

## 1. PROPOSED TITLE OF WORKSHOP

RMP Workshops to further progress on the *Implementation Reviews* for the North Atlantic minke and fin whales

## 2. RELEVANT SUB-GROUP OR SUB-GROUPS

RMP Sub-Committee

## 3. OBJECTIVE/TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKSHOP

- (1) Fin whales
  - a. Review the conditioning of the initial trials
  - b. Update the specifications of the trials by defining a full set of sensitivity tests
  - c. Specify the management variants to consider intersessionally
- (2) Minke whales
  - a. Review the conditioning of the trials
  - b. Specify the management variants to consider intersessionally
- (3) The proposal includes contingency funding for additional workshops in early 2016 in the event that it is not possible to complete the *Implementation Reviews* for North Atlantic minke and fin whales in 2015.

## 4. SCIENTIFIC RATIONALE FOR THE WORKSHOP, EXPLAINING *INTER ALIA* WHY IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND HOW IT RESPONDS TO IDENTIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS

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. *Implementation Reviews* can be 'light' and involve only reviewing catches and abundance estimates, as well as new information which might suggest that the scenarios considered in previous *Implementation Simulation Trials* are either no longer considered plausible or do not consider the full range of uncertainty. However, the current *Implementation Reviews* are not 'light' because (a) the original *Implementation* for the North Atlantic minke whales was not conducted using the current Committee Guidelines and Requirements (because at that time they had yet to be defined) and (b) key new information is now available for the North Atlantic fin whales.

The Committee has developed a trials structure for both species (fin whales last year and minke whales this year) and work has commenced to code the trials and condition them. These are activities which would usually occur during the First Intersessional Meeting. The next step in the *Implementation Review* process is to code the trials and to review the results of the conditioning and finalize the trials based on that review, including updating any standard data sets, and finalizing the management options to consider. In the context of both the North Atlantic fin and minke whales, there is the added complexity of catches off West Greenland which are made as part of an aboriginal hunt.

Conducting this workshop 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.

## 5. ANY PREREQUISITE DATA REQUIREMENTS AND ANALYSES (IF BUDGET REQUESTS THESE SHOULD BE ON A SEPERATE RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORM)

1. Allison and de Moor (with help from Punt) are to finalize the trial specifications, code the operating models, and condition the trials.

## 6. LIKELY SCIENTIFIC OUTCOME

1. If all the trials for the minke whales can be conditioned successfully, the Committee should be in a position to complete the *Implementation Review* of the North Atlantic minke whales at SC66a (as planned).
2. If all the initial trials for the fin whales can be conditioned successfully, the Committee should be in a position to finalize the trial specifications for the North Atlantic fin whales SC66a and complete the *Implementation Review* at SC66b.

**PART 2: Logistical aspects****7. SUGGESTED STEERING GROUP (INCLUDING POSSIBLE CONVENOR)**

The Steering Group for the Meeting will be Donovan (Convenor) with members Allison, Butterworth, Punt, Vikingsson, Walloe and Witting

**9. EXPECTED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING SUGGESTED INVITED PARTICIPANTS (GIVE NAMES AND AREAS OF EXPERTISE)**

Participants will include national representatives from Denmark, Iceland and Norway.

Other participants:

1. Greg Donovan (Secretariat: Chair)
2. Cherry Allison (Secretariat: Computing Manager – trials structure must be validated)
3. Doug Butterworth (invited participant)
4. Carryn de Moor (validation of the trials structure)
5. Andre Punt (trials developer)

**10. (PROVISIONAL DATE) AND PROPOSED VENUE**

Five days, early 2015 in Copenhagen (Greenland Representation venue to be confirmed)

**11. PROPOSED BUDGET (INCLUDING BREAKDOWN)**

5 Invited participants each year (cost ~ £14,000 = 2 x £7,000)