



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

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Circular Communication to Commissioners. Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee
IWC.ALL.242

Structure of the Commission and Intersessional Working Groups

This Communication updates Commissioners on the structure of the Commission, its Committees, Sub-committees and Working Groups. It replaces Communication IWC.ALL.221 of 6 January 2015.

Membership of many of the groups listed below remains open. Any Contracting Government wishing to join specific groups should contact the Secretariat at secretariat@iwc.int

Commission (88 Contracting Governments)

Chair:	Mr B. Mainini (Switzerland)
Vice-Chair:	Mr J. Morishita (Japan)

The Commission meets biennially. The next meeting, IWC66, will take place from 20-28 October 2016 at the Grand Hotel Bernardin, Portorož, Slovenia.

Bureau

Chair:	Mr B. Mainini (Switzerland)
Vice-Chair:	Mr J. Morishita (Japan)
Chair of the F&A Committee:	Mr R. Wulff (USA)
Members:	HE P. Woolcott (Australia)
	Mr B. Nutsukpui (Ghana)
	Ms J. Compton-Antoine (St Lucia)
	Mr C. Rodriguez Brianza (Uruguay)
	Mr A Bibic (Slovenia and host of IWC66)

The Bureau is constituted under Commission Rule of Procedure M.9. It has met twice since IWC65 in 2014, firstly by teleconference in March 2015 and secondly in person in Switzerland, 21-23 September 2015, at the invitation of the Chair.

Chair: Mr Bruno Mainini (Switzerland)
Vice-Chair: Mr Joji Morishita (Japan)
Executive Secretary: Dr Simon Brockington

Finance and Administration Committee

Chair:	Mr R. Wulff (USA)
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Intersessional groups reporting to the F&A Committee:

i. Budgetary Sub-committee

Chair:	Ms E. Phelps (USA)
Vice-Chair:	Mr J. Maksabedian de la Roquette (Mexico)
Members:	Republic of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, San Marino, United Kingdom, Switzerland. One place remains open.

ii. Working Group on assistance to Governments of limited means

Chair:	Mr H. Moronuki (Japan)
	Antigua & Barbuda, Brazil, Cambodia, Ghana, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, United Kingdom, USA. Membership of this group remains open.
Observer	IOMAC

iii. Working Group on operational effectiveness and cost savings measures

Chair:	Ms E. Phelps (USA)
Members:	Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Chile, Denmark, Japan, St Kitts and Nevis, United Kingdom. Membership of this groups remains open.

iv. Intersessional correspondence group on strengthening IWC conservation funding

Chair:	Mr N. Gooding (UK)
Members:	Australia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Mexico, Monaco, USA. Membership of this group remains open.

Conservation Committee

Chair:	Mr J. Maksabedian de la Roquette (Mexico)
Vice-Chair:	Mr J. Rendell (UK)

Intersessional groups reporting to the Conservation Committee:

i. Ship Strikes Working Group (SSWG)

Chair:	Dr D. DeMaster (USA)
Members:	Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Italy, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, USA. Membership of this group remains open.
Collaborating IGOs:	UNEP/CMS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, IMO

ii. Standing Working Group on Whalewatching (SWG-WW).

Chair:	Mr R. Wulff (USA)
Members:	Australia, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA, IWC Scientific Committee. Industry Representatives: Greg Kaufman (USA), Rafael Benegas (Argentina). Membership of this group remains open. The SWG-WW is working in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Rim Association and other project partners to deliver a whalewatching network and capacity building workshop in Sri Lanka on 24-26 February 2016.

iii. Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (SWG-CMP)

Chair:	Ms C. Schweizer (Australia)
Members:	Australia, Argentina, Ghana, Italy, Mexico, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA, IWC Scientific Committee. Spain (Observer). Membership of the group remains open.
Collaborating IGOs:	UNEP, SPREP

Intersessional groups working jointly with the Conservation and Scientific Committees:

iv. Working Group on the implementation and follow-up of conservation recommendations

Chair:	Mr J. Maksabedian de la Roquette (Mexico).
	This group was established through Resolution 2014-4. Contracting Governments wishing to join the group are invited to contact the Secretariat.

v. Intersessional meeting to review the Southern Ocean Sanctuary

Chair:	Mr J Maksabedian de la Roquette (Mexico).
Steering Committee:	Australia, France, United Kingdom, USA. Membership of the Steering Committee remains open.
Note:	The Scientific Committee's ten year review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary and the proposed South Atlantic Sanctuary is underway through a separate process of expert review. The Scientific Committee will report its findings to the Commission at IWC66.

Members of the Conservation Committee may wish to note the work on entanglement response undertaken through the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues described below.

Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee

Chair	Ms J. Compton-Antoine (St Lucia)
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Intersessional groups reporting to the ASW Sub-committee:
i. Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Working Group (ASWWG)

Chair:	Dr M. Tillman (USA)
Members:	Argentina, Austria, Denmark, Japan, Russian Federation, St Vincent and The Grenadines, Switzerland, USA.
SC Members:	Australia, Norway.

Infractions Sub-committee

Chair:	Prof. L. Walløe (Norway)
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Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues

Chair:	Mr M. Stachowitsch (Austria)
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Intersessional groups reporting to the Working Group:

i. Intersessional Working Group on Welfare

Chair:	Mr N. Gooding (United Kingdom)
Members:	Argentina, Luxembourg, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA. As part of its Action Plan, the intersessional working group will organise a workshop to share international best practice on welfare and responding to cetacean mass strandings. This workshop will take place in 2016.

In addition to the above, the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues receives the report of the Secretariat's advisor on accidental human induced mortality. This includes on-going work to build global capacity to respond to entangled whales. For 2016 this work is expected to include, for the first time, convening an expert workshop to address entanglement prevention.

Scientific Committee

Chair:	Dr C Fortuna (Italy)
Vice-Chair:	Dr R Suydam (USA)

The full Scientific Committee meets annually and the next meeting will be from 7-19 June 2016 at the Hotel Golf in the resort of Bled, Slovenia (see Circular Communication IWC.SC.200 of 25 January 2016). The Committee operates 13 Sub-groups. Each Sub-group's workplan is described in the relevant section of the Scientific Committee's report.

The Sub-groups are:

- i. The Sub-committee on the Revised Management Procedure (RMP)
- ii. Standing Working Group on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedures (AWMP)
- iii. Sub-committee on Bowhead, Right and Gray whales (BRG)
- iv. Sub-committee on In-Depth Assessments (IA)
- v. Sub-committee on other Southern Hemisphere Whale Stocks (SH)
- vi. Working group on Stock Definition (SD)
- vii. Working group on Non-deliberate Human Induced Mortality of Large Whales (HIM)
- viii. Standing Working Group on Environmental Concerns (E)
- ix. Working Group to Address Multi-species and Ecosystem Modelling Approaches (EM)
- x. Sub-committee on Small Cetaceans (SM)
- xi. Sub-committee on Whalewatching (WW)
- xii. Working group on DNA (DNA)
- xiii. Working group on Special Permits (SP)

During 2016 the Scientific Committee will hold a number of intersessional workshops whose reports are considered at its annual meetings. These workshops are described at Table 25 of the Scientific Committee's 2015 report (Document IWC/66/Rep 01, downloadable at <https://archive.iwc.int/?r=5429>)



Simon Brockington
Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC