

Conservation Committee Workplan for 2022-2026

Issue

In order to ensure the work of the Conservation Committee is clear and in line with the Strategic Plan, a draft workplan has been developed for the period 2022-2026. The workplan (Annex 1) is based on the extensions to the 2016-2020 workplan that resulted from the postponement of IWC68 from 2020 to 2022.

For continuity, progress from the 2021/2 extension workplan is outlined in Annex 2.

The draft workplan will be updated at the end of the Conservation Committee and maintained as a living document and posted on the IWC website.

Action

Conservation Committee members are asked to:

Endorse the workplan in Annex 1, providing comments or suggestions for further improvements, in particular with regards to its alignment with the Conservation Committee Strategic Plan and any modifications as a result of the mid-term review.

Identify any additional deliverables/actions for inclusion.

Identify leads to take forward specific deliverables.

**Annex 1
International Whaling Commission (IWC)
DRAFT CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2022-2026**

October 2022

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
Strategic Planning and Reporting					
Develop a coherent strategy to aid work planning and raise awareness of the work of the Conservation Committee.	Progress efforts to identify wider sources of funding for the work of the Committee.		Secretariat (Project Manager) in partnership with Chairs and topic leads	Ongoing	
	Develop a coherent workplan with resources identified where possible.		Conservation Committee Chair and Vice-Chair Secretariat (Project Manager)	Ongoing	
Ensure effective implementation of Conservation Committee recommendations and cross-fertilisation with the Scientific Committee.	At IWC66, the Commission endorsed Terms of Reference (see Annex 1) for annual Conservation Committee Planning Group (CCPG) meetings. The CCPG will continue to help set the agenda for the biennial CC meeting and ensure progression of the CC work plan in the intersessional period.		Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat	Ongoing	Where possible hold Via Zoom with no cost
	Meetings of the Joint Conservation Committee-Scientific Committee Working Group to be held in conjunction with SC meetings. The CC will continue to participate in this WG and to propose items for its agenda.		Conservation Committee Chair Scientific Committee Chair	Ongoing	Depends on OE and budget outcomes, possibly as above
	Undertake ongoing analysis of Conservation Committee recommendations, using outputs from the IWC database of recommendations, including providing a consideration of successes and barriers to effective implementation. Provide relevant reports to Commission.		Conservation Committee Secretariat	Ongoing	
Ensure effective reporting to and from the Conservation Committee	(As endorsed by the Commission at IWC67). Review the current CC country reporting template and progress development of a "Conservation Database" to facilitate online reporting by countries		Secretariat Contracting Governments as pilot countries for database	Report to IWC69	Secretariat developing inhouse.

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
	Review means to increase the number of country reports provided to the Conservation Committee.		Secretariat Contracting Governments	Report to IWC69	
Sustainable management of whale and dolphin watching					
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of whale watching operations on cetaceans.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on whale watching.</p>	<p>Consolidation and maintenance of the IWC online whale watching Handbook, seeking input from the Scientific Committee as appropriate. In the coming years this will include-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to collaborate with CMS - Modest updates to existing content requested by countries/data providers - Research opportunities of new content - Updating the searchable table of literature following the SC meetings 		<p>IWC Secretariat</p> <p>Standing Working Group on Whale Watching (SWG-WW) Chair</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Costed proposal to be developed for promotion and maintenance/translation.</p> <p>SC has allocated £1500 to develop a communications plan</p>
	Promotion of the IWC online Whale Watching Handbook		<p>IWC Secretariat</p> <p>With assistance from Contracting Governments and Observers.</p>	Ongoing	
	Engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing whale watching and progress any opportunities for capacity building. This year the SWG will focus on means to strengthen engagement with industry.		<p>Conservation Committee Chair</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>SWG-WW Chair</p>	Ongoing	
	Exploring funding opportunities to ensure updates and new content in the WW Handbook are translated		IWC Secretariat	Ongoing	
Conservation Management Plans					
Further the development and implementation of conservation management plans (CMPs)	Maintain CMP guidelines, templates and funding principles on the IWC website for use by members wishing to undertake a CMP. These were reviewed and updated, as part of the mid-term review of the CMP work plan. They will remain under biennial review as needed.		Secretariat	<p>Biennial</p> <p>Next due??</p>	N/A

