

IWC SHIP STRIKES WORKPLAN 2022-2024

High level objective & Description of activity	Timeframe			Lead	IWC community involved	Budget per year/ total budget	Potential funding source(s)	Priority Core = essential Top High Medium
	2022	2023	2024					
Coordination of programme								
All aspects of programme coordination including liaison with the SSWG; coordinate work on ship strikes database; coordinate with ship strike data holders to facilitate national/regional database upload; coordination with other IWC bodies and initiatives; engagement with other Inter-governmental Organisations (IGOs) and organisations; fundraising; monitoring of progress and communication.	x	x	x	IWC Data Manager, Secretariat		See Objective 3		Core
(1) To reduce mortalities and injuries to large whales as a result of ship strikes.								
1.1 Identify at risk populations The Scientific Committee should provide an estimate of annual incidence rate of ship strikes for each of the following: a. Western North Atlantic right whale b. Eastern North Pacific right whale c. Chile-Peru right whale d. Arabian Sea humpback whale e. Western gray whale f. Blue whale - Sri Lanka and Arabian Sea g. Blue whale - Chile h. Sperm whale - Mediterranean Sea i. Fin whale - Mediterranean Sea j. Bryde’s whale - Gulf of Mexico k. Omura’s whale - North-western Madagascar l. Sperm whale - Canary Islands region	x	x	x	Chair of HIM, IWC Data Manager, Secretariat, Ship Strikes Expert Panel and SSWG	IMO IUCN - IMMAs	Expert Panel no extra cost if meets virtually or in margins of SC meetings. Other costs in Objective 3		Top

The Scientific Committee should continue to identify and review potential high risk populations for ship strikes.								
<p>1.2 Identify high risk areas</p> <p>The Strategic Plan identifies high risk areas for ship strikes. The IWC should work with relevant stakeholders to develop proposals for ship strikes reduction measures in high-risk areas. The Scientific Committee should review the high-risk areas, to update on new areas and progress with existing areas.</p> <p>See High risk ship strike areas table in the Strategic Plan for further details of location and species of concern, alongside associated stages in identifying high risk areas and developing appropriate mitigation strategies</p>	x	x	x	Chair of HIM, Ship Strikes Expert Panel and SSWG, IWC Data Manager and Secretariat		Expert Panel no extra cost if meets virtually or in margins of SC meetings. Potential travel costs £1000 per annum for engagement with countries.	Secretariat funding for travel or VCF (application to be submitted, if needed).	Top
<p>1.3 Continued monitoring of measures implemented</p> <p>The SC should regularly review the impact of measures for high-risk populations and in high-risk areas implemented to reduce the incidence of ship strikes. Develop case studies to demonstrate benefits, anticipated and actual costs of measures introduced to reduce ship strikes.</p>	x	x	x	Chair of HIM, SC		Included in core costs SC meetings		High
<p>1.4 Improve the understanding of the relationship between vessel speed and risk of injury, death and damage to the vessel</p>	x	x	x	Chair of HIM, SC		Included in core costs SC meetings		Medium
(2) Increase the application of measures that reduce collision probability, such as re-routing and speed reduction/limits on a global scale.								
<p>2.1 Implementation of measures</p> <p>IWC member countries put in place speed and re-routing where necessary</p>	x	x	x	IWC Contracting Governments, SSWG				High
<p>2.2 Communication of mitigation measures to the IMO</p> <p>The IWC continues to promote mitigation options at the IMO. Prepare a paper for MEPC in 2023 that provides an update on research, risks, and mitigation opportunities on ship strikes.</p>		x		Secretariat; Chair of HIM; Ship Strikes Expert Panel, SSWG		Travel to IMO meetings £200 per annum	To be met by core Secretariat travel costs	Medium
(3) Improve reporting of incidents that do occur to the IWC Ship Strike Database.								

<p>3.1 Systematic outreach to data providers Systematic outreach to countries (members and non-members) and regional authorities to help obtain and secure data for entry to the database. Systematic outreach to shipping sectors, including shipping associations, to seek support with data entry Data from National Progress reports assessed and entered where appropriate.</p>	x	x	x	IWC Data Manager, Secretariat		£38,000 per annum for Data Manager	SC, VCF, welfare funds	High
<p>3.2 Review and provision of data Inclusion of known datasets (e.g., USA, Australia) and development of bulk upload tool Records included and reviewed in a reasonable timeframe</p>	x	x	x	IWC Data Manager, Secretariat, Ship Strikes Expert Panel, IWC Contracting Governments		Included in Data Manager costs		High
<p>3.3 Availability of database Update the website with the most recent version of data Ongoing, regular publication of routine summary statistics from the ship strikes database Maintain a compendium of relevant papers and reports of ship strikes issues</p>	x	x	x	IWC Data Manager, Secretariat		Included in Data Manager costs		Medium
<p>3.4 Use of the database Undertake review of the database to understand how it can be used and improved to help meet the IWC Strategic Plan Undertake analysis of the database to assess the scale of the problem, factors that relate to risk, estimate ship strikes mortalities for whale populations and assess effectiveness of mitigation measures taken</p>		x	x	IWC Data Manager, Secretariat, Chair of HIM, Ship Strikes Expert Panel		Included in Data Manager costs		Medium
<p>3.4 Outreach to other organisations When database has been updated, communicate results to IMO, CMS, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS and others as appropriate.</p>	x	x	x	IWC Data Manager, Secretariat, WG-SS		Met by core Secretariat costs		Medium
<p>(4) Increase development/use of avoidance technologies and push for their widespread-standardized where appropriate.</p>								
<p>4.1 Technological approaches Regular review and monitoring of new technologies by the Scientific Committee. Consult with shipping industry on technologies used.</p>	x	x	x	Chair of HIM, Ship Strikes Expert Panel		Included in core SC meeting costs.	VCF or SC science fund	High

