

IWC69 Main Outcomes Report

Item	Title	Main outcomes
1.5	Meeting provisions	The Acting Chair ruled that Rule of Procedure F.5(e) will not apply for the duration of IWC69, so that Contracting Governments in arrears for three years or more would be able to participate in IWC69 without paying the fees of Non-Member Government Observers, recognising that they do not have voting rights.
		The Acting Chair ruled that Rule of Procedure F.5(f), which refers to payment plans for Contracting Governments in arrears for three years or more, can be applied for IWC69 to three Contracting Governments with two years of arrears which have paid most of their arrears but still have a small amount to pay related to interest, exchange rates and such matters. Once payment plans are signed, voting rights can be restored.
		The Acting Chair ruled that evidence of financial contributions transferred to the Commission, but which have not yet cleared the Commission's bank account, is sufficient to restore voting rights for the purpose of IWC69.
2	Agenda	The Commission adopted the Agenda by consensus.
		The Commission agreed to leave all Resolutions and Schedule Amendments open for decisions to be taken in a single session later in the week, to be announced.
3	Quorum	The Commission decided that, should consensus not be reached to change the Rules of Procedure on quorum, the existing Rules of Procedure will remain for the purpose of IWC69.
		The Commission decided that, not having reached consensus among the options proposed by the WGOE, the existing Rules of Procedure B.1 and E will remain for IWC69.
		The Acting Chair explained that, under his interpretation of the existing Rules of Procedure, a quorum would be established at the start of each 90-minute session and would then be taken as standing for the duration of that session, so that, if there were a majority of members present at the start of the session, a decision could be taken at that session. The Acting Chair would inform the members in advance of sessions at which decisions would be made.
		The Commission decided to refer the Rules of Procedure on quorum to the WGOE for further consideration in the next intersessional period with two options to be presented to IWC70 before the adoption of other decisions.
4	Executive Secretary's Report on Secretariat Activities	The Commission noted the Executive Secretary's Report and agreed to include this report as a standing agenda item for future IWC meetings.
7.2	Extension of the ASW Strike/Catch Limits at IWC69	The Commission determined by consensus that all the ASW countries have complied with the approved timeline and that the information provided represents a <i>status quo</i> continuation of the hunt. The Commission therefore agreed that the conditions of Schedule paragraph 13(a)(6) have been met and the ASW Strike/Catch Limits can be extended for six years.

7.3	Discussion of the ASW Sub-Committee Report	The Commission decided that the ASW Sub-Committee will facilitate a discussion among the hunters from the relevant ASW countries to consider the term 'aboriginal' as it applies to their whaling and report back to IWC70 on whether they wish any further action on the use of that term.
		The Commission noted that the ASW Sub-Committee agreed to close its current recommendations which show the excellent progress made on this key part of the IWC's responsibilities since the two workshops of the ASW Working Group.
7.4	Adoption of the ASW Sub-Committee Report	The Commission adopted the ASW Sub-Committee's Report and its recommendations.
8.1	Proposal of a Schedule Amendment to create a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary	The Commission voted on the proposal to amend the Schedule to create a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary as presented in Document IWC/69/8.1/01. Having not received the required number of votes, the proposal was not adopted. The proposed Schedule Amendment received 40 Yes votes, 14 No votes and 3 abstentions. This fell below the 41 Yes votes required for the Schedule Amendment to be adopted.
9.1	Resolution on Food Security	The Proponents withdrew the Resolution on Food Security but will continue to work with interested parties during the intersessional period and develop a revised Resolution for consideration at IWC70.
9.2	Resolution on the Implementation of a Conservation and Management Program for Whale Stocks Aimed Towards the Lifting of the Moratorium and Orderly Development of the Whaling Industry	Following consultations, a decision was not sought at IWC69 on the draft Resolution on the Implementation of a Conservation and Management Program for Whale Stocks aimed towards the orderly Management and Development of the Whaling Industry. Work will continue intersessionally between interested Contracting Governments and representatives of civil society to continue dialogue on the issues raised in this proposal and aim to bring a new proposal to IWC70. Any efforts to meet in-person will be in a manner that does not require additional resources from the Commission.
9.3	Resolution on Co-operation with CCAMLR in Antarctica	The Commission agreed by consensus to adopt the Resolution on Co-operation in Antarctica as presented in Document IWC/69/9.3/01/Rev1.
9.4	Resolution on Synergies between the IWC, the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the BBNJ Agreement	The Commission agreed by consensus to adopt the Resolution on Synergies between the IWC, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted thereunder, and the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction as presented in Document IWC/69/9.4/01/Rev2.
9.5	Resolution on International Legal Obligations in Commercial Whaling	The Commission adopted by vote the Resolution on Responsibilities Related to Commercial Whaling Activities as presented in Document IWC/69/9.5/01/Rev1.
10.1	Report of the F&A Committee	The Commission noted the progress of the Voluntary Assistance Fund to date and thanked the donors for their ongoing support.
		The Commission authorised the Chair and Vice-Chair to approve any potential new offers on the sale of the Red House should they fall below the £1.25m threshold set at IWC68, are around market value and are no lower than the net book value of the Red House.
		The Commission approved the creation of a new Intersessional Correspondence Group for Fundraising with the Terms of Reference included in Document FA/69/4.3/01 and invited interested Contracting Governments to join the Group.

