



International Whaling Commission

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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
IWC.ALL.6

Submission of Scientific Progress Reports

All member nations are urged by the Commission to provide Progress Reports to the Scientific Committee following the revised guidelines attached [IWC/49/4, Annex S]. Because of the short interval since the last Annual Meeting, the report should cover the period since the last report, or the intersessional period, as appropriate.

If a good single sided, single spaced top copy is received in the Secretariat by **14 April 1998** we will be able to reproduce it in sufficient quantity for the meeting.

Progress Reports, submitted after that date **must** be provided in **140 copies** for distribution to the Scientific Committee [*Rep. int. Whal. Commn* 29:29 (1979)], otherwise there will be serious delays in arranging for the production of the necessary copies. These documents should normally be supplied on A4 sized (or equivalent sized) paper, and printed double sided.

The **Guide for Authors**, published in *Rep. int. Whal. Commn* 46: 685-8 (1996), includes guidelines for the preferred format of documents for the Scientific Committee.

Dr. R. Gambell
Secretary to the Commission

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Annex S

Modified Guidelines for Progress Reports

Greg Donovan, John Bannister, Peter Best

INTRODUCTION

The present guidelines were last revised as a whole in 1988 (*Rep. int. Whal. Commn* 39:130). since then a number of suggestions and additions have been made (e.g. inclusion of biopsy sampling date, and most recently, data on non-natural mortalities of large whales in addition to direct catching).

It therefore seems timely to review the Guidelines as a whole, both in light of these changes, experience in working with the existing guidelines, and some changing emphases within the Committee. The following suggestion attempts to clarify some of the issues that appear to have most confused compilers in the past. it removes some of the duplication (e.g. 'Field observations' as on heading and 'Sightings data' as another) and suggests ways of presenting the data that will make it easier to be used by the Scientific committee as well as easier for the Compilers.

It should be noted that progress reports have their origin in Article VIII para. 3 of the Convention and have been formalised in our Rules of Procedure (see Annex L). However, many nations still do not submit them as our frequent recommendations for this to happen testify.

In order to encourage nations to submit such reports, we propose to make it easier by not only publishing (and sending them in a specific letter) the Guidelines, but also sending the framework on a disc in whatever word-processing format they specify. It might also help if at each Scientific committee meeting, one member was designated with the responsibility of trying to ensure that their nation submits a progress report. We have made a special effort to try and ensure that statistics are supplied by calendar year (or, where appropriate, season) which, despite the indications in the current Guidelines, seems to slip past many compilers.

The progress reports are also a convenient way for the Secretariat to fulfil some of the requests of the Committee to deep up-to-date 'directories' of, for example, natural marking data and biopsy and other tissue samples.

The outline, with explanatory notes, is given below. It is not expected that each country will necessarily have information on each item.

**COUNTRY. PROGRESS REPORT ON CETACEAN RESEARCH, MONTH 19xx TO MONTH 19XX,
WITH STATISTICAL DATA FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 19XX OR SEASON 19XX/XX**

Compiled by GIVE NAME

Compiler's affiliation and address

This report summarises information obtained from: INCLUDE THE NAMES OF THE AGENCIES OR INSTITUTIONS ETC. HERE, PLUS ANY ABBREVIATIONS

1. Species and stocks studied

A tabular format may be most appropriate. It might be helpful to indicate where in the report the species is mentioned. Please use IWC recommended names (see *Rep. int. Whal. Commn.*) for subsequent items, common names are preferred. e.g.

Common name	Scientific name	Area/stock(s)	Items referred to
Southern right whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	Southern coastline	2.1; 3.1.1; 3.1.3; 6.2
Humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Groups B and C	2.1.2; 3.1.1
Irrawaddy dolphin	<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i>	Irrawaddy River	7.1

2. Sightings data

2.1 Field work

2.1.1 SYSTEMATIC

Give brief details of surveys, when and where held and references to cruise reports if applicable. A summary table of sightings may be included (e.g. see Japanese Progress Reports).

2.1.2 OPPORTUNISTIC, PLATFORMS OF OPPORTUNITY

Give brief details of work carried out, with references where appropriate

2.2 Analyses/development of techniques

Give brief details of any analyses of data carried out, with references where appropriate. A summary table of sightings and associated effort may be included.

3. Marking data

3.1 Field work

3.1.1 NATURAL MARKING DATA

It would be helpful to provide this in the form of a table, e.g.

Species	Feature	Area/stock	Calendar year/season no. photographed	Catalogued (Y/N)	Catalogue total	Contact person/institute
Humpback whale	Fluke	w.N. Atlantic	43	Y	245	College of Atlantic

It might be useful to include the numbers by features recorded for some species e.g. humpback whales where more than one is commonly used (e.g. flukes, lateral/dorsal fin). this would enable the Secretariat to maintain a directory for information purposes, similar to that given in the SHH report.

