

SC/66b/GEN/01

Draft SC-66B Agenda



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

Draft
Scientific Committee Agenda

Bled, 7-19 June 2016

[N] = SEE CHAIR'S ANNOTATIONS

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS [N]

- 1.1 Chair's welcome and opening remarks**
- 1.2 Appointment of rapporteurs**
- 1.3 Meeting procedures and time schedule [N]**
- 1.4 Establishment of sub-committees and working groups [N]**
- 1.5 Computing arrangements**

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA [N]

3. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

- 3.1 Documents submitted [N]**
- 3.2 National Progress Reports on research [N]**
- 3.3 Data collection, storage and manipulation**
 - 3.3.1 Catch data and other statistical material*
 - 3.3.2 Progress of data coding projects*
 - 3.3.3 Progress on program verification projects*

4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS [N]

- 4.1 African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO)**
- 4.2 Arctic Council**
 - 4.2.1 PAME (Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment)*
- 4.3 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
- 4.4 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)**
- 4.5 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)**
 - 4.5.1 Scientific Council*
 - 4.5.2 Conference of Parties (COP)*
 - 4.5.3 Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)*
 - 4.5.4 Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)*
 - 4.5.6 Other*
- 4.6 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)**
- 4.7 Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)**
- 4.8 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)**
 - 4.8.1 Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP)*
- 4.9 International Committee on Marine Protected Areas (ICMMPA)**
- 4.10 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)**
- 4.11 International Maritime Organization (IMO)**
- 4.12 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**
- 4.13 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)**
- 4.14 North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES)**
- 4.15 Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean (SPAW)**
- 4.16 Pacific Region Environment Programme (SPREP)**
- 4.17 Other**

5. GENERAL ASSESSMENT ISSUES WITH A FOCUS ON THOSE RELATED TO THE REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP) [N]

- 5.1 Relationship between $MSYR_{mat}$ and $MSYR_{1+}$: evaluate energetics-based model [N]**
- 5.2 Requirements and guidelines for conducting surveys: model based abundance estimates [N]**
- 5.3 Implications of *IST*s for consideration of 'status' (with AWMP) [N]**
- 5.4 Work plan**

6. RMP – IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED MATTERS [N]

6.1 North Atlantic fin whales (*Implementation Review*) [N]

6.1.1 Report of intersessional workshop

6.1.2 Completion of Implementation Review

6.1.3 Conclusions and recommendations

6.2 North Atlantic common minke whales (*Implementation Review*) [N]

6.2.1 Report of intersessional workshop

6.2.2 Completion of Implementation Review

6.2.3 Conclusions and recommendations

6.3 North Pacific common minke whales [N]

6.3.1 Review new information

6.3.3 Conclusions and recommendations

6.4 Western North Pacific Bryde's whales [N]

6.4.1 Prepare for 2017 Implementation Review

6.4.2 Conclusions and recommendations

6.5 Work plan

7. NON-DELIBERATE HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY OF CETACEANS (HIM) [N]

7.1 Entanglement of large whales

7.1.1 Report from the Commission workshop on mitigation measures [N]

7.1.2 New information on rates, risks and mortality, including from National progress reports

7.1.3 Progress on scientific aspects of mitigation measures

7.1.4 Links with CMPs [N]

7.1.5 Review database proposals and website

7.2 Ship strikes [N]

7.1.1 Review report from the Intersessional group on time series for assessments [N]

7.1.2 Follow-up on recommendations including modelling: review progress and effectiveness [N]

7.1.3 Progress on the global database and review of the website

7.1.4 New information on rates, risks and mortality, including from National progress reports

7.1.5 Links with CMPs and collaboration with the Commission's Ship Strikes Working Group including consideration of scientific aspects of mitigation measures and future work

7.3 Approaches for addressing the bycatch issue in small cetaceans [N]

7.4 Work plan

8. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (AWMP) [N]

8.1 SLA development for the Greenlandic hunts

8.1.1 WG-Bowhead SLA for bowhead whales: review Canadian information [N]

8.1.2 Finalise SLA for fin whales [N]

8.1.3 Review progress on development of SLA for common minke whales [N]

8.2 Aboriginal whaling management scheme

8.2.1 Complete work related to BCB bowhead whales

8.3 Prepare for gray whale *Implementation Review* [N]

8.4 Work plan

9. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT ADVICE [N]

9.1 Eastern Canada and West Greenland bowhead whales (AWMP)

9.1.1 New information

9.1.2 Management advice

9.2 North Pacific gray whales (BRG)

9.2.1 Review of recent catch information from Chukotka

9.2.2 Management advice

9.3 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas Bowhead whale (BRG)

9.3.1 New information

9.3.2 Management advice

9.4 Common minke whale stocks off East Greenland (AWMP)

9.4.1 New information

9.4.2 Management advice

9.5 Common minke whale stocks off West Greenland (AWMP)

9.5.1 New information

9.5.2 Management advice

9.6 Fin whales off West Greenland (AWMP)

9.6.1 New information

9.6.2 Management advice

9.7 Humpback whales off West Greenland (AWMP)

9.7.1 *New information*

9.7.2 *Management advice*

9.8 Humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines (AWMP)

9.8.1 *New information*

9.8.2 *Management advice*

9.9 Work plan

10. WHALE STOCKS [N]

10.1 Antarctic minke whales (IA) [N]

10.1.1 *Consideration of factors that may drive Antarctic minke whale distribution and abundance*

10.1.2 *Review intersessional progress on ways to report on the Indo-Pacific in-depth assessment*