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
	Support the development of CMPs for priority species	The Scientific Committee has advised that several species/populations should be considered priorities for CMP development. This means that range states can progress straight to the CMP drafting stage (rather than first preparing a nomination). A list of priority species is included in the CMP work plan. It will be updated annually based on advice from the SC-CMPs group.	Scientific Committee SWG-CMP	Ongoing	N/A
	Support discussions between scientists and relevant range state governments to continue to further progress development of an Arabian Sea humpback whales CMP	The Arabian Sea humpback whale has been recommended as a priority species for CMP development by the Scientific Committee. The IWC continues to actively engage with Countries and stakeholders in the region regarding the opportunity for a CMP on this species	SWG-CMP	Ongoing	TBC
	Implement the nine high priority actions that were identified in the Southwest Atlantic Southern right whale CMP.	CMP is in place and being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC69.	SWG-CMP CMP Coordinator (Brazil)	Ongoing	
	Implement the Southeast Pacific Southern right whale CMP, focusing on the short-term objectives in the early implementation stages.	CMP is in place and being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC69.	SWG-CMP CMP Coordinator (Chile)	Ongoing	
	Implement the Northwest Pacific Gray Whale CMP, focusing on CMP review and operationalising the MoU	CMP is in place and is being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC69.	SWG-CMP CMP Coordinator (Japan)	Ongoing	
	Implement the Franciscana dolphin CMP, focusing on establishing coordination and monitoring processes	CMP is in place and is being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC69.	SWG-CMP CMP Coordinator (Argentina)	Ongoing	
Whale Sanctuaries and protected areas					
Provide conservation and management input into reviews of proposed and existing whale sanctuaries as appropriate.	Work with the Scientific Committee to ensure the Conservation Committee contributes to any review of existing sanctuaries and to the review of any new proposals. - Review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary - Prepare for review of Indian Ocean Sanctuary		Conservation Committee Chair Scientific Committee	Workshop at SC in 2024 and Report to IWC69	£1985 from SC, CC funding contribution, if any, to be developed
Ship Strikes					

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
<p>Implement the Ship Strikes Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of ship strikes on cetaceans at a population and individual level.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to progress IWC priorities and ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on ship strikes.</p>	<p>Implement 2022-2024 Costed Workplan (Annex 2 in SC68D/HIM/06) and Ship Strikes Strategic Plan 2022-2032.</p>		<p>Ship Strikes Working Group (SS-WG) Data Manager Secretariat Ship Strikes Expert Panel Scientific Committee</p>	Ongoing	
	<p>Continue work to (i) identify high risk populations and areas and to develop proposals for appropriate mitigation measures; (ii) increase the application of measures that reduce collision probability such as speed reduction and re-routeing limits; (iii) increase development and use of avoidance technologies (Objectives 1, 2 and 4 in work plan)</p>	Ongoing	<p>Conservation Committee SS-WG Scientific Committee SS Expert panel Data Manager IWC Contracting Governments</p>		
	<p>Ongoing development and maintenance of the ship strikes database including to improve reporting of incidents into the database through systematic outreach to data providers, review and provision of data, increasing accessibility of database and promoting its use.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Data Manager Secretariat SS Expert Panel Contracting Governments</p>	Reports to SC	<p>Data Manager (Approx £35,000 for 1 year FTE). To be met with SC funding for database, existing earmarked funding for SS in VCF and other vol funds.</p>
	<p>Engage with regional and international bodies addressing ship strikes to further improve collaboration internationally and progress any opportunities for capacity building.</p> <p>Priorities include ongoing engagement with IMO, IUCN Protected Areas Task Force and work on IMMAs, ACCOBAMS and MarineTraffic- an AIS data provider.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat SS-WG</p>	Ongoing	
<p>Refine and implement plans for further outreach to increase public and industry awareness on the ship strikes issue and measures that can be taken to reduce this threat including consideration of tailored advice to different sectors.</p>		<p>SS-WG Secretariat Assistance from Contracting Governments and Observers.</p>			
Marine Debris					
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of marine debris on</p>	<p>Further consideration of the development of a Marine Debris database in liaison with Strandings Expert Panel and Ad Hoc Group on databases and related issues</p>		<p>Secretariat, with SC intersessional group for marine debris, SC Ad Hoc</p>		