						Potential costs for additional research/ review work	proposals to be submitted if needed	
4.2 Avoidance of overlap between whales and ships Reduction of ship strikes will focus on avoidance on overlap between whales and ships, or a reduction in speed. The IWC should look into technology to help mariners understand where to slow down or where seasonal areas e.g., mapping tools that show whale distribution or IMMAs.		x	x	Chair of HIM, Ship Strikes Expert Panel		Included in core SC meeting costs. Potential costs for additional research/ review work	VCF or SC science fund proposals to be submitted if needed	Medium
4.3 Using AIS data Investigate systems for monitoring all types of vessel traffic in high-risk areas including expanding requirements for vessels to transmit AIS signals to smaller vessels.				Chair of HIM, Ship Strikes Expert Panel		Included in core SC meeting costs. Potential costs for additional research/ review work	VCF or SC science fund proposals to be submitted if needed	Medium
4.4 Application of technology Assess the feasibility and support the application of technology for known high risk areas. Work with IUCN MMPA Task Force and regional stakeholders to ensure that recently identified IMMAs, in which ship strikes are a risk, be added to "Whale Alert" for the Mediterranean Sea Evaluate efficiency of the REPCET system for reducing the risk of Ship Strikes (SC2019)	x	x		IWC Data Manager, SSWG and other named leads		Included in Data Manager and core SC meeting costs. Potential costs for additional research/ review work	VCF or SC science fund proposals to be submitted if needed	Medium
(5) Improve collaboration on ship strike issues internationally (e.g. International Maritime Organization (IMO), other IGOs (ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS), NGOs, Arctic Council).								
5. 1 International Maritime Organization Continue to liaise with the IMO on issues relating to ship strikes, including high risk species and areas. Development of an appropriate protocol to enable consideration of cetacean distribution and occurrences for proposed new or revised routing schemes or speed restrictions. Inform the IMO that the IWC SC is "available" to review new TSS, PSSAs and ATBA for relevance and impact on avoiding ship strikes. Maintain SC group to advise on intersessional requests from IMO. Provision of appropriate information to the IMO MEPC	x	x	x	Secretariat with WG-SS and other named leads		To be delivered with core Secretariat funding		Top

5.2 IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Area Task Force Continue work on the use of Important Marine Mammal Areas to help identify high risk areas for ship strikes. This could include review of potential uses of IWC databases in helping identify Areas of interest (AOIs) for surveys and verification of longevity of IMMAs	x	x	x	Secretariat		To be delivered with core Secretariat funding		High
5.3 Convention on Migratory Species Liaise with the CMS and daughters agreements ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS	x	x	x	Secretariat		To be delivered with core Secretariat funding		Medium
5.4 Arctic Council						To be delivered with core Secretariat funding		Medium
5.5 UNEP-CEP-SPAW: Collaborative activities under new MoC to be presented for endorsement at IWC68	x	x	x			To be delivered with core Secretariat funding		Medium
5.6 CPPS		x	x			To be delivered with core Secretariat funding		Medium
5.7 SPREP		x	x			To be delivered with core Secretariat funding		Medium
5.8 NGOs	x	x	x			To be delivered with core Secretariat funding		Medium
5.9 Marine Traffic Continue to develop MOU for use of AIS data on shipping activity	x			Secretariat		To be delivered with core Secretariat funding		Medium
(6) Increase public and industry awareness about the issue and measures used to reduce this threat.								

<p>6.1 Training and education Identify and evaluate various training/education programmes to determine which might feasibly expand to other marine resource groups. Identify opportunities for IWC input.</p>		x	x	Secretariat				
<p>6.2 Specific advice to particular sectors Develop advice for vessels/sectors where there may be specific issues not covered by the IMO's general guidance documents. Discussion needed on which sectors to include here, including timelines for the development of guidance. This could include consideration of: Service vessels for offshore renewables, Fast ferries, Offshore sailing yachts (racing) - review needed by Expert Panel, update and promote guidance already produced. Cruise ship guidance - review needed by Expert Panel, update and promote guidance already produced. Oil & Gas.</p>		x	x	Expert Panel and Secretariat		£500 per annum for communications activities	Core Secretariat and VCF (application to be submitted if needed)	
<p>6.3 Public outreach Circulate leaflet on ship strikes for countries to distribute to their maritime networks</p>		x	x	Data Manager and Secretariat		Included in communications budget above		
<p>6.4 Review of impact Assess the receptiveness of outreach efforts</p>				As above		As above		