10.1.3 *Evaluate the possibility to initiating an in-depth assessment focusing on South Atlantic and Antarctic Peninsula*

10.1.4 *Work plan*

10.2 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales (SH) [N]

10.2.1 *Review intersessional work on improving mixing proportions for BSD/BSE1/BSO*

10.2.2 *Review intersessional progress on developing an abundance estimate and survey methods for BSD*

10.2.3 *Research recommendations for future SH humpback whale assessments*

10.2.4 *Work plan [N]*

10.3 Southern Hemisphere blue whales (SH) [N]

10.3.1 *Review new information on Antarctic blue whale*

10.3.2 *Review new information on Pygmy blue whale*

10.3.3 *Progress on regional pygmy blue whale assessments*

10.3.4 *Work plan*

10.4 North Pacific blue whales (IA)

10.5 Distribution of baleen and toothed whales in the Antarctic relative to spatial and environmental covariates (IA) [N]

10.5.1 *Review new information*

10.5.2 *Work plan*

10.6 North Pacific sei whales (IA) [N]

10.6.1 *Review results of intersessional work [N]*

10.6.2 *Work plan [N]*

10.7 North Pacific gray whales (BRG) [N]

10.7.1 *Review report of intersessional work*

10.7.2 *Conservation advice (excluding ASW advice)*

10.7.3 *Review CMP*

10.7.4 *Work plan*

10.8 Southern Hemisphere right whales (BRG)

10.8.1 *Review new information*

10.8.2 *Work plan*

10.9 North Atlantic right whales (BRG)

10.9.1 *Review new information*

10.9.2 *Work plan*

10.10 North Pacific right whales (BRG)

10.10.1 *Review new information*

10.10.2 *Work plan*

10.11 North Atlantic bowhead whales (BRG)

10.11.1 *Review new information*

10.11.2 *Work plan*

10.12 Okhotsk Sea bowhead whales (BRG)

10.12.1 *Review new information*

10.12.2 *Work plan*

10.13 Arabian Sea humpback whales (SH) [N]

10.13.1 *Review progress on intersessional work*

10.13.2 *Review new information*

10.13.3 *Progress toward the development of a Conservation Management Plan and other conservation initiatives*

10.13.4 *Work plan*

10.14 Sperm whales (IA) [N]

10.14.1 *Review intersessional progress on the feasibility of a stock assessment (IA/SD)*

10.14.2 *Review on progress on North Pacific catch history*

10.14.3 *Work plan*

10.15 Southern Hemisphere fin whales (SH) [N]

10.15.1 *Initiate discussion on Southern Hemisphere fin whales*

10.15.2 *Review post CPIII survey data*

10.15.3 *Work plan*

11. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE CRUISES AND DATABASES (IA) [N]

11.1 IWC-POWER cruises in the North Pacific [N]

11.1.1 Review of 2015 cruise

11.1.2 Mid- and long-term recommendations for the programme

11.1.3 Recommendations for the 2017 cruise

11.2 IWC-SOWER cruises: progress on website, publications, analyses (IA) [N]

11.2.1 Review progress on the IDCR/SOWER commemorative volume

11.3 Databases and catalogues [N]

11.3.1 Sightings – update of IWC-DESS (IA)

11.3.2 IWC-SOWER and POWER photographic database (IA)

11.3.3 IWC-POWER catalogues (IA)

11.3.4 Humpback whale catalogues (SH, DB)

11.3.5 Blue whale catalogues (SH/IA, DB)

11.3.6 Other whale photo-ID catalogues (SH/IA, DB)

11.3.7 Guidelines for IWC databases and catalogues (SH/IA, DB)

12. STOCK DEFINITION (SD) [N]

12.1 Guidelines for genetic studies and DNA data quality [N]

12.2 Statistical and genetic issues related to stock structure matters [N]

12.3 Terminology appropriate to stock definition, unit-to- conserve and ‘viable’ population [N]

12.4 Testing of spatial stock structure models [N]

12.5 Work plan

13. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (E)

13.1 State of the Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER [N]

13.2 Chemical pollution [N]

13.2.1 Pollution 2020

13.2.2 Data integration and mapping of POPs and trends [N]

13.3 Oil spill impacts [N]

13.3.1 Review progress of the intersessional group

13.3.2 Review national, international or regional work on oil spill impacts on cetaceans

13.4 Cetacean Diseases of Concern (CDoC) [N]

13.5 Strandings and mortality events [N]

13.5.1 Report of the intersessional workshop on Mass Strandings and Mass Mortality Events

13.5.2 Review new information on mass stranding and mass mortality events

13.6 Effects of anthropogenic sound [N]

13.6.1 Report of pre-meeting on ‘masking’

13.6.2 Develop plans for workshop on stress

13.6.3 Review ACCOBAMS and other regional, national or international work on ocean noise

13.6.4 Effectiveness of Marine Mammal Observers as a mitigation measure

13.7 Effects of climate change on cetaceans

13.8 Arctic issues

13.9 Marine litter [N]

13.9.1 Progress of the intersessional group

13.9.2 New information on marine litter impact on cetaceans

13.10 Other habitat related issues

13.11 Work plan

14. ECOSYSTEM MODELLING (EM)

14.1 Review progress on Joint IWC-CCAMLR work [N]

14.2 Review other issues relevant to ecosystem modelling within the Committee [N]

14.2.1 Case studies of the effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations

14.2.2 Review progress on identifying long-term datasets and relevant environmental variable datasets

14.3 Other, if new information is available

14.3.1 Application of species distribution models

14.4 Work plan

15. SMALL CETACEANS (SM)

15.1 Taxonomic status and population structure of *Tursiops spp.* for the North Atlantic (including the Mediterranean, Black and Caribbean seas and the Gulf of Mexico) and South Atlantic [N]

