

IWC/M16/CW/GEN/03

Draft Annotated Agenda

Secretariat



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

Draft agenda

Workshop to support the IWC's consideration of non-hunting related aspects of cetacean welfare

3-6 May 2016

Skukuza Rest Camp, Kruger National Park, South Africa

Day 1 – Tuesday 3rd May 09.00

09.00 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 Opening remarks

Brief welcome from the Nigel Gooding (Chair), Simon Brockington (IWC Secretariat) and Herman Oosthuizen (South Africa). Delegates then invited to introduce themselves. Icebreaker – one word associated with welfare.

Introduction from Chair explaining that genesis and broad intent of the workshop i.e. will provide input to the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues, that is "...tasked with reviewing information and providing advice to the Commission on issues relating to whale killing methods and all aspects associated with ensuring good welfare of cetaceans that are hunted or otherwise impacted by human activities" (IWC/65/WKM&AWI05 Rev2). Note that more information on specifics will be provided under Item 2.

1.2 Appointment of rapporteur(s)

1.3 Available documents

Chair to flag available documents - Agenda. ToR. Workshop supplementary information document. Info papers. All available electronically.

09.30 2. WORKSHOP AIMS (OBJECTIVES, AND FOCUS)

2.1 Overview

Goal is to identify priority welfare issues for wild cetaceans and advice to the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare issues, including on addressing gaps in evidence.

Key principles:

- 'Whales' is taken to refer to all cetaceans.*
- Dealing only with non-hunting related threats to cetacean welfare.*
- Aspects relating to welfare impacts of scientific research will not be covered.*
- Concerned only with wild cetaceans.*
- Focussed on welfare at an individual level but identifying where this may translate to population level effects.*

2.2 Relationship with the IWC Welfare Action Plan (Presentation- Jamie Rendell, United Kingdom)

Short introduction to the overall Welfare Action Plan with a brief explanation of the IWC's interest in welfare. Identify those Items of the Plan that the Workshop will contribute towards delivering:

- Action 2.1.1 Priority Areas of Work – add detail to Action Plan*
- Action 2.1.2 Identify and quantify nature and extent of threats to welfare, information gaps, possible mitigation*

Potential to reference existing IWC guidelines e.g. whale watching guidelines, seismic surveys etc.

2.3 Expected workshop outcomes and production of report

A final report will be circulated to attendees. This will build on the workshop supplementary information document, capturing key messages, agreed priorities, and recommendations.

10.00 3. THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

3.1 Understanding what we mean by ‘animal welfare’ (Presentation: Christine Nicol, University of Bristol).

Outlining the scientific basics of, and concepts in, animal welfare. Differences and overlap between animal welfare and conservation. Science behind animal sentience and meeting the needs of animals in human care/affected by human activities. The ethical dimension and spectrum of philosophical approaches (e.g. utilitarianism, intrinsic value). Historical and current drivers for addressing welfare concerns (e.g. philosophical/ethical, including public morality; religious doctrines; economic: better animal health = better products from animals; statutory requirements; consumer choice and corporate CSR). Differences in approach and responsibilities to managing/mitigating threats to wild animal welfare, vs animals in human care.

Group comments and discussion.

3.2 National perspective (Presentations - Sarah Wilkin, USA; Angela Recalde Salas, Colombia; Herman Oosthuizen, South Africa).

Presentations to focus on national examples of legislation or guidelines on welfare. Followed by discussion with participants to identify additional examples.

3.3 International organisations perspectives on animal welfare (Presentation: Claire Bass, HSI/Katie Moore, IFAW).

Claire: Briefly outlining the approach, policies and actions taken by other multilateral frameworks to facilitate shared progress on animal welfare challenges with an international component, e.g. World Organisation for Animal Health OIE, CITES, WTO, EU, International Agreement on Humane Trapping Standards, OECD (3Rs in animal experiments). Other regional organisations with relevance to marine animal welfare e.g. NAMMCO, regional environment and/or fishery bodies.

Katie: Lessons from regional agreements to improve terrestrial wild animal welfare.

11.15 COFFEE BREAK

11.30 4. ASSESSING WELFARE THREATS TO WILD CETACEANS AT THE INDIVIDUAL AND POPULATION LEVEL. Presentations: David Matilla, IWC Secretariat. Craig Johnson, Massey University.

4.1 Assessing welfare status – physical, physiological, and behavioural impacts indices.

4.2 Separating human-induced poor welfare from natural welfare challenges

Presentations focussing on latest science to develop indicators of welfare status (e.g. chemicals in faecal material), current considerations within the IWC Scientific Committee (e.g. on entanglement, euthanasia, and marine litter), different ways of assessing positive and negative animal welfare states, and how to further incorporate frequency and duration of negative welfare experiences in order to determine an overall welfare status.

Presentation will describe the 5 domains model and any other potential assessment approach suitable for use with wild animal populations. It will also explain how it may be used in the planned exercise under Agenda Item 6.

Presentations should cover assessment of:

- *Physical e.g. damage from ships, entanglement, sonar, seismic*
- *Physiological e.g. effects on health, including disease and health, indicators of sensibility and death.*
- *Behavioural e.g. exclusion from optimal habitat or altered feeding/reproductive/migratory behaviour.*
- *Synergistic and cumulative effects, including implications of observed short-term changes in the longer-term at the individual and population level) Separating out anthropogenic from natural welfare impacts*

Should be noted to delegates to keep in mind the content of these presentations and application of the 5 domains model during discussions under Agenda item 5.