3.1.2. ARTIFICIAL MARKING DATA

This would include such things as Discovery marks (especially recovery information) or external artificial tags.

3.1.3 TELEMETRY DATA

This would include both satellite and radio-tags. A table might again be an appropriate way to summarise the data e.g.

Species	Tag type	No. successfully deployed	Maximum time transmitting	contact person/institute
White whale	Satellite	7	3 months	A. Martin, Sea Mammal Research Unit UK

3.2 Analyses/development of techniques

Give brief details of any analyses of marking data carried out (e.g. times/distances to resightings, biological parameters, etc.) with references where appropriate.

4. Tissue/biological samples collected

4.1 Biopsy samples

Species	Area/stock	Calendar year/ season no. collected	Archived (Y/N)	No. analysed	Total holdings	Contact person/institute
Humpback whale	Group D	25	Y	22	66	Western Australian Museum

4.2 Samples from directed catches or bycatches

Species	Area/stock	Calendar year/ season total	Archived (Y/N)	Tissue type(s)*	Contact person/institute
Northern right	W.N. Atlantic	2	Y	Skin, blubber	New England Aquarium

4.3 Samples from stranded animals

Species	Area/stock	Calendar year/ season total	Archived (Y/N)	Tissue type(s)*	Contact person/institute
Fin whale	E.N. Atlantic	2	Y	Skin, ovaries	CNEMM, La Rochelle

*e.g. liver, skin, blubber etc.

4.4 Analyses/development of techniques

Give brief details of any analyses of data carried out, with references where appropriate.

5. Pollution studies

Information on available samples can be seen in section 4 although any clarification can be given here. The main purpose of this section is to give brief details of work in progress or completed analyses, with references where appropriate.

6. Statistics for large cetaceans

6.1 direct catches (commercial, aboriginal and scientific permits) for the calendar year 19XX or the season 19XX/XX

It is helpful if these statistics are included here. A table is probably the most convenient way to do this. however, it must be noted that this summary is not considered to fulfil the obligation to supply data to the Commission as specified in the Schedule.

Species	Type of catch	Area/stock	Males	Females	Total landed	Struck and lost
Gray	Aboriginal	Eastern N. Pacific	21	23	44	4

6.2 Other non-natural mortality for the calendar year 19XX or the season 19XX/XX

Last year the Committee agreed (*Rep int. Whal. Commn* 47:59) to include information on whales killed as a result of collisions with ships or entanglement, along with source of data and methodology used to determine cause of death. Again a table probably provides the most convenient way to summarise the data. please give references where appropriate.

Species	Area/stock	Males	Females	Total	Cause	Methodology
Northern right	Eastern USA	1	2	3	Ship strike	Port-mortem

6.3 Earlier years' statistics

This would be a place to include any corrections to statistics presented in earlier years. It may be appropriate to include references to studies that utilise time series of data here also.

7. Statistics for small cetaceans

7.1 For the calendar year 19XX

It was first agreed to include this information in a Commission resolution in 1976 (*Rep. int. Whal. Commn 27:31*). Again a tabular format is most convenient. All direct and incidental and live-capture removals should be recorded but **not** stranded animals unless their cause of death can be attributed to either direct or incidental capture. Where appropriate, directed or incidental catches can be separated by fishery type (e.g. hand-harpoon) and locality, as is currently done in the very informative compilations included in the Japanese Progress Reports of recent years. Please indicate if removals are known to occur, but no data are available, with a 'yes'.

Species	Area/stock	Directed catch		Incidental mortality			Live-capture
		Reported	Est. total	Reported	Est. total	Source*	Reported
Harbour porpoise	North Sea	0	0	456	2,322	Gillnet	2

*e.g. fishery type

7.2 Earlier years' statistics

This would be a place to include any corrections/additions to statistics presented in earlier years. It may be appropriate to include references to studies that utilise time series of data here also.

8. Strandings

If included, this section should only provide information on focal institutions/individuals who can be contacted.

9. Other studies and analyses

This is the appropriate place to briefly summarise other aspects of cetacean research relevant to the Scientific Committee, including results of analyses and development of techniques not covered in earlier sections. Give references where appropriate.

Attention is drawn to the issues of priority committee interest (many of which are considered under other items): management of whaling and Comprehensive Assessment of whale stocks - e.g. current stock size, recent population trends, carrying capacity, productivity, stock identity; effects of environmental change; scientific aspects of sanctuaries and whalewatching.

10. Literature cited

Include all references cited in the text here.

11. Publications

11.1 Published or 'In Press' papers only

In the version published in the report, 'In press' papers will not be included (they will of course be included as fully published papers in subsequent years). However, they are of value in the version presented to the meeting.

11.2 Unpublished literature

Please include information as to where the documents may be obtained.