15.2 Status of the Voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research [N]

15.3 Review progress on previous recommendations [N]

15.4 Review takes of small cetaceans [N]

15.4.1 New information on takes

15.4.2 Update on progress made on the first workshops on ‘poorly documented hunts of small cetaceans for food, bait or

cash'

15.5 Work plan

16. WHALEWATCHING (WW) [N]

16.1 Assess the impact of whalewatching on cetaceans

16.1.1 Modelling and Assessment of Whalewatching Impact (MAWI)

16.1.2 Data collection and analytical techniques

16.1.3 Swim-with-whales

16.1.4 Emerging concerns

16.1.5 Regional review for the South Pacific

16.2 Progress on Commission's 5-year strategic plan and joint work with Conservation Committee [N]

16.2.1 Online handbook

16.2.2 Regulations and guidelines

16.3 Other issues

16.3.1 Progress on previous recommendations

16.3.2 Platform of opportunity data

16.3.3 Structure for 'digest table'

16.4 Work plan

17. DNA TESTING (DNA) [N]

17.1 Review genetic methods for species, stock and individual identification

17.2 Review results of the 'amendments' of sequences deposited in GenBank

17.3 Collection and archiving of tissue samples from catches and bycatches

17.4 Reference databases and standards for diagnostic DNA registries

17.5 Work plan

18. SCIENTIFIC PERMITS (SP) [N]

18.1 NEWREP-A [N]

18.1.1 Progress with recommendations from the 2015 Expert Panel and Scientific Committee

18.1.2 New information from the 2015 field season including comparison of predetermined and actual tracklines

18.1.3 Committee conclusions and recommendations

18.2 Final review of JARPN II [N]

18.2.1 Presentation of Expert Panel report

18.2.2 Proponents response to Expert Panel report including new/revised analyses

18.2.2.1 THE PERIOD UP TO 2013

18.2.2.2 THE PERIOD 2014-2016

18.2.3 Evaluation of proponent's response to recommendations of Expert Panel report

18.2.3.1 THE PERIOD UP TO 2013

18.2.3.2 THE PERIOD 2014-2016

18.2.4 Committee conclusions and recommendations

18.3 Work plan

19. WHALE SANCTUARIES (S) [N]

19.1 Review of the South Atlantic Sanctuary proposal

19.1.1 Report of the workshop

19.1.2 Committee conclusions and recommendations

19.2 Decadal review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary

19.2.1 Review of new information

19.2.2 Committee conclusions and recommendations

20. SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP [N]

21. IWC LIST OF RECOGNISED SPECIES [N]

22. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS [N]

22.1 Progress with scientific aspects of existing CMPs (BRG)

22.1 Progress with assisting development of new CMPs

23. COMPILATION OF AGREED ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES AND SUMMARY OF STATUS [N]

23.1 Intersessional progress on abundance estimates

23.2 Consideration of status

24. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDAS FOR THE 2017-2018 MEETINGS [N]

25. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNUM 2017-2018 [N]

25.1 Status of previously funded research and workshop proposals

25.1.1 *Funded proposals for the current biennium 2015-2016*

25.1.2 *Funded proposals in previous years still ongoing [N]*

25.2 Data processing and computing needs for the biennium 2017-2018 [N]

25.3 Funding requirements for the biennium 2017-2018 [N]

26. WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE [N]

26.1 Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee [N]

26.2 Biennial reporting and related matters

26.3 Additional proposals for revisions to ‘Annex P’ in light of 2015 trial of the amended Annex P [N]

26.4 Other matters

27. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

28. PUBLICATIONS

29. OTHER BUSINESS

30. ADOPTION OF REPORT [N]

CHAIR'S ANNOTATIONS

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The Scientific Committee (SC66b) will meet in Bled, Slovenia, from 7-19 June 2016. It will be preceded by two pre-meeting workshops on 'Ship noise and masking' and a 'Review of the South Atlantic Sanctuary Proposal (SAWS)'. There will also be a 'Joint meeting of the Working Group between the Scientific Committee and the Conservation Committee (see Resolution 2014-4)' on the afternoon of 20 June.

General information can be found at:

<http://events.iwc.int/index.php/scientific/SC66b>

The list of the work agreed to be attempted during the 2015/2016 intersessional period can be found at:

<http://iwc.int/sctasks>

The list of intersessional correspondence groups and terms of reference is at:

<http://iwc.int/correspondence-groups>

I have referred to some, but not all of these intersessional groups (as SC/66a/Annex T) in the notes to the Agenda.