		<p>The Commission requested the Budgetary Sub-Committee to develop a recommendation for the management of voluntary funds, which includes, at least, the costs of the Secretariat and administration of the funds.</p>
		<p>The Commission approved an increase in line with inflation in the NGO, Observer and Media fees for the next biennium.</p>
		<p>The Commission noted the vacant seats for the Budgetary Sub-Committee membership and requests volunteers to make themselves known to the Chair of the Committee.</p>
		<p>The Commission approved the closing of 37 Finance and Administration recommendations on the Database of Recommendations.</p>
		<p>The Commission adopted the audited accounts for 2022 and 2023, noting both years received an unqualified audit opinion.</p>
		<p>The Commission recommended intersessional work be undertaken by the Budgetary Sub-Committee with regards to the Auditor's recommendation to review Financial Regulation F.5(a).</p>
		<p>The Commission approved the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding with the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement for the Creation of a Sanctuary for Marine Mammals in the Mediterranean (Pelagos) and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, and one Letter of Intent with the United Nations Environment Programme.</p>
		<p>The Commission noted the expected small deficit of the 2024 financial forecast outturn.</p>
		<p>The Commission thanked the UK Government for their support and the contribution towards the rent and service costs of the new IWC Headquarters and thanked the Government of Germany for their contributions to the running costs of IWC69.</p>
		<p>The Commission agreed to create a Science Liaison Group, with the Terms of Reference included in Document IWC/69/10.1/07/Rev1.</p>
		<p>The Commission endorsed the next steps identified in Document IWC/69/10.1/09 for carrying out work on Resolution 2022-1 towards a global risk assessment on the impacts of marine plastic pollution on cetaceans and requested the Scientific Committee to undertake this work in the next biennium, drawing on the Scientific Committee's Research Fund to the value of £15,000 from the lowest prioritised projects.</p>
		<p>The Commission requested the Science Liaison Group to consider ways in which the priorities of the Commission can be absorbed by the Research Fund when the Commission gives instructions to the Scientific Committee.</p>
		<p>The Commission endorsed the membership of the Science Liaison Group to include Australia (Convenor), Brazil, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, South Africa and the USA, and continues to seek participation from, at least, a West African party and an Asian party.</p>
10.2	Biennial budget	<p>The Commission noted that the proposed budget has been developed following the principles in the Budgetary Reform Strategy agreed at IWC68.</p>
		<p>The Commission agreed to the proposed budget for 2025/2026 which requires increases in financial contributions from Contracting</p>

