



# INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

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## RESEARCH PROPOSAL REQUEST

### 1. RELEVANT AGENDA ITEM (NO. AND TITLE)

7. NON-DELIBERATE HUMAN INDUCED MORTALITY OF LARGE WHALES

### 2. PROJECT TITLE

Ship strike database coordinator

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

The ongoing development of the IWC ship strike database requires data gathering, communication with potential data providers and data management. The Working Group on Non-deliberate Human Induced Mortality recommended a part-time post initially for 3 months a year to undertake the following tasks.

#### DATA GATHERING

- (1) Liaise with regional databases in order to facilitate their submission to the global database – this will involve addressing issues of data confidentiality and classification, as well as facilitating easy submission to the database
- (2) Identify national contact points, organisations and groups that hold data on ship strikes that have not been contributed to the global database and encourage them to submit their data to the global database – this will involve use of mail lists (e.g. Marmam, ECS-talk) and will involve addressing issues of data confidentiality and classification, as well as facilitating easy submission to the database. Telephone interviews with identified contributors should be investigated to facilitate submission of data.
- (3) Disseminate new criteria for ship strikes developed at SC65a
- (4) Regularly contact national co-ordinators or stranding networks (from IWC list) providing them with any new updates relevant to ship strikes and helping to facilitate data entry of any new records to IWC database.
- (5) Regularly review scientific journals for ship strike information and contact authors to collate data for entry into the database.
- (6) Use search engines and other internet news monitoring tools for reports of ship strikes and follow up on reports of new incidents in order to gather information as soon as possible after the incident took place and facilitate its incorporation into the database – this will include informing national coordinators promptly of reported incidents within their area.
- (7) Prioritise populations identified in CMPs for data gathering outreach efforts

#### OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

- (1) Work with the Secretariat to ensure that the IWC ship strike web site pages are kept up to date including:
  - updating publicly available summaries from the database;
  - providing links to other sources of information material e.g. that produced by international organisations such as ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, CMS, IMO as well as national groups
  - consider whether there is value in highlighting recent cases/reports on the web page in a positive manner to encourage further reporting
- (2) Monitor and respond to emails addressed to the [shipstrikes@iwcoffice.org](mailto:shipstrikes@iwcoffice.org) email address, including reports of new incidents, giving feedback to data providers and dealing with requests for summary information from the database.

(3) Work with the Secretariat to develop a communications strategy. This may include: developing approaches to ensure that the current leaflet on ship strikes prepared by Belgium with assistance from inter alia IFAW is as widely distributed as possible within shipping industry (direct to vessels), shipping management companies, and maritime academies;

- exploring ways of raising the profile of the database by contacting other organisations including ECS, ACS, SMM, ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS), NGOs, recreational boating associations, maritime organisations;
- considering the need to update the leaflet

(4) Liaise with national Port Authorities and Coast Guards for gathering information on ship strikes, to distribute awareness material and eventually access AIS data.

(5) Assist Secretariat with maintaining links with IMO, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS etc

(6) Provide an annual update to Scientific Committee.

(7) Consider developing PowerPoint presentations/posters for use at workshops, symposia, conferences, etc.

(8) Consider presenting information at specific conferences (e.g. ECS, SMM etc)

(9) Explore funding options for future IWC ship strike work.

#### **DATABASE MANAGEMENT**

(1) Work with the Secretariat to improve the user friendliness of the database (requires technical assistance) including in response to user problems and suggestions.

(2) Data entry of new records including data presented in meeting papers and National Progress Reports at annual meetings of Scientific Committee, including sailing vessel cases from Ritter (2012) – priorities for entry to be established with the steering group

(3) Further development of database handbook, ensuring that the database documentation remains up to date, is widely distributed and that any changes are notified to all actual/potential collaborators.

(4) Work with data review group to ensure that all new records are appropriately reviewed including identification of potential duplicate reports.

#### **4. TIMETABLE**

Work throughout the intersessional period

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

Panigada and Ritter

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

£10,000 per annum for coordinator salary