



Circular Communication to Commissioners. Contracting Governments and  
Members of the Scientific Committee  
**IWC.ALL.221**

**Structure of the Commission and Intersessional Working Groups**

This Communication describes the structure of the Commission, its Sub-committees and Working Groups following decisions reached at IWC65 in 2014.

Membership of many of the groups listed below remains open. Any Contracting Government wishing to join specific groups should contact the Secretariat at [secretariat@iwc.int](mailto:secretariat@iwc.int)

**Commission**

Chair: Mr B. Mainini (Switzerland)  
Vice-Chair: Mr J. Morishita (Japan)

The Commission meets biennially. The next meeting, IWC66, will take place September – October 2016.

**Bureau**

Chair: Mr B. Mainini (Switzerland)  
Vice-Chair: Mr J. Morishita (Japan)  
Chair of the F&A Committee: Mr R. Wulff (USA)  
Members: Commissioner (Australia)  
Mr M. Akyeampong (Ghana)  
Ms J. Compton-Antoine (St Lucia)  
HE J. Moreira (Uruguay)

The Bureau is constituted under Commission Rule of Procedure M.9 and will meet twice in 2015. The first meeting will be via teleconference in March and the second will be held in Switzerland, in September, at the invitation of the Chair.

**Finance and Administration Committee**

Chair: Mr R. Wulff (USA)

Intersessional groups reporting to the F&A Committee:

i. Budgetary Sub-committee

Chair: Ms E. Phelps (USA)  
Vice-Chair: Ambassador Joel Hernández (Mexico)  
Members: Republic of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, San Marino, United Kingdom, Switzerland. One place remains open.

- ii. Working Group on assistance to Governments of limited means  
 Chair: Mr H. Moronuki (Japan)  
 Members: Cambodia, Ghana, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, United Kingdom, USA.  
 Membership of this group remains open.
- iii. Working Group on operational effectiveness and cost savings measures  
 Chair: Ms E. Phelps (USA)  
 Members: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Chile, Denmark, Japan, United Kingdom.  
 Membership of this group remains open.
- iv. Intersessional correspondence group on strengthening IWC conservation funding  
 Chair: Ms N. Clarke (United Kingdom)  
 Members: Australia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Mexico, Monaco, USA.  
 Membership of this group remains open.

### **Conservation Committee**

Chair Mr J. Maksabedian de la Roquette (Mexico)

Intersessional groups reporting to the Conservation Committee:

- i. Ship Strikes Working Group (SSWG)  
 Chair: Dr D. DeMaster (USA)  
 Members: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Italy, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, USA.  
 Collaborating IGOs: UNEP/CMS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS  
 Membership of this group remains open
- ii. Standing Working Group on Whalewatching (SWG-WW).  
 Chair: Mr R. Wulff (USA)  
 Members: Australia, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA, IWC Scientific Committee. Industry Representatives: Greg Kaufman (USA), Rafael Benegas (Argentina).  
 Membership of this group remains open.
- iii. Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (SWG-CMP)  
 Chair: Ms C. Schweizer (Australia)  
 Members: Australia, Argentina, Chile, Ghana, Italy, Mexico, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA, IWC Scientific Committee. Spain (Observer).  
 Collaborating IGOs: UNEP, SPREP  
 Membership of this group remains open.

Intersessional groups working jointly with the Conservation and Scientific Committees:

- iv. Working Group on the implementation and follow-up of conservation recommendations  
 Chair: Mr J. Maksabedian de la Roquette (Mexico, as Chair of the Conservation Committee).  
  
 This group was established through Resolution 2014-4. Contracting Governments wishing to join the group are invited to contact the Secretariat.
- v. Intersessional meeting to review the Southern Ocean Sanctuary  
 Chair: Mr J. Maksabedian de la Roquette (Mexico, as Chair of the Conservation Committee).  
 Steering Committee: Australia, France, United Kingdom, USA.  
 Membership of the Steering Committee remains open.

Members of the Conservation Committee may also wish to note the work on entanglement response undertaken through the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues described below.

### **Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee**

Chair Ms J. Compton-Antoine (St Lucia)

Intersessional groups reporting to the ASW Sub-committee:

- i. Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Working Group (ASWWG)  
Chair: Dr M. Tillman (USA)  
Members: Argentina, Austria, Denmark, Japan, Russian Federation, St Vincent and The Grenadines, Switzerland, USA.  
SC Members: Australia, Norway.

The ASWWG is developing a proposal for a workshop to address high priority issues. This workshop is expected to take place during the current intersessional period.

### **Infractions Sub-committee**

Chair Prof. L. Walløe (Norway)

### **Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues**

Chair Mr M. Stachowitsch (Austria)

Intersessional groups reporting to the Working Group:

- i. Intersessional Working Group on Welfare  
Chair: Mr N. Gooding (United Kingdom)  
Members: Argentina, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA.

As part of its Action Plan, the intersessional working group is expecting to organise a workshop to share international best practice on responding to cetacean mass standings. This workshop will take place in the current intersessional period.

### **Scientific Committee**

Chair Dr T. Kitakado (Japan)

Vice-Chair Dr C. Fortuna (Italy)

The full Scientific Committee meets annually and the next meeting will be from 20 May – 4 June 2015 in San Diego, CA at the invitation of the Government of the United States. The Committee operates 13 Sub-groups. Each Sub-group's workplan is described in the relevant section of the Scientific Committee's report.

The Sub-groups are:

- i. The Sub-committee on the Revised Management Procedure (RMP)
- ii. Standing Working Group on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedures (AWMP)
- iii. Sub-committee on Bowhead, Right and Gray whales (BRG)
- iv. Sub-committee on In-Depth Assessments (IA)
- v. Sub-committee on other Southern Hemisphere Whale Stocks (SH)
- vi. Working group on Stock Definition (SD)
- vii. Working group on Non-deliberate Human Induced Mortality of Large Whales (HIM)
- viii. Standing Working Group on Environmental Concerns (E)
- ix. Working Group to Address Multi-species and Ecosystem Modelling Approaches (EM)
- x. Sub-committee on Small Cetaceans (SM)

- xi. Sub-committee on Whalewatching (WW)
- xii. Working group on DNA (DNA)
- xiii. Working group on Special Permits (SP)

The Scientific Committee will hold a number of intersessional workshops whose reports are considered at its annual meetings. These workshops are described at Table 22 of the Scientific Committee's recent report (Document IWC/65/Rep 01, downloadable at:

[https://archive.iwc.int/pages/view.php?ref=3436&search=%21collection103&order\\_by=relevance&sort=DESC&offset=0&archive=0&k=&curpos=1](https://archive.iwc.int/pages/view.php?ref=3436&search=%21collection103&order_by=relevance&sort=DESC&offset=0&archive=0&k=&curpos=1) ).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Simon Brockington  
Executive Secretary

*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*