Item 1.3: Meeting procedures and time schedule

Following last year's Plenary discussions on improving our working methods (including discussions on the Annex P process and budgetary issues), it is my intention to begin to address these matters early in our meeting. This may be achieved via *ad hoc* working groups that can meet during evening sessions (see Item 1.4) and by short plenary sessions in the morning or early afternoon. This will allow a full discussion of these matters under Item 26 as well as assist in ensuring progress on other relevant agenda items related, for example, to developing the budget, consideration of special permits and possible interactions between the Scientific Committee and the Conservation Committee). The time schedule is given below:

Date	Items	Comments
4-6 June	Pre-meeting workshops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ship noise and masking (2-day meeting, 4-5 June); • Review of the South Atlantic Sanctuary Proposal (SAWS) (1.5/2-day meeting, 5-6 June).
7 June	Plenary session, voluntary session on guide to meeting procedures, then read documents.	Items 1-4; initial discussion of how to handle Item 18 (SP) and 26.
8 June	Initial meetings of sub-committees and working groups (about 15 minutes each).	To elect chairs and adopt agendas, identify documents, etc.
9-15 June	<p>Predominantly sub-committees (possibly some plenary meeting sessions).</p> <p>SP sessions will not necessarily be in the evening.</p>	To complete sub-committee agendas and agree reports.
16 June	<i>Tentative</i> rest day.	Subject to cancellation if insufficient progress is made.
17-19 June	Plenary sessions. Intention to finish no later than 5pm on 19 June.	To complete agenda and agree report, including work plan and draft initial agenda for 2017.
20 June	<p>09:00-11:00 Convenors to complete editorial work on sub-committee and plenary reports.</p> <p>11:00 Convenors meeting to, if necessary, consider refinements of the draft initial agenda, priorities and changes in organisational structure implied by the draft initial agenda or by discussions during the meeting. A joint meeting of the working group between the SC and the Conservation Committee (see Resolution 2014-4) will take place in the afternoon.</p>	

At the Scientific Committee meeting in 2015 we had 105 sessions available for sub-group deliberations over a seven-day period, based on three concurrent sub-group meetings for each of five work sessions per day, starting at approximately 08:30 and ending at 18:30. This schedule allows for *ad hoc* working groups or even Plenary sessions to meet in the evening (e.g. from around 18:45 to 21:30), or for occasional longer sessions of sub-groups. However, if possible, I will minimise evening sessions to allow: (1) rapporteurs to draft reports; and (2) more time for small break out groups (e.g. to do simulation runs and testing) during the meeting. My preference will be for SP sessions to occur during the day.

Item 1.4: Establishment of sub-committees and working groups

The following groups were identified by the Convenors immediately after SC66a (see the table below). I may also establish *ad hoc* groups to look at some potential suggestions to improve procedural matters (e.g. improvements to discussions of special permits at the Committee and possible modifications to Annex P).

It is important that you consult the registration and document submission details that can be found on the website:

<http://events.iwc.int/index.php/scientific/SC66b>

Title	Convenor	Co-convenor	Annex
Revised Management Procedure, RMP	Bannister		D
Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure, AWMP	Donovan	Brandon	E
Bowhead, Right and Gray Whales, BRG	Walløe	Suydam	F
In-depth Assessment, IA	Palka	Kelly	G
Southern Hemisphere whale stocks (other than Antarctic minke and right whales), SH	Jackson		H
Stock Definition, SD	Lang		I
Non-deliberate Human-Induced Mortality of cetaceans, HIM	Leaper		J
Environmental Concerns, E	Rowles	Parsons	K
Ecosystem Modelling, EM	Kitakado		L
Small Cetaceans, SM	Scheidat	Porter	M
Whalewatching, WW	Urban-Rámirez	Carlson	N
DNA Testing, DNA	Pastene		O
Special Permits, SP	Fortuna		P
Sanctuaries, SAN	Zerbini	Hall	Q
<i>Ad hoc</i> Working group on Guidelines for Photo-Identification Databases, DB	Olson		R
<i>Ad hoc</i> Abundance group, A	Allison	Butterworth	S
<i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Relationships Between the SC and CC, SC/CC	Rojas-Bracho		T

The draft Agenda developed by the Scientific Committee and finalised by the Convenors at last year's meeting (IWC/66/Rep01(2015), Item 24) identified priority items for each sub-committee and items that would only be discussed if time is available. Chairs will adhere closely to this. I have included items in the latter category as sub-items under the heading 'Other issues' where appropriate, to emphasise this.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The order of the Agenda is based on that of last year, but amended inter alia to facilitate our work and take account of our workplan and Commission mandates and Resolutions as discussed under Items 1.3 and 1.4. The Commission in 2014 accepted our priorities and initial Agenda, and adopted the budget as given under Items 24 and 26 of the 2014 report.

I recognise that some Contracting Governments do not believe that certain topics should be on the Commission and/or Scientific Committee Agendas. The appropriate forum to discuss such views is in the Commission. It is not within my mandate as Chair to exclude items specifically requested for inclusion by the Commission (e.g. by Resolution). To facilitate plenary and sub-committee discussions, I will follow the practice of past years and **strongly request** that any objections to specific items or particular topics on the Agenda be raised briefly under this Agenda Item and then provided in writing to the rapporteur for inclusion in our report. It is not acceptable for these objections to be repeated during discussions of the items themselves in the plenary sessions or during sub-committee meetings. A written reference in the relevant reports to the statements made here under Item 2 will be sufficient. I would also like to entertain some discussion with relevant Heads of Delegation on ways to improve this situation and eventually have national delegates contributing to the work of all sub-groups despite any political statement from their respective Countries.

ITEM 3: REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

Item 3.1: Documents submitted

PLEASE NOTE: as last year, the Secretariat will be using the online system for **registration** and for **submission of documents**. You must do this through the IWC Meeting Portal which can be found at:

<https://portal.iwc.int>

The deadline for primary papers is **7 days before the start of the meeting i.e. 31 May 2016**. As previously agreed, all documents will be distributed wholly electronically (website and memory sticks) by the Secretariat.

Item 3.2: National Progress Reports on research

Progress report data are to be uploaded online at the IWC data collection portal (see circular IWC.All.249). National delegates are **strongly encouraged** to ensure that national progress reports are uploaded.

