren D, Van der Hoop J and Simmonds M (2020) Anthropogenic Threats to Wild Cetacean Welfare and a Tool to Inform Policy in This Area. *Front. Vet. Sci.* 7:57. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2020.00057.