



## INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

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# RESEARCH PROPOSAL REQUEST

## 1. RELEVANT AGENDA ITEM (NO. AND TITLE)

10.1; 10.2; 10.3 Southern Hemisphere whale stocks

14. Small cetaceans

19. Southern Ocean Research Partnership

## 2. PROJECT TITLE

**Southern Ocean Research Partnership (IWC-SORP) coordination**

## 3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND WHY IT IS NECESSARY TO SUB-COMMITTEE

The Southern Ocean Research Partnership (IWC-SORP) was proposed by Australia in 2008 as a new IWC regional collaborative research program, was endorsed by the IWC in 2009 and is now fully part of the IWC process. The Partnership includes 11 member States. IWC-SORP is similar in nature to other regional collaborative programs such as SOWER and POWER. SORP delivers Southern Ocean whale research, fully aligned with IWC priorities, and benefits from large scale collaboration. The research priorities were identified and endorsed by the Scientific Committee. The research is managed through large scale, multi-national projects which develop and apply the latest in non-lethal research techniques.

The Scientific Committee receives annual reports on the progress of IWC-SORP research projects and future plans compiled by the IWC-SORP coordinator. The Scientific Committee subsequently direct the research activities of IWC-SORP via the IWC-SORP coordinator through its annual meetings.

Although, the scientific outputs from IWC-SORP are geographically delivered primarily to the SH sub-committee, IWC-SORP has delivered research through many more sub-committees and working groups: the minke work through EM, IA and increasingly SD; and the killer whale work to SM.

The scientific coordinator is also responsible for, *inter alia*, liaison between Principal investigators; communication between IWC-SORP Partners, the IWC Secretariat and SORP steering committees; budget management; seeking funding; and representation in relevant forums.

The IWC has a budget specifically related to the work of SORP established with a contribution from Australia in 2008 and supplemented by additional voluntary contributions from Australia and the United States in 2011. This budget is administered by the IWC Secretariat. Only 1000 GBP remains unexpended and unallocated in the IWC-held funds (Table 1).

*Specific objectives:*

To employ an IWC-SORP coordinator for the period of two years to:

- (1) leverage future funding ;
- (2) ensure the communication of high-calibre scientific research to Scientific Committee, IWC and the wider scientific community; and thus
- (3) sustain the momentum of the collaborative research effort.

It is important to note that small amount of money can pay enormous dividends. In the case of IWC-SORP, since its inception, IWC has received and administered a 500,000AUD/ca. 278,000 GBP by Australia, plus two additional voluntary contributions of 20,130 GBP from Australia and 16,000 from the United States.

This relatively small amount of **314,130 GBP allocated over 5 years** of research funding has:

- Leveraged roughly **7 million GBP in kind** support in vessel times for the 6 voyages conducted under the auspices of IWC-SORP to date, expertise, equipment.
- The publication, to date, of 36 peer-reviewed papers in scientific journals with more currently in review by editorial boards or in preparation.
- A total of 22 primary papers to the Scientific Committee this year; and 53 primary papers since the inception of the Partnership (SC/61 – SC/65b).
- 16 conference presentations have been made by SORP researchers since SC65a; a number of these were presented at the IWC-SORP Special Session at the 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, last December in New Zealand.
- In addition, each project report lists technical reports, popular articles and extensive media coverage stemming from the Partnership.

Proportionally, the 35,330 GBP requested in this proposal could lever 787,286 GBP of voyage time and *in kind* support, in addition to monetary voluntary contributions from Partners, funding from philanthropists and granting bodies, as well as facilitate the delivery of a substantial new number of high calibre science to the Scientific Committee, IWC and the wider scientific community.

#### 4. TIMETABLE

The proposal covers the period 01 July 2014 until 30 June 2016.

#### 5. RESEARCHERS' NAME(S)

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#### 6. ESTIMATED TOTAL COST (WITH BREAKDOWN AS NEEDED, E.G. SALARY, EQUIPMENT)

Salary for a Southern Ocean Research Partnership Coordinator, 1 day per week for 2 years (based on Australian Public Survey level EL1):  
Year 1 - GBP 14,471 + 3,125 overheads  
Year 2 - GBP 14,471 + 3,263 overheads  
**Total requested = GBP 35,330**