Last year, the Committee agreed to improvements with respect to National Progress Reports. Under this Item we will discuss progress made and any difficulties encountered with respect to online data entry of progress reports.

ITEM 4: COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Most of the organisations on this list are ones that have met since our last meeting and with whom we exchange observers. They are included in alphabetical order. **Observers, please, send your reports to the Secretariat no later than 22 April** (secretariat@iwc.int). I would like to be able to discuss these on Day 1 (7 June). To save time, there will be no presentation of observer's reports. I will assume that Committee members have read these, and I will ask members whether there are any questions that should be addressed under this Agenda Item. Cooperation is important and directly relevant scientific matters will be dealt with fully under appropriate Agenda Items.

ITEMS: 5-19

These items have been prepared in consultation with the Convenors to take specifically into account relevant Commission Resolutions and Agenda Items. *Note that the Committee Agenda here does not repeat the fully detailed sub-committee Agenda Items, but only highlights the major areas of discussion. Sub-items can more appropriately be added later (as is our usual practice).*

The Committee is developing a list of agreed abundance estimates for all stocks and the uses for which they are suitable. All sub-committees that consider abundance estimates must update their lists for all stocks considered this year. This will be developed into an Annex of all agreed abundance estimates.

ITEM 5: GENERAL ASSESSMENT ISSUES WITH A FOCUS ON THOSE RELATED TO THE REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP)

As there are a number of common assessment issues that apply to all of our work, not simply the RMP, I have modified the title of this Item to reflect this. We may wish to consider what other Items may usefully be added to this agenda item in the future.

Item 5.1: Relationship between $MSYR_{mat}$ and $MSYR_{1+}$: evaluate energetics-based model

The Committee has completed its recommendation on the range of $MSYR$ but also recognised that much remains to be learnt regarding $MSYR$ and that the issue of appropriate range for $MSYR$ should continue to be reviewed as new information becomes available. The individual energetic-based model (IBEM) is one of the potential approaches to this issue, and the Committee will continue its evaluation by (a) producing a table of model outputs; (b) developing emulator models; (c) conducting simulations of the *CLA* for the energetics-based model; (d) conducting simulations of the *CLA* for the emulator models. It will also review any alternative models developed or to be presented at the meeting. These discussions are also relevant to AWMP and IA.

Item 5.2: Requirements and guidelines for conducting surveys and analysing data: model based abundance estimates

The existing Committee's Requirement and Guidelines were written only for the design-based surveys. Recently, the Committee recognised a need to consider what circumstances might require approval when the survey and analysis are conducted based on spatial modelling or quasi design-based approaches. The Committee agreed that a review of this issue should take place at a pre-meeting workshop that would also include training (see SC66a/Annex D), but due to the unavailability of contracted experts during this intersessional period, the workshop has been postponed, but the Committee will receive a full report on the first part of the analysis made by the contracted experts.

Item 5.3 Implications of *ISTs* for consideration of 'status' (with AWMP)

The Scientific Committee is often expected to provide advice on 'status'. There are a number of ways in which the results of *Implementation Simulation Trials* (for the RMP and AWMP) could be used to provide such information. The purpose of this Item is to discuss how this should be achieved (and see Item 23).

ITEM 6: RMP – IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED MATTERS

Item 6.1: North Atlantic fin whales (*Implementation Review*)

The Committee was unable to complete the *Implementation Review* last year and the objective is to complete this *Implementation Review* this year. Progress has been made during this intersessional period, especially thanks to work under an intersessional steering group (SC/65b/Annex T1) and the intersessional workshop, held in Copenhagen, in March 2016 (see SC/66b/Rep05).

Item 6.2: North Atlantic common minke whales (*Implementation Review*)

The Committee was unable to complete the *Implementation Review* last year and the objective is to complete this *Implementation Review* this year. Progress has been made during this intersessional period, especially thanks to work under an intersessional steering group (SC/65b/Annex T5) and the intersessional workshop, held in Copenhagen, in March 2016 (see SC/66b/Rep04).

Item 6.3: North Pacific common minke whales

The Committee completed the *Implementation Review* for western North Pacific minke whales in 2013. However, it acknowledged that work remains to be done on: (1) reviewing the results of proposed 'hybrid' versions of RMP variants to allow evaluation of 'variant with research'; (2) reviewing any research proposals related to a candidate 'variant with research'; and (3) agreeing the estimates of abundance for use in actual applications of the RMP.

Item 6.4: Western North Pacific Bryde's whales

Although an *Implementation Review* for this stock is due, given the situation that considerable new data were likely to be available by 2017 as a result of the JARPN-II review and an additional abundance survey, the Committee agreed that the *Implementation Review* for the Western North Pacific Bryde's whales be conducted in 2017 and that it be a 'full' *Implementation Review*. The Committee will begin planning for this review.

ITEM 7: NON-DELIBERATE HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY OF CETACEANS

This Item groups together all of the items on scientific aspects of human induced mortality of cetaceans, in line with Resolution 2014-4. This information is relevant for RMP, AWMP, BRG and in-depth assessments and given the common nature of issues related to both estimation and mitigation it is sensible to consider them together. The general item will primarily be discussed by the HIM sub-group although some aspects that may relatively infrequently result in direct mortality will be covered by E (e.g. noise, chemical pollutants) and SM.

Item 7.1: Entanglement of large whales

This Item primarily relates to bycatches of large whales. This year it will also discuss scientific aspects of the second workshop on large whale entanglement mitigation measures to be held in late May 2016.

