



January 2016

Introduction

At our last meeting in 2014, the Commission emphasised the need for collaboration. Of course no inter-governmental organisation can function without collaboration, but increasingly we see the need to build relationships between different disciplines and functions as well as between countries. Marine debris is one of the best examples of an issue that must be tackled on many different levels and by many different types of organisation, including the IWC.

In the last IWC News Bulletin, we reported on IWC work with SPREP, ASCOBANS, IUCN, NAMMCO and ACCOBAMS. Below is an outline of current or planned work with the International Maritime Organisation, the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the Arctic Council. It's good to see this increased engagement and even better to hear of the value placed on IWC's contribution by other organisations. I'd like to thank all those who give their time and expertise to represent the IWC at meetings, workshops and other events all around the world.

Bruno Mainini

IWC Chair

Upcoming Event

22-26 Feb, Tokyo, Japan

Workshop: JARPN II Final Review

24-26 Feb, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Workshop: IWC/IORA building sustainable whale and dolphin watching tourism

18-21 Apr, La Jolla, USA

Workshop: forwarding the modelling process to understand status of North Pacific gray whales

4-20 Jun, Bled, Slovenia

Annual IWC Scientific Committee Meeting

20 Jun, Bled, Slovenia

Joint meeting of the IWC Scientific and Conservation Committees

20-28 October, Portoroz, Slovenia

IWC66: biennial meeting of the IWC

News & Updates

...International collaboration on mass strandings...

In December, just before the Biennial Conference of the Society for Marine Mammology in San Francisco, the IWC held a workshop on cetacean stranding. The primary aim was to facilitate international collaboration and coordination across existing national and regional strandings programmes. Issues discussed included responses and mitigation, common issues, and potential solutions. Also

covered were international data sharing and provision of mutual aid, particularly for mass strandings and large mortality events where local capacity could become stretched.

[find out more](#)



...Collaboration with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)...

Work continues to fulfil the Commission's request for closer collaboration with the IMO. As well as attendance at their 29th Assembly, an IWC delegation reported a successful and constructive meeting with the IMO's Marine Environment Division in January. The IWC also took part in a joint IMO/FAO workshop on illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Issues currently under discussion with IMO include ship strikes, ocean noise and marine debris.



...Productive workshop on Aboriginal Whaling Management Procedure...

A workshop was held in Copenhagen in December which progressed work to establish new mathematical calculations for establishing sustainable limits for aboriginal whale hunts. Known as *Strike Limit Algorithms (SLAs)*, the calculations are developed and tested using computer simulated models. A separate calculation is required for each different species hunted in a particular region. The work is complex and ongoing. Primary aims for this workshop were finalising the *SLA* for fin whale hunts off West Greenland, and moving forward on work to develop *SLAs* for common minke hunts off West and East Greenland.

The workshop was able to finalise the fin whale *SLA* which will be recommended to the Scientific Committee when it meets in June. Progress was made on the minke whale hunts which is the most complex of all the *SLAs* required for Greenland.

[find out more](#)



...Entanglement Response Network- growth and consolidation.

Towards the end of 2015, entanglement response training was undertaken in Oman, Chile, Guadeloupe and Martinique. As well as significant geographic expansion, the network marked its first Spanish-language training. Network Co-ordinator David Mattila was joined by Ricky Rebollero, one his former apprentices under the 'Train the Trainer' programme which ran last summer, sponsored by World Animal Protection.

The Oman workshop registered another significant development as the first to combine entanglement and stranding response training. The four day programme was considered a success, and also marked the expansion of the Entanglement Response Network into the Indian Ocean for the first time.

[find out more](#)



...Sustainable whalewatching for Indian Ocean rim countries...

The Indian Ocean will again be the focus of IWC activity in February. Supported by the Government of Australia and Murdoch University, the Government of Sri Lanka will host an IWC-IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association) workshop on sustainable whale and dolphin tourism. The workshop will look at potential economic benefits and ecological impacts, share best practice guidelines, and identify both the opportunities and the challenges for Indian Ocean rim countries. The overall aim is to develop an Action Plan, enabling countries to work towards consistent regional best practice. Invitees include representatives from national and local government, the tourism and whale watching industries, non-governmental organisations and academic institutions.

[find out more](#)



...JARPN II Review Workshop...

Also in February, an Expert Panel will meet to review the final results of the JARPN II programme in the North Pacific. Following Scientific Committee guidelines for review of special permits, the panel will conduct a review of the scientific aspects of JARPN II in light of its stated objectives. They will assess the extent of scientific output and the degree to which JARPN II has coordinated its activities with other related research projects, and also evaluate how well initial and/or revised objectives have been met. The report of the Expert Panel Workshop will be available via the IWC website on 22 April.

[find out more](#)

...Other events...

The IWC will be represented at the meeting of the Arctic Council's Working Group on the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) in Stockholm, and the 24th meeting of the NAMMCO Council in Oslo. Both these events are in February. In March, the IWC will attend the 30th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society in Madeira.

Thank you for reading. If you have any material for the next IWC Bulletin, please e-mail it to [Kate Wilson](#).

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