		<p>Governments of 3% in 2025 and a further 3% in 2026 (Document IWC/69/10.2/01.Rev1 Annex 1) and noted that this includes new critical priority items (Document IWC/69/10.2/01.Rev1 Annex 2).</p> <p>The Commission noted the remaining priority needs and exceptional items that are not included in the core budget proposal (Document IWC/69/10.2/01.Rev1 Annex 3).</p> <p>The Commission agreed in principle to the provisional budget of 2027/2028, which requires increases of 5% in 2027 and 5% in 2028 (Document IWC/69/10.2/01.Rev1 Annex 4). This will be reviewed and adjusted before being presented to the Commission for agreement at IWC70.</p> <p>The Commission noted the ongoing uncertainties with the sale of the Red House and agreed that the General Fund reserves should be drawn on to cover the income gap if the Red House doesn't sell before 2025.</p> <p>The Commission agreed that the General Fund reserves should be drawn on to fund two one-off items: ensuring the Commission is compliant with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) regulations and funding the gap in the hosting costs of IWC69, noting the latter has already been covered by the Government of Germany.</p> <p>The Commission agreed that the Budgetary Sub-Committee work intersessionally on the activities identified in Document IWC/69/10.2/01/Rev1 and return to IWC70 with recommendations to address these matters.</p>
10.3	Report of the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness	<p>The Commission agreed by consensus to accept the WGOE's recommended change to Rule of Procedure E.2 on exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>The Commission agreed by consensus to accept the WGOE's recommended change to Rule of Procedure E.2 and Financial Regulation F.2 to encourage Contracting Government payments.</p> <p>The Commission agreed by consensus to accept the WGOE's recommended change to Financial Regulations F to encourage the use of payment plans.</p> <p>The Commission requested the WGOE to consider the current situation of locking the exchange rate to GBP and consider an alternative, including, but not limited to, the USD, and report back to IWC70.</p> <p>The Commission requested the WGOE to consider the adopted changes to Rule of Procedure E.2 and Financial Regulation F.2 and report to IWC70 on how the two-year period fits within the equivalent norms at similar bodies to the IWC so that the Commission can have a discussion as to whether that period is reasonable by international standards.</p> <p>The Commission requested the WGOE to consider the Acting Chair's ruling on Rule of Procedure F.5(e) and bring back a recommendation to IWC70.</p> <p>The Commission requested the WGOE to conduct a comprehensive review of the Rules of Procedure for clarity and inconsistencies.</p>
10.4	Rules of Procedure	<p>The Commission agreed by consensus to adopt the proposed changes to Scientific Committee Rule C.4 as presented in Document IWC/69/10.4/01.</p>

10.6	Adoption of the F&A Report	The Commission adopted the Finance and Administration Committee's Report and its recommendations.
10.7	Any other matters	The Commission requested the Secretariat and Budgetary Sub-Committee to look at the details of Uruguay's situation and relevant elements of the Contributions Formula and report back to IWC70 with options on how to proceed.
11.3	Adoption of the WKM&WI Working Group Report	The Commission adopted the Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues Working Group's Report and its recommendations.
12.3	Adoption of the Infractions Sub-Committee Report	The Commission adopted the Infractions Sub-Committee's Report.
13.2	Adoption of the Conservation Committee Report and Work Plan	The Commission adopted the Conservation Committee's Report and its recommendations, noting the support in principle from the Government of Cambodia for the Irrawaddy River dolphin CMP.
14.1	Discussion of the Scientific Committee Reports	The Commission requested the Science Liaison Group to consider the question of a Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific fin whales and bring back a recommendation to IWC70.
14.2	Adoption of the SC Report and Workplan	The Commission adopted the Scientific Committee's Report and its recommendations.
15	Update on Co-operation with Other Organisations	The Commission noted the Update on Co-operation with Other Organisations.
16.1	Election of Chair	The Commission appointed the representative of Australia, Dr Nick Gales, as Chair of the Commission for the next biennial period.
16.2	Election of Vice-Chair	The Commission appointed the representative of Benin, Dr Urbain Brito, as Vice-Chair of the Commission for the next biennial period.
17	Bureau membership	The Commission approved the membership of the Bureau, with Belgium to remain, Brazil to replace Argentina, Togo to replace Ghana, and Antigua and Barbuda to replace Saint Lucia.
18.2	Call for hosts	The Commission accepted the offer from Australia to host IWC70 in 2026.
19	Other matters	<p>While recognising the need for meaningful participation of civil society at IWC meetings, the Commission did not feel it was appropriate to approve Sea Shepherd's application for IWC observer accreditation at this time as it was not convinced that the organisation would contribute constructively to discussion on the business of the Commission. The Commission also noted that, under the current Rules of Procedure, Sea Shepherd could reapply for observer accreditation at any future meetings of the Commission.</p> <p>The Commission requested the Credentials Committee to develop a credentials template containing all the criteria required under the Rules of Procedure for a letter of credentials.</p> <p>The Commission agreed by consensus to support the decision-making processes of the Commission and support the right of credentialed delegates of voting parties to cast their vote on behalf of their country, and the Commission respects the outcome of that vote. Any effort other than to discuss views in a respectful way is not welcomed by this Commission.</p>
20	Adoption of daily reports of main outcomes, decisions and required actions arising from IWC69	The Commission adopted the IWC69 Main Outcomes Report.