



INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

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RESEARCH PROPOSAL REQUEST

1. RELEVANT AGENDA ITEM (NO. AND TITLE)

SH 3.3 Antarctic Humpback Whale Catalogue/SC 10.2 Southern hemisphere humpback whales

2. PROJECT TITLE

Proposed budget: IWC Research Contract 16, Antarctic Humpback Whale Catalogue

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

We have made tremendous progress in the catalogue with funding support from the IWC. Increasing awareness of the project among research organizations, tour operators and other potential contributors has widened the scope of the collection; research efforts in areas that had not previously been sampled have extended the geographic coverage. The AHWC has doubled in size in the past five years and grown by more than 10% in the past year, substantially increasing the time required to analyse photographs. However, because of increased efficiency, productivity has changed little over the past five years. The project has a hemispheric scope and the database spans three decades. Conducting comparison without pre-conceptions about probable movement patterns has resulted in several unexpected and unprecedented findings. As a result the AHWC is in an excellent position to make a substantial contribution to research and management initiatives. There continues to be strong interest in the catalogue, and photographs catalogued during the contract period included substantial additions from some of the areas with the longest history and most extensive coverage in the database as well as some that were previously under-represented in the collection. The AHWC continues to be a unique clearing house for data collected opportunistically and from eco-tourism sources.

4. TIMETABLE

January 2015 to December 2016

5. RESEARCHERS' NAME(S)

Peter T. Stevick, Judith M. Allen and Carole Carlson, College of the Atlantic, 105 Eden Street, Bar Harbor, ME 04609 USA

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

Recognizing the scope of work to be accomplished in the coming year and the importance of timely analysis to the contributing researchers and the scientific community we are requesting that funding be granted at **£15,000 GBP** per year. We will seek funding from other sources to provide the remaining funds required. Additional resources are provided by College of the Atlantic, including equipment and student assistants, and time donated by Project Investigators Judith Allen and Carole Carlson. In-kind time donated during the last funding year exceeded 800 hours.

BUDGET 2014-2015: To continue the cataloging of submitted photographs and further develop and enhance the system for photo management and access. Budgetary amounts are in GBP.

Salary:

Project and database management 3,200

Photo comparison 10,000

Fringe @ 16.5% 1,650

Supplies 150

Total Budget £15,000

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