



INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

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RESEARCH PROPOSAL REQUEST

1. RELEVANT AGENDA ITEM (NO. AND TITLE)

This item is relevant to assessment modelling aspects of items 2 (Antarctic minke whales) and 4 (North Pacific sei whales) under IA.

2. PROJECT TITLE

Assessment modelling for in-depth assessments of Antarctic minke and North Pacific sei whales.

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND WHY IT IS NECESSARY

Part of an in-depth assessment is evaluating the status of a population using some sort of population dynamics model that is specific to the biological and behaviour parameters of that particular population and is fitted to monitoring data. During 2015 the IA sub-committee will be starting an in-depth assessment of the North Pacific sei whales and will also be completing the in-depth assessment of the Indo-Pacific Antarctic minke whale.

The project involves developing population dynamics models as required to progress the work on the IA sub-committee.

4. TIMETABLE

No funds are required during 2015.

For the north Pacific minke whale in-depth assessment during 2015 annual Scientific Committee meeting the IA sub-committee will be reviewing stock structure and abundance, developing stock structure hypotheses, specifying the assessment model and the runs to be conducted. The funds of this proposal will then be used between the 2015 and 2016 annual Scientific Committee meetings to implement the assessment model and conduct the runs. Results will then be submitted to the Committee during the 2016 annual meeting.

For the Antarctic minke whale, during the 2015 annual Scientific Committee meeting the IA sub-committee will be compiling and finalizing the information learned during this in-depth assessment that focused on the Indo-Pacific portion of the Antarctic minke whale habitat. Part of that review is to identify aspects not completed with respect to the current statistical catch at age (SCAA) assessment model. The funds of this proposal will be used to conduct these runs and submit the results to the Committee during the 2016 annual meeting.

5. RESEARCHERS' NAME(S)

Dr. André Punt.

6. ESTIMATED TOTAL COST (WITH BREAKDOWN)

2015: £0

2016: £5,000 for a contract to Dr. Punt.

7. OUTCOMES

- (1) Meeting reports submitted to IWC Secretariat and Scientific Committee documenting the models, their structure, the data used for analysis, results and interpretation of the results.**
- (2) Software and associated data files used to create the assessments.**