

PROPOSAL TO HOLD AN IWC WORKSHOP

PART 1: Scientific Justification

1. PROPOSED TITLE OF WORKSHOP

Investigations of large mortality events and mass strandings

2. RELEVANT SUB-GROUP OR SUB-GROUPS

E, SM, SH, EM, HIM, BRG;

3. OBJECTIVE/TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKSHOP

The workshop will bring together biologists, veterinarians, and stranding network investigators from various countries to facilitate the collaboration and coordination between national and regional programs on responses to and investigations of unusual or large scale mortality events, mass strandings, and disease events. The goals of the workshop are to establish common terminology, to facilitate consistency in investigation techniques, to identify common issues and share information on potential solutions relative to causes, responses, and mitigation, and to promote international data sharing and mutual aid particularly for mass strandings and large mortality events. The workshop is responsive to large scale mortality events, die-offs and mass strandings over the last few years including those associated with seismic or military training exercises. In addition the workshop will seek to get international agreement on the terms for strandings and mortality events. These terms are at least the following: (1) mass stranding [single and mixed species], (2) atypical mass stranding [single and mixed species], (3) UME and (4) die-off [single and mixed species].

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

The workshop will cover the issues of enhancing investigations and review of events, , and enhanced collaboration and information sharing. Consistently responding to, evaluating and reviewing these events will enhance the SC in developing knowledge on the potential causes of these events and the impacts or risks for populations. Increased consistency and evaluations, knowledge on best responses & investigations, and increasing our ability to determine causes or contributory factors can best be done with enhanced international collaborations. This workshop will take a second step in enhancing the collaborations and setting the international internationally consistent terminology and protocols.

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

No.

6. LIKELY SCIENTIFIC OUTCOME

The likely outcome will be guidelines, protocols, and common terminology for evaluation of past events and response / investigations of future events. These products will enhance our ability to compare events across regions to determine common etiology and to provide mutual aid through stranding response and training and protocols for the humane treatment of animals and sound scientific investigations. Information will be used to identify threats to populations of cetaceans and enhance understanding of events globally.

PART 2: Logistical aspects

7. SUGGESTED STEERING GROUP (INCLUDING POSSIBLE CONVENOR)

Convenor: TBD (possibly Rosa or Jepson)

CERD Strandings intersessional group and Cipriano

8. TIMETABLE AND FORMAT OF WORKSHOP, E.G. 2-DAY WORKSHOP BY INVITATION ONLY

Workshop would be by invitation and would be a 3 day workshop prior the 2015 Biennial Meeting of the Society for Marine Mammology (SMM) in San Francisco, CA. The final agenda will be provided intersessionally and at the IWC SC66a. This will be a 2 day workshop of invited experts for a focused discussion. Having the meeting in conjunction to the SMM will reduce costs significantly. The 3rd day will be an open workshop with broader representation from the SMM. Coordination with SMM has already begun on meeting rooms and other application issues

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

We expect approximately 20-25 participants (invited) for days 1-2 and up to 40 for day 3 (open session if approved by SMM). The final list of participants and agenda will be finalized and **the workshop will be held in 2015.**

Paul Jepson

Members of CERD and stranding group (Fernandez, Marcondes, Uhart, Brownell, Vely, Rowles, Rosa)

Frances Gulland

Katie Moore

Other members identified by member countries

10. (PROVISIONAL DATE) AND PROPOSED VENUE

Venue would be San Francisco CA and meeting would likely be at the Marine Mammal Center (day 1-2), held in conjunction with the SMM Biennial meeting in 2015 with one day (day 3) being open possibly as a pre-meeting, to SMM.

11. PROPOSED BUDGET (INCLUDING BREAKDOWN)

5000 for travel for 2-3 international participants and for room rentals (one day). Additional 2-3 international travellers will be provided from other sources.