

Update from the Joint CC/SC Intersessional Correspondence Group on Climate Change

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INTRODUCTION

This intersessional group reports to both the Conservation and Scientific Committees. The joint intersessional group now includes 80 people from around the world.

The last report to CC ([CC/68/12.2.1/01](#)) was during IWC68 and a paper to was presented to the Environmental Concerns Sub-committee at SC69A ([SC/69A/E/07](#)). The paper looked at the implications of climate change on cetaceans with an associated Excel spreadsheet of publications. This will inform ICG discussions. Three main points from that meeting are the focus of intersessional work and include consideration of a future workshop, how to create a better focus on climate change related issues into the SC and how to fundraise for associated activities. A summary of a side meeting held during SC69A was also presented to the Joint CC/SC working group directly following SC69A ([CC-SC May 2023 report](#)).

PROGRESS/UPDATES

Secretariat (Staniland) and Convenor Simmonds (in person and virtually, respectively) recently attended the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources' (CCAMLR) first workshop on climate change on behalf of the IWC. Staniland presented a summary of the IWC's last climate change workshop held at the end of 2021.

This is the first time that CCAMLR has formally sought to integrate the climate change driven changes that are occurring swiftly in the Antarctic into its management of the fisheries there. There may be lessons that we can learn from them as this progresses, and the IWC will keep in contact.

The Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) will also be considering climate change at its next meeting of Parties. This will now be in February 2024 (having been postponed from its original date in October) and the ICG will monitor how this develops and whether we can usefully work with them on this topic.

In the coming weeks, the ICG will be reviewing where climate change intersects with the work of the IWC Scientific Committee as part of a process of preparing to make recommendations next year about better developing our climate change work.

The ICG is planning to meet virtually to consider ways forward towards the end of the year. Please continue to share your thoughts and any new information regarding cetaceans and climate change with the ICG.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The CC is asked to note and provide any comments on intersessional progress made since the CC meeting in October 2022.

ANNEX 1**Joint CC/SC Intersessional Correspondence Group on Climate Change Workplan 2022-2024**

| Activity | Progress |
|---|--|
| Monitor the relevant literature and provide updates to the SC and CC as appropriate | Summary paper with spreadsheet of publications presented to SC69A. Ongoing literature searches |
| Review the outputs from the 2021 virtual IWC climate change workshop and seek ways to take forward its recommendations | Ongoing |
| 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 | |
| Further build synergies in these endeavors with other international organisations | Ongoing |

ANNEX 2

Intersessional Correspondence Group on Climate Change

Terms of Reference ([IWC/68/REP/CC/01](#))

- (1) Take into account the latest information on cetacean populations;
- (2) Provide clear advice on tools to mitigate the negative impact of climate change and build resilience;
- (3) Seek to develop an IWC climate change response programme