

1. RELEVANT AGENDA ITEM (NO. AND TITLE)

RMP subcommittee agenda item 3.4 North Atlantic sei whales

2. PROJECT TITLE

Genetic analysis to aid the formulation of plausible stock hypotheses for pre-*Implementation Assessment* North Atlantic sei whales

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

A possible RMP implementation of North Atlantic sei whales has been on the agenda of the RMP subcommittee in recent years. A Steering Group (SG) has been given the task of Investigating the feasibility of conducting such an assessment. The SG has recommended further genetic analysis to aid the formulation of plausible stock hypotheses for this species. The SG has identified 172 samples from the Eastern, Central and Western North Atlantic, the analysis of which is likely to inform on potential stock structure. The project involves the generation of ddRAD-based SNP genotypes from the available tissue samples by the Marine Evolution and Conservation Group at University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

4. TIMETABLE

The intersessional period 2014-2015. A report will be submitted at SC 66a in 2015.

5. RESEARCHERS' NAME(S)

Per Palsbøll, Christophe Pampoulie, Debi Palka, Jooke Robbins and Gísli Víkingsson.

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

4,100 £ for laboratory analysis. All costs associated with data analysis and report writing will be covered by the applicants. The requested funds covers the preparation of two ddRAD libraries, and Illumina HiSEQ2500 100 base pair paired-end HT sequencing (excl. salaries).