

PROPOSAL TO HOLD AN IWC WORKSHOP

PART 1: Scientific Justification

1. PROPOSED TITLE OF WORKSHOP

IWC Scientific Committee Steering Group meeting on Climate Change

2. RELEVANT SUB-GROUP OR SUB-GROUPS

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3. OBJECTIVE/TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKSHOP

To review work by the SC to date; place this in the context of latest knowledge; and produce a plan for an ongoing work programme by the SC.

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

There is considerable evidence that climate change is accelerating and a considerable effort is being put into understanding its impacts on biodiversity. This is arguably more advanced in taxa other than marine mammals.

Climate change has been a long-standing item on the agenda of the Scientific Committee and our work to date has included three workshops (the latest in 2010) and is outlined in paper E12. Among the key outcomes of the most recent workshop were the call for a global review of restricted habitats, and the recommendation that an assessment should be made of priority species in context of the IUCN Red List and that they should be assessed relative to their vulnerability and resilience to climate change.

At last year's Scientific Committee, no updates were received on recommendations from previous climate change workshops, and no papers were submitted for review. Little has been presented this year, although an informal poll of the members of the Standing Working Group on Environmental Concerns showed that around half are currently involved in climate change-related research.

Intersessional work by the Scientific Committee has arguably been constrained by availability of some key participants or, to put it another way, many people are busy

with many other matters. The proposal here is essentially for an initiative to help put the climate change work by the Scientific Committee 'back on the rails' by holding a small meeting of IWC and other experts. This would be in the form of a 'Steering Group' meeting to review the topic, including the latest work from other IGOs (for example by the Convention for Migratory Species, IUCN and ACCOBAMS) and produce a proposed process for the future engagement.

The International Marine Conference occurring in Glasgow in August has climate change as a central theme and this proposal seeks to leverage the opportunity of the latest information that will be presented there to help guide the Scientific Committee steering group meeting. The aim of this steering group meeting would be to provide a carefully researched and considered recommendation back to the Scientific Committee about how it might now best take forward its programme of work on climate change.

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

N/A

6. LIKELY SCIENTIFIC OUTCOME

Document for E SWG with a strategy outline and workplan for future climate change work

PART 2: Logistical aspects

7. SUGGESTED STEERING GROUP (INCLUDING POSSIBLE CONVENOR)

Conveners: Simmonds, Parsons and Palacios

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

Small invitation-only 2-day meeting – some participants will join by phone/skype conference.

1. Draft Annotated Agenda.

i. Review of latest information on climate change

- General climate change literature with impact on the oceans (i.e. IPCC Report; new physical climate projections for the ocean; updates on developments like accelerating melting of ice shelves etc);

- Selected and relevant references from the broad literature on effects of climate change on biodiversity that can illuminate how cetaceans might be impacted, recognizing that it is much more difficult to observe these impacts on cetaceans than on other taxa; and
 - References of research of climate change impacts on marine mammals
- ii. Consider the outputs and workstream of the IWC to date, including its current focus on habitat
- iii. Identify and consider the approaches to climate change in progress in other MEAs
- iv. Consider the potential role of the IWC SC in helping to take investigations forward in liaison with other bodies
- v. Develop a draft workplan/advice for the Scientific Committee

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

Some 10-20 people drawn from members of the SC; members of the intersessional working group; experts from other MEAs; and from the conference.

This group would including 5 invited (and funded) participants

Potential contributors

Böhm, Monika Zoological Society of London

Pearce-Higgins, James British Trust for Ornithology

MacLeod, Colin

Someone from IUCN Climate Initiative

Representation from CMS/ACCOBAMS

IPCC marine prognosis lead

Laidre, Kirsten

Moore, Sue

Leslie, Aimee or someone else from WWF and/or Conservation International

Conference attendees (as proves appropriate – Parsons getting names)

Simmonds, Mark (in person – no cost)

Smith, Brian (by Skype)

Wells, Randy (by Skype)

Palacios, Daniel (by Skype)

Stachowitsch, Michael

Brockington, Simon, and/or Donovan, Greg

Sudyam, Robert (by conference call)

Parsons, ECM (in person no cost)

10. (PROVISIONAL DATE) AND PROPOSED VENUE

The two day meeting will be held at Glasgow University immediately after (19-20th August) the International Marine Conservation Congress (14-18 August 2014), which will save costs on travel expenses, as some participants will be travelling to that meeting

11. PROPOSED BUDGET (INCLUDING BREAKDOWN)

Travel and accommodation for 5 people - £5,500

(4 from Europe @ £500each; 1 from USA/N America @ \$1,500; 1 from Asia/Australia @ £2,000)

Contingency - £500

Total request: £6000

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