

NJG/JAC/31061

24 February 2010

TO MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
IWC.SC.152

Note from Debra Palka, Chair of the Scientific Committee

Please find attached a note from Debra Palka that she has asked me to circulate. It is in relation to the pre-meetings for SC62 and more on the *Pre-Implementation Assessment* of North Pacific common minke whales.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

Scientific Committee Pre-meetings for SC62 and more on the *Pre-Implementation Assessment* of North Pacific common minke whales

DEBRA PALKA (Chair of the Scientific Committee)

During the pre-meeting time period, 28-29 May 2010, two sessions will be conducted concurrently. The main session will be the *Pre-Implementation Assessment* of North Pacific common minke whales. In addition, the correspondence working group on abundance analysis methods for Southern Hemisphere minke whales will continue their work.

***Pre-Implementation Assessment* of North Pacific common minke whales**

The *Pre-Implementation Assessment* of North Pacific common minke whales, convened by Hammond, will start during the pre-meeting time period, continue into the sub-committee time period and may continue beyond this year's meeting if the Scientific Committee does not agree that it has been completed. All members of the Committee wishing to participate fully in these discussions should therefore plan to be present for the pre-meeting.

Agenda: A draft agenda is given as Annex A.

Data: Data being considered are listed at www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/data_availability.htm.

Papers: Some of the papers that will be discussed are given in Annex B. Scientists who know that they wish to present other papers should inform Jemma Jones at the Secretariat (Jemma.Jones@iwcoffice.org). As a way forward to facilitate work to ensure the best chance of completing this *Pre-Implementation Assessment* at the Annual Meeting, authors are requested to submit draft papers to the Secretariat by **30 March 2010**. These papers and other information on the *Pre-Implementation Assessment* will be on the Scientific Committee's website¹. The papers submitted by 30 March 2010 will be considered as drafts and additional information/results in the form of new or revised papers or working papers may be presented at the pre-meeting or sub-committee meetings of the Annual Meeting, according to the usual Scientific Committee procedures.

Annexes:

Annex A: DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE *PRE-IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT* OF NORTH PACIFIC COMMON MINKE WHALES

Annex B: PRELIMINARY LIST OF PAPERS TO BE CONSIDERED DURING THE *PRE-IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT*

¹ http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/workshops/NPMpremeeting.htm

Annex A

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE *PRE-IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT* OF NORTH PACIFIC COMMON MINKE WHALES

1. Convenor's opening comments
2. Election of Chair and appointment of rapporteurs
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Review of documents
5. Catches
 - 5.1. Review of information on any uncertainties in commercial catch reports*
 - 5.2. Review information regarding incidental catches*
 - 5.3. Development of a set of hypotheses for alternative removal series for use when conditioning trials¹
 - 5.4. Spatial disaggregation of removals²
 - 5.5. Areas and timing for future harvesting*
 - 5.6. Future work
6. Stock structure³
 - 6.1. Brief overview of past discussions*
 - 6.2. Summary of available genetic and non-genetic data*
 - 6.3. Consideration of new information/analyses including consideration of power to detect differences*
 - 6.4. Broad description of stock structure hypotheses⁴*
 - 6.5. Results from the 'simple model filter'^{5,&}
7. Abundance estimates
 - 7.1. Summary of available information and past discussions*
 - 7.2. General issues⁶ *,&
 - 7.3. Selection of the years and areas for which abundance estimates will be available for use in conditioning of trials
 - 7.4. Selection of the years and areas for which abundance estimates will be available for use in the CLA in trials
 - 7.5. Plausible range for $g(0)$
 - 7.6. Plans for future surveys
8. Other issues
 - 8.1. Reviewing the information to estimate dispersal and mixing rates⁷*
 - 8.2. Specification of biological parameters
 - 8.2.1. Biological parameters*
 - 8.2.2. MSYR[&]
9. Other business
10. Initial discussions of experimental ways to distinguish among competing hypotheses.
11. Recommendations to the Scientific Committee
 - 11.1. Progress on the *Pre-Implementation Assessment*
 - 11.2. Other
12. Adoption of report

Notes:

* - These are items for which it is desirable that analyses are conducted/papers prepared and are presented to the *Pre-Implementation Assessment*.

& - Items which are not essential for the completion of the *Pre-Implementation Assessment*.

Notes

The primary objective is to facilitate the ability of the Committee at the 2010 Annual Meeting to determine whether the *Pre-Implementation Assessment* is complete and the *Implementation* should be initiated. The agenda items annotated by ampersands are items that would need to be addressed during the *Implementation* but are not essential to completing the *Pre-Implementation Assessment*. During this year's meeting focus will be on the items essential to be able to make a recommendation that the *Pre-Implementation Assessment* is complete and, time permitting, consider the remaining items.

