

**1. RELEVANT AGENDA ITEM (NO. AND TITLE)****RMP Agenda Items 3.2 (North Atlantic minke whales) and 3.3 (North Atlantic minke whales)****2. PROJECT TITLE****Essential computing support to the Secretariat for RMP****3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND WHY IT IS NECESSARY TO SUB-COMMITTEE**

Regular *Implementation Reviews* are required under the RMP. The Committee is currently undertaking the third *Implementation Review* for the North Atlantic minke whales and the first *Implementation Review* for the North Atlantic fin whales. The Committee has developed a new and complex trials structure for both species (fin whales last year and minke whale this year). A key task of the proposed intersessional workshop is to examine the conditioning results so it is critical that the code for the trials has been completed and validated, and that the conditioning of trials performed prior to the workshop.

Conducting this work for minke whales should put the Committee in the position to complete the *Implementation Review* for North Atlantic minke whales at SC66a, which would also assist the AWMP SWG in developing a *Strike Limit Algorithm* for minke whales off West Greenland.

The trials structure for fin whales has proven more difficult to implement, in particular due to the complexity of the operating model which includes multiple stocks and areas, as well as density-dependent dispersal. The code for this operating model needs to be checked prior to the 2015 intersessional meeting, which will modify the trials structure to include sensitivity tests based on a selected set of base-case models and assumptions regarding dispersal and the initial year for the projections. The final trials will need to be coded and validated, and the results presented to a 2<sup>nd</sup> intersessional workshop in 2016 before the *Implementation Review* is completed at SC66b.

**4. TIMETABLE**

North Atlantic minke whales:

Code finalisation and validation	15 September 2014
Conditioning	1 January 2015
Workshop to evaluate conditioning, confirm/amend finalize trial specifications (if needed)	January 2015
Amendments to code completed and any revised conditioning	1 March 2015
Projections completed	1 month before SC66a

North Atlantic fin whales:

Code finalisation and validation	15 September 2014
Conditioning	1 January 2015
Workshop to evaluate conditioning, confirm/amend finalize trial specifications (if needed)	January 2015
Amendments to code completed and any revised conditioning	1 March 2015
Trials structure finalized	SC66a
Results presented to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Intersessional Workshop	Early 2016
Projections completed	1 month before SC66b

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

Caryn de Moor

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

Salary Year 1 - GBP 10,000 (= 2.5 months @ £4,000/month)

Salary Year 2 - GBP 10,000 (= 2.5 months @ £4,000/month)