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
<p>cetaceans at a population and individual level.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on marine debris.</p>			Group on databases and Strandings Expert Panel		
	Engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing marine debris including (in the coming year) IUCN, UNE, WHO, FAO, and the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI).		Secretariat	Ongoing	
	Communicate with and begin using the established IWC roster of experts to provide advice and facilitate input to other expert processes		Secretariat in liaison with Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Experts	Report to next CC at IWC69	
	Exploring potential for pilot projects to address ALDFG, including gear removal in collaboration with the GWERN/BMI and potentially with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative		Secretariat including Entanglement coordinator in liaison with relevant members of the Commission and SC		Costed projects to be developed
	Identify and implement ways to obtain information on ALDFG and its mitigation from contracting governments and other stakeholders including through Voluntary Conservation Reports through the new Conservation Database		Secretariat	Ongoing, proposals to be integrated into conservation database	
	Promote leadership by the IWC in eliminating single use plastics including in its day-to-day operations, COVID response and at IWC meetings.		Secretariat Conservation Committee	Ongoing. Report on progress to future CC meeting	
Bycatch					
Implement the work of the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative.	Implement 2021-2024 costed Workplan see here for full workplan and Strategic Plan for the initiative.	Costed Workplan (2021-2024) endorsed by Conservation Committee in 2020	Bycatch coordinator Standing Working Group (SWG-Bycatch) Bycatch Expert Panel Conservation Committee Scientific Committee	Ongoing implementation of workplan and strategic plan	See costed workplan here
	Provide technical advice and capacity building to contracting and non-contracting governments in tackling bycatch, through experience gained in pilot projects, affiliated projects (ABNJ II Project), etc. Provide advice in response to direct requests for assistance and a dedicated capacity/training programme in collaboration with external partners and existing IWC programmes (e.g., CMPs, GWERN, etc).		Bycatch Coordinator Bycatch Expert Panel SWG-Bycatch Conservation Committee Secretariat including IWC entanglement adviser/ Human Impact Reduction	Ongoing	

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
	Engagement with relevant IGOs (including FAO, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations & Bodies, CMS and daughter agreements, NAMMCO, SPREP, SPAW etc), international bodies (e.g., World Bank, MSC, ICES), industry groups (ISSF, etc) and research bodies and NGOs to strengthen collaboration and coordination in relation to bycatch work.		Bycatch Coordinator Conservation Committee SWG- Bycatch Expert Panel	Ongoing	
	Report to the Commission on progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of bycatch through the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative.		SWG-Bycatch Conservation Committee Secretariat Bycatch Coordinator	IWC69	
	Develop recommendations based on the findings and outputs arising from the BMI, including pilot studies, affiliated projects, and engagement with IGOs and relevant workshops and publications. Monitor progress in implementing recommendations.		Conservation Committee SWG- Bycatch Bycatch Coordinator	Ongoing	
	Support the BMI as appropriate according to national circumstances including: - Through the development of appropriate national legislation and plans to tackle bycatch - Reporting of experiences and plans on bycatch into the BMI and through Conservation Committee Reports - Assistance in identifying potential funding sources to support the BMI (pilot projects/capacity development), and work with the Bycatch Coordinator to develop collaborative joint proposals		Conservation Committee SWG- Bycatch	Ongoing	
Anthropogenic Underwater Noise					
Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans. Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on anthropogenic noise.	Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing anthropogenic noise and progress any opportunities for capacity building, in particular with regards to the IMO (<i>IWC/64/Rep5</i> , <i>IWC/64/Rep1</i>). With input from SC68C and D update the CC workplan for 2022-2024 on underwater noise. Review management recommendations from other IGOs working on this topic and update the 2020 paper.	Meeting held September 2022	Conservation Committee Secretariat Intersessional Group on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise	2020-ongoing For IWC68	