1. At this stage, the aim is to develop a set of hypotheses regarding the extent of catches so that the catches to be used when applying the RMP lie within this set.
2. This item will consider whether the catch information is likely to be sufficient to allow sufficient spatial disaggregation for use in trials.
3. The objective of this agenda item is to identify a set of stock structure hypotheses inclusive enough that it is deemed unlikely that the collection of new data during the *Implementation* process will suggest a major novel hypothesis (e.g. a different number of stocks) not already specified in the basic trial structure.
4. The hypotheses will only need to be specified in broad detail (hypothesised locations of breeding grounds, feeding grounds, movement corridors, numbers of stocks) – final values for parameters related to, for example, dispersal and movement, will not be expected at this stage nor will plausibility need to be assigned to the hypotheses. Papers are encouraged that summarize the existing stock structure hypotheses and the evidence that supports/refutes alternative stock structure hypotheses.
5. This tool allows various stock structure hypotheses to be represented using age-aggregated production models on a spreadsheet. It could be used to examine the importance of any hypothesised factors in a management context, in order to inform future work and the development of appropriate *Implementation Simulation Trials*.
6. This item will *inter alia* consider methods for estimating additional variance, estimating the covariance among the estimates of abundance, and how to disaggregate the abundance estimates at small spatial resolution. Papers are encouraged that: (a) estimate additional variance from the data for the western North Pacific minke whales; (b) estimate the extent of covariance among abundance estimates for different survey sub-areas; and (c) list (and perhaps apply) alternative methods for disaggregating survey estimates of abundance spatially.
7. This item will involve reviewing the available information not necessarily attempting to calculate any such rates.

International Whaling Commission. 2008. Report of the Scientific Committee. *J. Cetacean Res. Manage. (Suppl.)* 10:1-74.

Annex B

PRELIMINARY LIST OF PAPERS TO BE CONSIDERED DURING THE *PRE-IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT*

Baker *et al.* A analysis of plausible stock structure hypotheses for the western North Pacific minke whale based on analyses of mtDNA from existing and requested data.

Brownell *et al.* Re-examination of life history and other biological information in western North Pacific minke whale populations.

Gaggiotti and Durand. Updated analyses of the genetic structure of western North Pacific minke whales (currently available at http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/workshops/NPMpremeeting.htm)

Goto *et al.* Plausible migration pattern of J stock based on information on stock structure, distribution and biology.

Hakamada. Revised abundance estimate of common minke whales based on JARPN II sighting data.

Hatanaka *et al.* Intention on future whaling operation and sighting surveys for common minke whale by Japan.

Hatanaka *et al.* Examination of statistics for bycatch mortality of common minke whales in Japan.

Hatanaka *et al.* Reconsideration of the sub-areas used for management of common minke whales based on current information on stock structure and migration pattern.

Miyashita. Abundance estimate of common minke whales in the Okhotsk Sea and east of Kamchatka Peninsula using standard method.

Miyashita *et al.* Review of current situation of abundance estimates for western North Pacific minke whales (1) review of the past sighting surveys, (2) integrated abundance estimates.

Okamura *et al.* Revised $g(0)$ estimates for western North Pacific common minke whales.

Wade *et al.* A review of factors to be considered when using western North Pacific minke whale abundance estimates.

Wade *et al.* A review of the plausible range of stock structure hypotheses for the western North Pacific minke whale based on genetic and biological information.

Plausible range of stock structure hypothesis of western North Pacific common minke whales. (Japanese scientists).

Estimation of mixing proportion of O/J common minke whales in sub-area 12 using cookiecutter shark scar as ecological marker. (Japanese scientists).

Genetic analysis of western North Pacific minke whales from Korea and Japan: microsatellite DNA (based mainly on hypothesis testing). (Japanese and Korean scientists).

Genetic analysis of western North Pacific minke whales from Korea and Japan: mitochondrial DNA (based mainly on hypothesis testing). (Korean and Japanese scientists)

A review of abundance estimates of minke whale using the sighting surveys conducted in subareas 5 and 6 by Korea from 2000 to 2009. (Korean Scientists).

Intention of future whaling in Korean waters of subareas 5 and 6. (Korean scientists).

Intention of sighting surveys in Korean waters of subareas 5 and 6. (Korean scientists).

A review on the status of bycatch minke whales in Korean waters. (Korean scientists).