Item 7.2: Ship strikes

This will consider information on ship strikes including estimation of rates, collaboration with the Commission's ship strikes working group on scientific aspects (e.g. hot spots and mitigation), progress with the ship strikes database (including reports from the coordinators, Panigada and Ritter) and progress on previous recommendations. It will also include collisions with whalewatching vessels. An important focus will be the collaboration with the Commission's working group and the development of a long-term workplan.

Item 7.3: Approaches for addressing the bycatch issue in small cetaceans (HIM)

The issue of bycatches in fishing gear is a severe problem for small cetaceans. Despite the differences by region, species, fishery type etc. there are a number of general issues (e.g. how to assess bycatch numbers, scientific aspects of prevention, how to provide advice on population level effects etc.) that would benefit from a broader discussion than is possible in the sub-committee on small cetaceans. I have therefore decided to add this topic to those considered by HIM. The objective at the 2016 Annual Meeting is to agree terms of reference and a workplan to begin to address this issue.

ITEM 8: ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

Item 8.1: SLA development for the Greenlandic hunts

In 2014, the Commission adopted Resolution 2014-1 that *inter alia* called upon the Scientific Committee to work expeditiously to complete SLAs for the remaining Greenland hunts and consider multispecies issues. The Committee has been working hard towards this end and SLAs for the bowhead whale and humpback whale hunts off West Greenland have been developed. This year, the Committee expects to be able to recommend an SLA for the West Greenland fin whale hunt and continue work toward the finalisation of an SLA for the common minke whale hunts by 2017. It will review progress made at the intersessional workshop on these matters that was held in Copenhagen, in December 2015 (SC/66b/Rep03).

Item 8.2 Aboriginal Whaling Management Scheme (AWS)

In addition to more general issues, the Committee will consider a proposal related to the bowhead whale hunt off Alaska in the light of work initiated last year and continued at the intersessional workshop held in Copenhagen, in December 2015 (SC/66b/Rep03).

Item 8.3: Prepare for gray whale *Implementation Review* [N]

This item will look at the preparation for a forthcoming gray whale *Implementation Review*. The Committee will also focus upon any implications for this review that might arise out of the April 2016 Workshop to be held in La Jolla (SC/66b/Rep07).

ITEM 9: ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT ADVICE

In 2014, the Commission adopted new strike limits recommended by the SC64 for aboriginal subsistence whaling for the Greenlandic hunts such that all ASW hunts have strike limits up to 2018. Under this Item we undertake our annual review of advice.

ITEM 10: WHALE STOCKS

Individual items will be dealt with by appropriate sub-committees, as indicated in the Draft Agenda.

Note that papers produced under the Southern Ocean Research Programme (SORP) will be discussed by all relevant sub-committees.

Item 10.1: Antarctic minke whales

The Committee will try to finalise the in-depth assessment with a focus on the Indo-Pacific region. It will also evaluate the possibility of initiating an in-depth assessment focusing on the South Atlantic and Antarctic Peninsula.

Item 10.2: Southern Hemisphere humpback whales

Last year, the Committee agreed on some intersessional work on BSD/BSE1/BSO mixing proportions (SC/66a/AnnexT19), on the evaluation of minimum abundance and survey methods for BSD (SC/66a/AnnexT18) and on providing a priority list of research required for future assessments of Southern Hemisphere humpback whales. In addition, it will focus on forming

a single database for all mtDNA haplotypes from IDCR/SOWER and breeding grounds and on developing a long-term plan on data requirements and the process for future assessments.

Item 10.3: Southern Hemisphere blue whales

Last year, the Committee agreed to carry on some intersessional work on abundance and trends, genetics, photo-id catalogues and modelling of Antarctic blue whale and Pygmy blue whale, which should help developing a future strategy with respect to assessments.

Item 10.5: Distribution of baleen and toothed whales in the Antarctic relative to spatial and environmental covariates

The Committee agreed at the 2013 meeting to add this Item to the work of IA and will again review new information on this.

Item 10.6: North Pacific sei whales

The Committee will review results of intersessional work on the entry of corrected Soviet catch data into the IWC database. It will also review the intersessional progress made towards finalising the In-Depth Assessment of North Pacific sei whales.

Item 10.7: North Pacific gray whales

The Committee will review the results of the rangewide workshop held in La Jolla in April 2016 (SC/66b/Rep07). It will also consider proposed updates to the scientific aspects of the joint IUCN/IWC CMP for gray whales in the western North Pacific and receive the annual report from the IUCN WGWAP (Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel).

Item 10.13: Arabian Sea humpback whales

Last year, the Committee agreed on some important intersessional work on sightings, stock structure, population health and entanglements for this population of humpback whales. Progress of this work will be discussed, together with the consideration of the formation of an independent advisory panel, along the lines of that developed for the western gray whale (see Item 10.7), to focus on key areas where threats are occurring concurrently and provide expert advice on conservation management and research.

Item 10.14: Sperm whales

The Committee will review results of intersessional work to consider the feasibility of undertaking a sperm whale assessment and if yes, will develop a work plan and timetable. It will also review progress on North Pacific catch history.

Item 10.15: Southern Hemisphere fin whales

The Committee will initiate discussion on Southern Hemisphere fin whales and review post CPIII survey data.

11: INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE CRUISES AND DATABASES (IA)

This is a new agenda item to bring together discussions on collaborative IWC cruises and IWC databases and catalogues.

11.1: IWC-POWER cruises in the North Pacific

The Committee will review the results of the 2015 cruise, and review the reports of the Technical Advisory Group and the Planning Committee that met in Tokyo in October 2016 (SC/66b/Rep01 and 02). It will also review recommendations for the 2017 cruise.