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
	Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically provide advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities.				
Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of anthropogenic noise.	<p>SC and CC workshops on underwater noise will be held during this intersessional period to review recommendations arising from previous relevant workshops and publications such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Marine Activities on Cetaceans in the Arctic (<i>IWC/65/Rep07 Rev1</i>) • Workshop on the evaluation of stress and sound (<i>IWC66 rep1 (2015) 12.4.3</i>). 		<p>Anthropogenic Underwater Noise Working Group</p> <p>SC Sub-committee on Environmental Concerns (Noise)</p> <p>Sub-Committee on Unintended Human Induced Mortality (shipping)</p>	2024. The reports of these workshops will be presented to IWC69.	Depending on format of workshop a funding request may be submitted to the VCF
Describe the extent of seismic exploration activities worldwide, and identify areas where cetacean populations, especially threatened ones, could be exposed	<p>1) Review the existing recommendations from the IWC on seismic activities and provide updates if needed.</p> <p>2) Compile published and unpublished literature on this issue.</p> <p>3) Engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing seismic exploration (such as CMS) to scope further work on dissemination of guidelines related to Anthropogenic Underwater noise.</p> <p>To describe the extent of seismic activities worldwide the following steps will be taken:</p> <p>1) distribute the questionnaire through notification from IWC Secretariat to contracting governments, and different bodies such as CMS, CBD, etc.</p> <p>2) Map the data with a Geographical Information System.</p> <p>3) Prepare a final document to circulate with the IWC CC, the IWC SC and the Commission.</p>		<p>Conservation Committee</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Intersessional Group on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise</p>	<p>2021- ongoing</p> <p>A report will be submitted to the next SC and CC meeting</p> <p>4-6 months (collect the information)</p> <p>IWC SC 69A (preliminary report)</p>	
Identify other important issues and synergies related to anthropogenic underwater noise (e.g., vessel noise)	Coordinate with other existing initiatives or groups within the IWC (e.g., ship strike, WW, stranding, etc.) to find synergies for common mitigation		<p>Anthropogenic Underwater Noise Working Group</p> <p>Scientific Committee groups</p> <p>Ship Strikes SWG</p>	ongoing	

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
			SWG on Whale Watching Strandings initiative		
Cetaceans and Ecosystem Functioning					
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on cetaceans and ecosystem functioning.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on cetaceans and ecosystem functioning</p>	<p>Contact the IMF and UN Framework Convention for Climate Change, as well as the UNEP Finance Initiative to inform them about the work the IWC is conducting and invite these organizations to coordinate actions on this topic</p> <p>Contact other key organizations and initiatives (IPBES, ecological economics associations, etc.), to communicate the advances on this topic and evaluate their interest in collaborating.</p> <p>Develop a workplan based on outcomes from the 2022 workshop recommendations</p> <p>Develop and conduct pilot project</p>		<p>CC Intersessional Group on Cetaceans and Ecosystem Functioning</p> <p>Conservation Committee Chair</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	Report to IWC69	Costs involved in the pilot project are being developed-workshop, possible consultant
Climate Change					
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of climate change on cetaceans.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on cetaceans and climate change</p>	<p>Joint CC/SC Steering committee to develop a workplan for this topic based on recommendations from the 2021 workshop</p> <p>i) Monitor the relevant literature and provide updates to the SC and CC as appropriate;</p> <p>ii) Review the outputs from the 2021 virtual IWC climate change workshop and seek ways to take forward its recommendations;</p> <p>iii) Suggest ways in which the Conservation Committee can progress work on climate change and potentially improve the effectiveness of its recommendations for management and conservation actions through consideration of climate-induced impacts or changes; and</p> <p>iv) Further build synergies in these endeavours with other international organisations.</p>		<p>Joint Climate Change Steering group</p> <p>Conservation Committee</p> <p>Scientific Committee</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	IWC69	
Other Threats					
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of chemical pollution on cetaceans.</p>	<p>Recruit representatives to join the CC intersessional group for development of a CC workplan on chemical pollution group, in liaison with the SC</p>		<p>Conservation Committee</p> <p>Scientific Committee</p>	IWC69	

Annex 2
International Whaling Commission (IWC)
DRAFT 1 YEAR EXTENSION CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2021/2

June 2021

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
Strategic Planning and Reporting					
Develop a coherent strategy to aid work planning and raise awareness of the work of the Conservation Committee.	Undertake a mid-term review of the Conservation Committee Strategic Plan and report to IWC68	Underway	Chair and Vice-Chair of the CC, with relevant SWG Chairs and topic leads	By IWC68	
	Draft and agree thematic strategic plans for the priority areas of work identified in the outward facing Strategic Plan	A strategic plan for Bycatch was endorsed by the CC at IWC67 Revisions to the ship strikes strategic plan endorsed at SC68D and will be proposed to the CC at IWC68 A thematic strategic plan for CMPs will be proposed to the CC at IWC68.	Relevant Standing Working Groups and other working groups	By IWC68	
	Progress efforts to identify wider sources of funding for the work of the Committee. Consider means to increase Secretariat capacity for fundraising	Ongoing Strategic plan for fundraising in development Project Manager now employed at Secretariat overseeing fundraising	Secretariat in partnership with Chairs and topic leads	Ongoing Report on progress to IWC68	
	Develop a coherent work plan with resources identified where possible.	A new costed work plan for the CC 2020-2024 will be presented to the CC at IWC68	Conservation Committee Chair and Vice-Chair	By IWC68	
Ensure effective implementation of Conservation Committee recommendations and cross-fertilisation with the Scientific Committee.	At IWC66, the Commission endorsed Terms of Reference (see Annex 1) for annual Conservation Committee Planning Group (CCPG) meetings. The CCPG will continue to help set the agenda for the biennial CC meeting and ensure progression of the CC work plan in the intersessional period.	Ongoing July 2022	Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat	One CCPG meeting (virtual if necessary) prior to IWC68	
	Meetings of the Joint Conservation Committee-Scientific Committee Working Group were held immediately after SC meetings in 2015-2018, and before SC in 2021. There were no WG meetings in 2019 or 2020. The CC will continue to participate in this WG and to propose items for its agenda.	Ongoing Work of the joint CC/SC WG has included the development of a database of recommendations endorsed by the Commission at IWC67.	Conservation Committee Chair Scientific Committee Chair	One joint CC-SC WG meeting (virtually if necessary) prior to IWC68	

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
	Undertake ongoing analysis of Conservation Committee recommendations, using outputs from the IWC database of recommendations, including providing a consideration of successes and barriers to effective implementation. Provide relevant reports to Commission.	Ongoing.	Conservation Committee Secretariat	Ongoing	
Ensure effective reporting to and from the Conservation Committee	(As endorsed by the Commission at IWC67). Review the current CC country reporting template and progress development of a "Conservation Database" to facilitate online reporting by countries	Underway. Progress will be reported to CCPG July 2022	Secretariat Contracting Governments as pilot countries for database	Prototype database to be developed by IWC68	£10,000 allocated from existing earmarked funding for this project in the VCF
	Review means to increase the number of country reports provided to the Conservation Committee.	Underway	Secretariat Contracting Governments	By IWC68	
Sustainable management of whale and dolphin watching					
Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of whale watching operations on cetaceans. Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on whale watching.	Consolidation and maintenance of the IWC online whale watching Handbook, seeking input from the Scientific Committee as appropriate. In the coming year this will include- -Working with CMS to finalise and upload translations for all existing and new content -Modest updates to existing content requested by countries/data providers -Updating the searchable table of literature following the SC68D. -Scoping of new content (2022)	Complete Ongoing	IWC Secretariat Standing Working Group on Whale Watching (SWG-WW) Chair	By IWC68 and ongoing	£9,500 to be allocated from existing funds earmarked for whale watching in the VCF
	Promotion of the IWC online Whale Watching Handbook	Ongoing	IWC Secretariat With assistance from Contracting Governments and Observers.	Report on progress to IWC68	
	Engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing whale watching and progress any opportunities for capacity building. This year the SWG will focus in particular on means to strengthen engagement with industry.	Ongoing	Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat SWG-WW Chair		
	Development of a new four year costed workplan for Whale Watching.	Underway	SWG-WW in liaison with SC	To be presented at IWC68	

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
Conservation Management Plans					
Further the development and implementation of conservation management plans (CMPs)	Review the usefulness of the Pacific inventory and refine as necessary. This may include requesting that the Scientific Committee review the Oceania Humpback Recovery Plan. Evaluate whether the development of additional regional inventories, including for the Arctic and Indian Oceans would be valuable.	Recommendations on the Pacific inventory and future inventories will be provided to the CC at IWC68.	Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (SWG-CMP)	Intersessionally	
	Maintain CMP guidelines, templates and funding principles on the IWC website for use by members wishing to undertake a CMP.	These were reviewed and updated, as necessary, as part of the mid-term review of the CMP work plan. They will remain under biennial review as needed.	Secretariat	Biennial	N/A
	Support the development of CMPs for priority species	The Scientific Committee has advised that several species/populations should be considered priorities for CMP development. This means that range states can progress straight to the CMP drafting stage (rather than first preparing a nomination). A list of priority species is included in CMP work plan. It will be updated annually based on advice from the SC-CMPs group.	Scientific Committee SWG-CMP	Ongoing	N/A
	Support discussions between scientists and relevant range state governments to continue to further progress development of an Arabian Sea humpback whales CMP	The Arabian Sea humpback whale has been recommended as a priority species for CMP development by the Scientific Committee. The IWC continues to actively engage with Countries and stakeholders in the region regarding the opportunity for a CMP on this species	SWG-CMP	Ongoing	TBC
	Implement the nine high priority actions that were identified in the Southwest Atlantic Southern right whale CMP.	CMP is in place and being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC68.	SWG-CMP CMP Coordinator (Brazil)	Ongoing	
	Implement the Southeast Pacific Southern right whale CMP, focusing on the short-term objectives in the early implementation stages.	CMP is in place and being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC68.	SWG-CMP CMP Coordinator (Chile)	Ongoing	
	Implement the Northwest Pacific Gray Whale CMP, focusing on CMP review and operationalising the MoU	CMP is in place and is being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC68.	SWG-CMP CMP Coordinator (Japan)	Ongoing	
	Implement the Franciscana dolphin CMP, focusing on establishing coordination and monitoring processes	CMP is in place and is being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC68.	SWG-CMP CMP Coordinator (Argentina)	Ongoing	

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
	Develop a 10-year framework for CMPs to guide the work of the SWG.	New CMPs thematic strategic plan to be developed for IWC68.	Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans	To be presented at IWC68	
Whale Sanctuaries and protected areas					
Provide conservation and management input into reviews of proposed and existing whale sanctuaries as appropriate.	Work with the Scientific Committee to ensure the Conservation Committee contributes to any review of existing sanctuaries and to the review of any new proposals.		Conservation Committee Chair		
Ship Strikes					
<p>Implement the Ship Strikes Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of ship strikes on cetaceans at a population and individual level.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to progress IWC priorities and ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on ship strikes.</p>	<p>Implement 2020-2022 Costed Workplan and Ship Strikes Strategic Plan. Workplan for 2022-2026 and revised Strategic Plan developed</p>	<p>Costed workplan 2020-2022 endorsed by the CC as a living document to be refined as needed before IWC68</p>	<p>Ship Strikes Working Group (SS-WG) Data Manager Secretariat Ship Strikes Expert Panel Scientific Committee</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
	<p>Continue work to (i) identify high risk populations and areas and to develop proposals for appropriate mitigation measures (ii) increase the application of measures that reduce collision probability such as speed reduction and re-routing limits (iii) increase development and use of avoidance technologies (Objectives 1, 2 and 4 in work plan)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Conservation Committee SS-WG Scientific Committee SS Expert panel Data Manager IWC Contracting Governments</p>		
	<p>Ongoing development and maintenance of the ship strikes database including to improve reporting of incidents into the database through systematic outreach to data providers, review and provision of data, increasing accessibility of database and promoting its use.</p>	<p>Recruitment completed and Data Manager in place April 2021-May 22. Further contract will be required to continue the work beyond IWC68</p>	<p>Data Manager Secretariat SS Expert Panel Contracting Governments</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Data Manager (Approx £35,000 for 1 year FTE). To be met with SC funding for database, existing earmarked funding for SS in VCF and other vol funds.</p>
	<p>Engage with regional and international bodies addressing ship strikes to further improve collaboration internationally and progress any opportunities for capacity building.</p> <p>Priorities for 2021/2 include ongoing engagement with IMO, IUCN Protected Areas Task Force and work on IMMAs, ACCOBAMS and developing an MOU with MarineTraffic- an AIS data provider.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat SS-WG</p>		

