

IWC/M16/CW/GEN/05

Detailed agenda for the strandings workshop

Secretariat



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

IWC technical workshop- developing practical guidance for the handling of cetacean stranding events

5-6 May 2016

Skukuza Rest Camp, Kruger National Park, South Africa

Aims

To help build global capacity for effective cetacean stranding response and promotion of the IWC as a leading body for the provision of advice through the development of practical guidance for responders. The workshop will achieve this by drawing together existing information and protocols to produce options and cetacean stranding handling guidance, which can be used by responders to help manage a stranding event. Workshop outputs will include a range of options, to enable choice of appropriate strandings response within different regions and contexts.

The workshop welcomes contributions for brief case studies and presentations to help illustrate examples of national strandings response.

Workshop principles

- 1) 'Whales' is taken to refer to all cetaceans.
- 2) Concerned only with wild cetaceans.
- 3) The workshop will focus on the potential range of options in relation to stranded cetacean response. The workshop will refer to previous work within the IWC on entanglement response, but this is considered to be outside of the remit of this workshop. Strandings **can** be defined as "when an animal swims, is left by a receding tide or is deposited onto land (beach, mudflats, sandbank etc) dead or alive."¹
- 4) The workshop will consider welfare in relation to decision-making around stranding response, but will also consider the strandings response process as a whole, including elements that may not be related to welfare.
- 5) The workshop is informed by the outputs of the June 2014 Woods Hole workshop 'To Develop An International Marine Mammal Stranding and Entanglement Response Toolkit' and also the outputs of the joint IWC/Society for Marine Mammalogy December 2015 Workshop 'Investigations of Large Mortality Events, Mass Strandings, and International Stranding Response'.
- 6) The workshop will consider and discuss current options for strandings response, with examples and case studies from national stranding networks.

Agenda

Day 1- Thursday 5th May, 09.30am

- 1) Welcome and introductions
 - a. *Brief introduction from the Chair on the aims of the workshop and outline of the agenda, with respect to the range of potential responses to stranding events.*

¹ Reference UK strandings programme. NB other national definitions exist.

b. The Chair will also outline the potential role of the IWC as a repository for strandings guidance, to aid global capacity building.

2) National strandings and background presentations (Presentations- Rob Deaville, CSIP; Katie Moore, IFAW; Mike Ogle, New Zealand; Sarah Wilkin, USA)

- a. Brief summaries of national experiences with strandings response*
- b. Summaries of previous workshops (Woods Hole 2014, SMM 2015 etc)*

11.00 Coffee break

3) Assessment (single stranding events)

- a. Initial stranding report and data recording*
 - I. Data recording and information gathering (live/dead strandings, species and length etc)*
 - II. Photography and social media*

12.30-1.30 Lunch

4) Live stranding response and options (Presentations- Paul Jepson, CSIP; Mike Ogle, New Zealand; Brian Sharp, IFAW)

- a. Preventative measures (to prevent strandings/mass strandings)*
- b. Veterinary assessment*
- c. Refloat/rescue/translocate*
 - I. Small cetaceans*
 - II. Large cetaceans*
 - III. Herding/hazing/capture*
- d. Euthanasia*
- e. Rehabilitation*

16.00 Coffee break

5) Post release monitoring (Presentations- Brian Sharp, IFAW)

- a. Visual monitoring*
- b. Tagging options*
- c. Tag follow up*

18.00 Close of Day 1

Day 2- Friday 6th May, 09.00am

6) Mass stranding considerations (Presentations- Andrew Brownlow, SMASS; Antonio Fernandez, ULPGC)

- a. How do mass stranding considerations differ from single strandings?*
- b. Reporting, assessment, intervention, triage and dealing with mixtures of live/dead animals.*

11.00 Coffee break

7) Post-mortem investigations and tissue sampling (Presentations- Paul Jepson, CSIP)

- a. *What can the post-mortem investigation reveal about the cause of death and the reasons for stranding. How can the samples and data collected help inform research and policy decisions.*
- b. *How can the post-mortem investigation inform welfare led decision making in the future?*

1.00-2.00 Lunch

- 8) Carcass disposal (Presentations- Mike Ogle, New Zealand)
 - a. *Logistics*
 - b. *Requirements (legal)*
 - c. *Cultural*
- 9) Human health and safety considerations
 - a. *Live stranding response*
 - b. *Dead stranding investigation*
- 10) Legislation and cultural considerations
 - a. *National/international legislation*
 - b. *Cultural considerations*

16.00 Coffee break

- 11) Media liaison and public engagement
- 12) Summarise work to be progressed and establishing the potential role of the IWC
- 13) Close

Selected reference material

- Barnett, J., Knight, A. and Stevens, M. BDMLR marine mammal medic handbook version 7
- Geraci, J.R. and V.J. Lounsbury. 2005. *Marine Mammals Ashore: A Field Guide for Strandings* Second Edition. National Aquarium in Baltimore.
- IWC entanglement workshop reports (Hawaii, 2010; Provincetown, 2011; Provincetown, 2015; <https://iwc.int/entanglement>)
- IWC Workshop report on Euthanasia Protocols to Optimize Welfare Concerns for Stranded Cetaceans (https://iwc.int/document_3449)
- IWC/Society for Marine Mammalogy December 2015 Workshop 'Investigations of Large Mortality Events, Mass Strandings, and International Stranding Response'
- Kuiken, T. and Garcia Hartmann, M. (eds.) (1991) Proceedings of the first European Cetacean Society workshop on cetacean pathology: dissection techniques and tissue sampling. ECS newsletter 17, Special issue: 39pp
- Srinivasan, M. et al. (2015) Workshop to develop an International Marine Mammal Stranding and Entanglement response Toolkit