12.30 LUNCH

13.30 5. SUMMARY OF NON-HUNTING THREATS TO CETACEAN WELFARE

Short presentations (c.10min) and discussion to draw out two separate workstreams: 1) identify priorities/issues where the evidence may be sufficient to allow for the generation of management advice and 2) identify where we may want to develop management advice but the evidence base is insufficient.

For each sub-item, the presentation/discussion/report should:

- *Identify the human activities that result in the welfare threat and how they affect welfare.*
- *What do you measure to determine the affect*
- *Role of local communities in monitoring and identifying welfare threats*
- *Outline any knowledge gaps In the above two points*
- *Identify existing or potential mitigation and prevention measures and identify organisations or bodies that have advisory or regulatory interests at national and international levels.*
- *Identify any existing relevant IWC work*

5.1 Entanglement in active gear and ALDFG (abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear) (Presentations: David Matilla, IWC Secretariat).

5.2 Ship strikes (Presentation: Julie Van der Hoop, Woods Hole).

5.3 Whalewatching (Presentation: Miguel Iniguez, Fundacion Cethus/Lars Bejder, Murdoch University).

5.4 Marine litter excluding ALDFG (Presentation Andrew Butterworth, University of Bristol)

5.5. Matters related to habitat degradation (Presentation-Mark Simmonds).

5.1.1 Chronic and acute noise

5.2.2 Chemical pollution (other than marine litter)

5.2.5 Prey depletion i.e. from overfishing

5.2.7 Climate change

15.30 COFFEE BREAK

15.50 6. COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF WELFARE THREATS: DISCUSSION AND GROUP EXERCISE

Aim is to bring together the evidence and conclusions from agenda items 4 and 5 to explore whether the workshop can comparatively assess the different welfare threats, in order to aid prioritisation.

Presentation to the group by Chair/Jamie, for feedback and discussion, that the major human activities (non-hunting/capture) that can negatively impact cetacean welfare are: 1. Entanglement, 2. ship strikes, 3. whale watching, 4. noise pollution, 5. chemical pollution, 6. litter ingestion, 7. Prey depletion. Refer to Craig Johnson presentation on 5 domains model and introduce the assessment tool to be used to provide a rudimentary ranking of the welfare implications of each of these threats May require some group discussion on use/adaptation of the tool for the group exercise.

- 16.20** *Group exercise: establish 7 tables each focused on one of the 7(?) welfare threats. Split workshop into five or so groups. Each group spends 10 minutes at each of the 7 tables discussing issue, recording any thoughts, possible recommendations for necessary work/advice and privately scoring, or qualitatively assigning, the threat based on a low-high ranking for each of the 5 welfare domains. Scores may be invited for 'duration' and 'severity' of negative welfare state. The conveners will work overnight to collate the results in order to present back the next day.*

18.00 CLOSE OF DAY ONE

Day 2

- 10.00 6. (CONTINUED) BRIEF PRESENTATION OF RESULTS OF GROUP EXERCISE, FOLLOWED BY GROUP DISCUSSION**

- 11.15 7. REFLECTIONS ON DAY 1 – WHAT HAVE WE MISSED?**

Briefly collect any issues not picked up on day 1 relating to welfare issues of concern or gaps in our understanding e.g. gaps in training, human-cetacean interactions, cetaceans in rivers etc. biotoxin exposure

- 11.45 COFFEE BREAK**

- 12.00 8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 Identification of priority advice and evidence gaps

Overview of priority issues and agreement on urgency/levels of concern in order to prioritise work going forward. Formulate and prioritize recommendations for intervention over 1, 5, 10 years based on:

- a. Severity of concern*
- b. Maximum impact/effectiveness*
- c. Ability to implement (feasibility)*
- d. Resource availability*

13:00 Lunch

- 14:00 8.2 Recommendations (including, timescales, funding, responsible actors and collaboration)**

8.2.1 With respect to evidence/advice gaps

8.2.2 With respect to mitigation actions

8.3.3 With respect to updating the IWC Welfare Action Plan and a communication strategy

Recommendations on how to address identified advice needs and evidence gaps and how to implement appropriate mitigation. Identify the specific role of the IWC in this and where it may be able to facilitate action by others (i.e. OIE, NAMMCO, CITES, WTO, IMO).

Identify where expertise exists and how to tap into it. Consider appropriate communications i.e. which audiences need management advice so it can be tailored to suit (Parties/Public/Responders).

Address the question of how priorities can be resourced (i.e. can international funds be accessed, a voluntary welfare fund) and effectively taken forward (i.e. through appropriate groups).

16.00 9. ADOPTION OF REPORT AND CLOSE OF MEETING

18:00 – EVENING RECEPTION

Workshop to develop practical guidance for the handling of cetacean stranding events

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.

Day 3 - Thursday 5th May 10:00 (timings to be confirmed)

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

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

- 4) Live stranding response and options
 - 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*
- 5) Post release monitoring
 - a. *Visual monitoring*
 - b. *Tagging options*
 - c. *Tag follow up*
- 6) Mass stranding considerations
 - a. *How mass stranding considerations differ from single strandings?*
 - b. *Reporting, assessment, intervention, triage and dealing with mixtures of live/dead animals.*
- 7) Post-mortem investigations and tissue sampling
 - 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?*

Day 4 - Friday 6th May 09:00 (timings to be confirmed)

- 8) Carcass disposal
 - 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*
- 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