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
	Refine plans for further outreach to increase public and industry awareness on the ship strikes issue and measures that can be taken to reduce this threat including consideration of tailored advice to different sectors.		SS-WG Secretariat Assistance from Contracting Governments and Observers.	Develop an outreach plan for IWC68	
Marine Debris					
Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of marine debris on cetaceans at a population and individual level.	Dissemination of the IWC workshop report (<i>Marine Debris: The Way Forward</i> , Dec 2019) and recommendations and ensuring recommendations are taken into account in other IWC work programmes particularly those of the Scientific Committee, Strandings Initiative and GWERN in addition to BMI and CMPs.	Ongoing (Report endorsed by both CC and SC)	Secretariat, with relevant CC SWG Chairs and topic leads and SC intersessional group for marine debris	By IWC68	
Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on marine debris.	Further consideration of the development of a Marine Debris database in liaison with Strandings Expert Panel and Ad Hoc Group on databases and related issues		Secretariat, with SC intersessional group for marine debris, SC Ad Hoc Group on databases and Strandings Expert Panel	Further consideration at SC68D and IWC68	
	Engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing marine debris including (in the coming year) IUCN, UNE, WHO, FAO, and the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI).	Ongoing	Secretariat	Ongoing	
	Establish an IWC roster of experts to provide advice and facilitate input to other expert processes	Complete	Secretariat in liaison with Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Experts	By IWC68	
	Exploring potential for pilot projects to address ALDFG, including gear removal in collaboration with the GWERN/BMI and potentially with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative	Underway	Secretariat including Entanglement coordinator in liaison with relevant members of the Commission and SC		Costed projects to be developed
	Identify and implement ways to obtain information on ALDFG and its mitigation from contracting governments and other stakeholders including through Voluntary Conservation Reports through the new Conservation Database	Ongoing	Secretariat	Ongoing, with proposals integrated into conservation database by IWC68	
	Promote leadership by the IWC in eliminating single use plastics including in its day-to-day operations, COVID response and at IWC meetings.	Ongoing	Secretariat Conservation Committee	Ongoing. Report on progress to future CC meeting	

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
Bycatch					
Implement the work of the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative.	Implement 2021-2024 costed Workplan see here for full workplan) and Strategic Plan for the initiative.	Costed Workplan (2021-2024) endorsed by Conservation Committee in 2020	Bycatch coordinator Standing Working Group (SWG-Bycatch) Bycatch Expert Panel Conservation Committee Scientific Committee	Ongoing implementation of workplan and strategic plan	See costed workplan here
	Provide technical advice and capacity building to contracting and non-contracting governments in tackling bycatch, through experience gained in pilot projects, affiliated projects etc. Provide advice in response to direct requests for assistance and a dedicated capacity/training programme in collaboration with external partners and existing IWC programmes (e.g., CMPs, GWERN etc).		Bycatch Coordinator Bycatch Expert Panel SWG-Bycatch Conservation Committee Secretariat including IWC entanglement adviser/ Human Impact Reduction	2020-ongoing	
	Engagement with relevant IGOs (including FAO, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations & Bodies, CMS and daughter agreements, NAMMCO, SPREP, SPAW etc), international bodies (e.g. World Bank, MSC, ICES), industry groups (ISSF etc) and research bodies and NGOS to strengthen collaboration and coordination in relation to bycatch work.	FAO Common Oceans Project to start mid-late 2022	Bycatch Coordinator Conservation Committee SWG- Bycatch Expert Panel	ongoing	
	Report to the Commission on progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of bycatch through the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative.		SWG-Bycatch Conservation Committee Secretariat Bycatch Coordinator		
	Develop recommendations based on the findings and outputs arising from the BMI, including pilot studies, affiliated projects and engagement with IGOs and relevant workshops and publications. Monitor progress in implementing recommendations.		Conservation Committee SWG- Bycatch Bycatch Coordinator	Ongoing	
	Support the BMI as appropriate according to national circumstances including: -Through the development of appropriate national legislation and plans to tackle bycatch -Reporting of experiences and plans on bycatch into the BMI and through Conservation Committee Reports		Conservation Committee SWG- Bycatch	Ongoing	

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
	-Assistance in identifying potential funding sources to support the BMI (pilot projects/capacity development), and work with the Bycatch Coordinator to develop collaborative joint proposals				
Anthropogenic Underwater Noise					
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on anthropogenic noise.</p>	<p>Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing anthropogenic noise and progress any opportunities for capacity building, in particular with regards the IMO (<i>IWC/64/Rep5</i>, <i>IWC/64/Rep1</i>).</p> <p>Following recommendations from the 68B IWC SC meeting, coordinate with SC on the scoping of the CC workplan on underwater noise.</p> <p>Review management recommendations from other IGOs working on this topic</p>	<p>Provision of a paper to the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), providing an update of recent information on underwater noise from shipping Since then the IWC has continued engagement with the International Maritime Organization on this issue, including attendance at a workshop on 'Quieting Ships to Protect the Marine Environment: Technical Workshop' organised jointly by the IMO and Canada.</p> <p>Engagement with the UN including contribution to the report of the UN Secretary General on Anthropogenic Underwater noise to the Open Ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (18-22 June 2018) and Executive Secretary participation as a panellist at this meeting.</p> <p><i>Working with SC as part of the CG for IMO on reviewing the 2014 URN guidelines</i></p>	<p>Conservation Committee</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Intersessional Group on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise</p>	<p>2020-on going</p>	
	<p>Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities.</p> <p>Seismic exploration: 1.) Review the existing recommendations coming previously from the IWC, and any need for update. 2.) Compile published and unpublished literature on this issue. 3.) Engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing seismic exploration (i.e. CMS) to scope further work on dissemination of guidelines related to Anthropogenic Underwater noise. 4.) A report will be submitted to the 69A IWC SC and the CC meeting.</p>	<p><i>Questionnaire developed to be circulated</i></p>	<p>Conservation Committee</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Intersessional Group on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise</p>	<p>2020-2022</p>	

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
	<p>Coordinate with other existing initiatives or groups within the IWC (i.e. ship strike, WW, stranding, etc.) to identify other important issues and synergies related to anthropogenic underwater noise (i.e. vessel noise)</p> <p>Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of anthropogenic noise.</p> <p>Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Marine Activities on Cetaceans in the Arctic (<i>IWC/65/Rep07 Rev1</i>) Planned workshop on the evaluation of stress and sound (<i>IWC66 rep1 (2015) 12.4.3</i>). 	<p>Can be undertaken using outputs from the database of recommendations. To be considered for IWC68</p> <p>SC and CC workshops on underwater noise will be held during this intersessional period and, amongst other objectives will consider recommendations arising from other relevant workshops and publications. The reports of these workshops will be presented to IWC68.</p> <p>Has not been held yet but in development for 2022</p>	<p>Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat</p>	<p>2020-2024</p>	<p>Depending on format of workshop a funding request may be submitted to the VCF</p>
Cetaceans and Ecosystem Functioning					
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on cetaceans an ecosystem functioning.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on cetaceans and ecosystem functioning</p>	<p>Develop plans for a Virtual Workshop on socio-economic values of the contribution of cetaceans to ecosystem functioning.</p> <p>Contact the IMF and UN Framework Convention for Climate Change, as well as the UNEP Finance Initiative to inform them about the work the IWC is conducting and invite these organizations to coordinate actions on this topic</p> <p>Contact other key organizations and initiatives previously identified by IWC67 (IPBES, ecological economics associations, etc.), to communicate the advances on this topic and evaluate their interest in collaborating.</p>	<p>Workshop will be held during this intersessional period and will consider recommendations arising from parallel SC workshop and recent publications. The report of the workshop will be presented to IWC68.</p> <p>Workshop complete</p>	<p>CC Intersessional Group on Cetaceans and Ecosystem Functioning Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat</p>	<p>2020-on going</p>	
Other Threats					
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of chemical pollution on cetaceans.</p>	<p>Recruit representatives to join the CC intersessional group for development of a CC workplan on chemical pollution group, in liaison with the SC</p>	<p>Intersessional work ongoing and progress will be reported to IWC68</p> <p>Pollution workshop held 2021 recommendations to guide CC development</p>	<p>Conservation Committee Scientific Committee</p>		

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Costs (If applicable)
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of climate change on cetaceans.</p>	<p>Develop plans for a joint CC-SC workshop on climate change before SC68D</p> <p>Appoint CC representatives to the Steering Group</p>	<p>Intersessional work ongoing and progress will be reported to IWC68</p> <p>Virtual Workshop held 2021</p>	<p>Conservation Committee</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Scientific Committee</p>		