11.2: IWC-SOWER cruises: progress on website, publications, analyses

The Committee will review progress on IWC-SOWER cruises website and analyses and on the IDCR/SOWER Commemorative Volume.

11.3: Databases, catalogues

The Committee will review progress on a number of databases and catalogues including the update of the IWC-DESS sightings database, the IWC-SOWER and POWER photographic database, the IWC-POWER photo-ID catalogues, the collaborative catalogues for humpback whales in the Antarctic and North Pacific and for Antarctic and Southern Hemisphere blue whales. An important component will also be the review and development of guidelines for IWC databases and catalogues, including maintenance, quality control and data availability. An *ad hoc* Working Group on Guidelines for Photo-Identification Databases has been formed under Olson. This will primarily focus on technical aspects of photo-ID catalogues funded by the IWC (e.g. data quality control, data sharing protocols, logistic issues related to storage and coordination, etc.).

ITEM 12: STOCK DEFINITION

As in the last year, convenors may submit key papers relevant to their work to the SD Working Group for early review of their technical aspects and implications (e.g. with respect to uncertainty and appropriate hypotheses).

Item 12.1: Guidelines for genetic studies and DNA data quality

The Committee will review the results of the intersessional work on 'Guidelines and terminology' and updates for inclusion on IWC website.

Item 12.2: Statistical and genetic issues related to stock structure matters faced by the Committee

Amongst the issues identified last year was the consideration of previous trial results with respect to ‘tipping points’ in inter-population migration rates that made significant differences to trial outcomes. The use of the TOSSM framework to address difficulties faced by the Committee will also be discussed.

Item 12.3: Terminology appropriate to stock definition, unit-to- conserve and ‘viable’ population

The Committee is in the process of developing a suite of definitions for stock-related terms, with special reference to small cetaceans, and will review progress of an intersessional group (SC/66a/AnnexT38) this year.

Item 12.4: Testing of spatial stock structure models (TOSSM)

The Committee will continue reviewing progress on the TOSSM itself and other simulation tools.

ITEM 13: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS**Item 13.1: State of Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER**

Committee members are encouraged to make submissions to the intersessional working group using the standardised form for data entry, which can be downloaded from:

<http://iwc.int/socer>

Item 13.2: Chemical pollution

The Committee will review updates on the POLLUTION 2020 project (SC/66a/AnnexT50), and data integration and mapping of POPs and trends in those.

Item 13.3 Oil spill impact

The Committee will consider work related to oil spill impact and assessments including the development of a workshop proposal.

Item 13.4: Cetacean Diseases of Concern (CDoC)

This was the agenda item dedicated to Cetacean Emerging and Resurging Diseases (CERD) and Mortality Events, which has now a new name. The Committee will review progress made by the intersessional CDoC working group (SC/66a/AnnexT45).

Item 13.5: Strandings and mortality events

The Committee will review the report of the workshop held in December 2015 in conjunction with the SMM biennial conference and it will determine future actions. The Committee will also review the relevant aspects of the report of the Workshop to Progress the IWC Welfare Action Plan (South Africa, 3-7 May 2016).

Item 13.6: Effects of anthropogenic sound

The Committee will review the report of the 2-day pre-meeting on ‘Ship noise and masking’ and finalise a workshop proposal on ‘Stress’.

Item 13.9: Marine litter

The Committee will review the intersessional work related to previous recommendations and work carried out by the Secretariat.

ITEM 14: ECOSYSTEM MODELLING**Item 14.1: Review progress on Joint IWC-CCAMLR work**

The Committee will review the progress of the long-term scientific exchange between IWC SC/EM and SC-CCAMLR WG-EMM (SC/66b/AnnexT63) and will begin planning for a joint workshop.

Item 14.2: Review other issues relevant to ecosystem modelling within the Committee

The Committee will discuss case studies of the effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations. In this context, it will continue identifying long time series of cetacean demographic parameters and/or abundance and potentially relevant environmental time series and it will finalise a workplan on this matter.

ITEM 15: SMALL CETACEANS**Item 15.1: Taxonomic status of *Tursiops spp.* for the North Atlantic and South Atlantic**

In 2015 the Committee started a 3-year review of *Tursiops spp.* throughout its range. The first year was dedicated to the review on the knowledge on taxonomic status of *Tursiops* in Indian and Pacific Oceans (Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand and possibly eastern India). This year it will focus on the taxonomic status and population structure of *Tursiops spp.* for the North Atlantic (including the Mediterranean, Black and Caribbean seas and the Gulf of Mexico) and South Atlantic. The review will be finalised next year covering the remaining areas.

Item 15.2: Status of the Voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research

The Committee will receive a report on the results of the third call for proposals that was launched early this year under the Voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research. The best research proposals will be recommended to the Commission for funding. An update on the status of the Fund will also be given.

Item 15.3: Review progress on previous recommendations

IWC Resolution 2001-13 urges Contracting Governments to respond to Scientific Committee requests for information and recommendations for action regarding conservation of small cetaceans. This resolution also instructs the Committee to continue to review progress on previous recommendations on a regular basis.

Item 15.4: Review takes of small cetaceans

As in previous years, I request Heads of Delegation to arrange for such information to be included in the National Progress Reports. The Committee should consider how it wishes to summarise the received and available information on direct and incidental takes of small cetaceans and consider how best to provide advice on these including issues related to 'marine bushmeat'. The Committee will also receive an update on the first workshops on 'poorly documented hunts of small cetaceans for food, bait or cash' due next Summer.

