



INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

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RESEARCH PROPOSAL REQUEST

1. RELEVANT AGENDA ITEM (NO. AND TITLE)

Item 5. Assessment of Southern Hemisphere Blue Whales

2. PROJECT TITLE

Southern Hemisphere Blue Whale Catalogue 2014/2016

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

The Southern Hemisphere Blue Whale Catalogue (SHBWC) is an international collaborative effort to facilitate cross-regional comparison of blue whale photo-identifications catalogues.

To date we have made great progress in contribution of blue whale catalogues and comparisons within areas provided interesting results on long-term resightings. Currently major contributions of photographs have been received and we are in a position to further continue with matching process within regions. Results of comparisons among different regions in Southern Hemisphere will improve the understanding of basic questions relating to blue whale populations in the southern hemisphere such as defining population boundaries, migratory routes and model abundance estimates.

4. TIMETABLE

2014/2015: Comparisons among catalogues from Australia/ New Zealand/ Indonesia regions

2014/2015: Update of photo-identification catalogues from Antarctica and South America and start matching process within ETP/Antarctica/SouthPacific.

June 2015: Update report to IWC

2015/2016: Finalize comparisons within ETP/Antarctica/SouthPacific.

2015/2016: Start matching process between ETP/Antarctica/SouthPacific and Australia/ New Zealand/ Indonesia.

June 2016: Final report to IWC.

5. RESEARCHERS' NAME(S)

Bárbara Galletti (Catalogue curator, regional coordinator and contributor)

Paula Olson (Regional coordinator and contributor)

Chandra Salgado (Regional coordinator)

Contributors: Chris Burton, Asha de Vos, Michael Double, Paul Ensor, Tim Gerrodette, Peter Gill, Curt Jenner, Luciana Moller, Margie Morrice, Daniel Palacios, Leigh Torres

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

2014/2015

Photo uploading & comparisons £ 12.000

Project and database management £2.000

Supplies and web hosting £1.000

Total £ 15.000

2015/2016

Photo uploading & comparisons £ 15.300

Project and database management £2.000

Supplies and web hosting £1.000

Total £ 18.300