ITEM 16: WHALEWATCHING

The Committee will receive updates from relevant intersessional groups under relevant Agenda sub-items.

Item 16.2: Progress on Commission's 5-year strategic plan and joint work with the Conservation Committee

The Commission has adopted a 5-year strategic plan for whalewatching. Many aspects of that plan have a scientific component and this item will begin to provide the Committee's contribution to that work, including the development of guiding principles (SC/66a/AnnexR60) and updating the compendium of guidelines and regulations.

ITEM 17: DNA TESTING

Under this Item we will provide the report to the Commission as required by IWC Resolution 1999-8. I will refer you to the Committee's recommendation that sequences to be used in published reports should be deposited in GenBank, and that the GenBank accession number is included in the publication, whether or not this is required by the journal. This is incorporated in the policy of the Journal of Cetacean Research and Management, and its guide for authors. The Committee recommended that similar practices be established for public archiving of non-sequence genetic data, where feasible.

ITEM 18: SPECIAL PERMITS

The SP working group (SP) will discuss special permit programmes with a focus on: (a) progress with the recommendations made on NEWREP-A from last year's Expert Workshop (SC/66a/Rep06) and the Scientific Committee; (b) the conclusions and recommendations from JARPN II Expert Workshop (SC/66b/Rep06 – available on 22 April 2016). Improvements to Annex P arising out of discussions during the Expert Workshop or suggestions from Committee members will be dealt with initially early in the meeting, perhaps by an *ad hoc* group (see Item 26.3).

Please note that I will ensure that discussions are focussed on scientific matters. There will be no discussion of matters better suited to the Commission.

Item 18.2: Final review of JARPN II

The Committee will hear results of the final expert review workshop on JARPN II (held in February 2016 in Tokyo; SC/66b/Rep06). The Committee will develop its advice to the Commission (taking into full account relevant parts of Resolution 2014-5) which will be forwarded to the Commission along with the expert panel report and response from the proponents.

ITEM 19: WHALE SANCTUARIES

Under this Item the Committee will: (a) conduct the decadal review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary; and (b) receive the report of the pre-meeting on the review of the South Atlantic Sanctuary.

ITEM 20: SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

SORP is an IWC collaborative non-lethal research effort that is directed by the Scientific Committee in response to agreed priorities for research needs. The research is managed through approved, large scale, multi-national projects which report annually to the Scientific Committee on progress and future plans. The Committee has received considerable input from projects agreed under the SORP programme. The scientific results will be considered by the relevant sub-groups (including IA, SH and SM) so that this Item will focus only on logistical and administrative actions required to further the SORP programme.

ITEM 21: IWC LIST OF RECOGNISED SPECIES

This item will review and update as necessary the IWC list of recognised species. I will establish an *ad hoc* group to look at this initially.

ITEM 22: CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Commission has asked us to develop a prioritised list of candidates for Conservation Management Plans (CMPs). We have provided such advice and this Item will give us an opportunity to provide additional advice should we wish. Progress with existing CMPs (Item 22.1) will be dealt with by BRG.

ITEM 23: COMPILATION OF AGREED ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES AND SUMMARY OF STATUS

The Committee has agreed upon the need to develop a list of agreed abundance estimates for large whales, ranging from detailed evaluation of estimates and documentation as to the uses for which they are suitable, to general summaries for the Commission and the general public. This work began in 2012 and should be completed this year. There will also be a discussion as to how best the Committee can summarise its advice on 'status'.

ITEM 24: COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDAS FOR THE 2017-2018 MEETINGS

The Committee will develop a two-year work plan as well as a two-year initial agenda. These may be revised to accommodate potential requests by the Commission. The plan and initial agenda for the next meeting may also be subject to slight modifications based on discussion by each sub-committee/working group and intersessional work.

ITEM 25: SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2017-2018

In 2014 a table of two-year funding requirement for the SC was adopted by the Commission. This year the Committee will develop a similar table according to progress of the funded projects and urgent needs specified by each sub-committee/working group. We will follow the newly agreed procedure for developing the budget.

Under this Item the Committee will discuss: 25.1 Status of previously funded research and workshop proposals; 25.2 Data processing and computing needs for the biennium 2017-2018; and 25.3 Funding requirements for the biennium 2017-2018.

ITEM 26: WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee has agreed to keep this Item on the Agenda to allow for discussion of possible proposals to improve the working methods of the Committee, including discussion on the balance between cost savings and the efficiency of the Committee. The Committee also agreed to place this Item on the agenda to stimulate discussion within the Committee as to how best to improve communications on conservation matters to the Conservation Committee and Commission.

A revised version of the Scientific Committee Handbook is available on the website, and we will consider suggestions for additions/modifications under this Agenda Item:

<http://iwc.int/scientific-committee-handbook>

Item 26.1: Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee

It is my intention to propose some change to the Rules of Procedure. A draft working paper under my name will be circulated well in advance among all SC members to allow time for full feedback (especially from Heads of Delegations). The discussion on the final version of the working document will occur early in the meeting in Bled.

Item 26.3: Additional proposals for revisions to 'Annex P' in light of 2015 trial of the amended Annex P

The Expert Panel of the JARPN II review made some practical suggestions on how to improve the process for final reviews. The Committee will receive these suggestions and possibly will agree to incorporate them into a revised version of Annex P. I also intend to propose minor improvements to Annex P.

ITEM 30: ADOPTION OF REPORT

I will do my best to ensure that we finish before 5pm on the final day with a near-completed report.