

DRAFT AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS**66th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission**

24-28 October 2016

Grand Hotel Bernardin, Portorož, Republic of Slovenia

*Detailed annotations for each item are provided at the end of the agenda (page 6 onwards)***NOTE:**

Proposals to amend the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946) will be discussed under agenda item 5. One amendment to the Schedule has been proposed relating to a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary.

Resolutions will be discussed under Item 6 in order to allow maximum time and opportunity to develop consensus support.

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- 1.1 Welcome Address
- 1.2 Opening Statements
- 1.3 Secretary's Report on Credentials and Voting Rights
- 1.4 Meeting Arrangements
- 1.5 Review of Documents

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**3. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE PRESENTATION**

- 3.1 Main Recommendations
- 3.2 Future Work Plan

4. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

- 4.1 Strategic Plan
- 4.2 Main Recommendations and Work Plan

5. PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE

- 5.1 Proposal for the establishment of a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary

6. RESOLUTIONS

- 6.1 Enhancing the Effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission
- 6.2 Improving the Review Process for Whaling under Special Permit
- 6.3 Resolution on Food Security
- 6.4 Resolution on the Creation of a Fund to Strengthen the Capacity of Governments of Limited Means to Participate in the Work of the International Whaling Commission
- 6.5 Cetaceans and Ecosystem Services
- 6.6 Resolution on the Minamata Convention

7. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING

- 7.1 Report of the Ad-hoc Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Working Group
 - 7.1.1 Working group report
 - 7.1.2 Report of the 2015 IWC Expert workshop on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling
 - 7.1.3 Invited speaker on indigenous people's rights
- 7.2 Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure
 - 7.2.1 Report of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee
 - Progress with the development of SLAs for the Greenland subsistence whaling
 - Implementation review for gray whales
- 7.3 Aboriginal Whaling Scheme
 - 7.3.1 Report of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee
- 7.4 Annual reviews of aboriginal subsistence whaling catch limits
 - 7.4.1 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock of bowhead whales
 - 7.4.2 North Pacific Eastern stock of gray whales
 - 7.4.3 Common minke whale stocks off east and west Greenland
 - 7.4.4 West Greenland stock of fin whales
 - 7.4.5 West Greenland stock of bowhead whales
 - 7.4.6 Humpback whales off West Greenland
 - 7.4.7 North Atlantic humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines
- 7.5 Status of the voluntary fund for Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling

8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS AND SMALL TYPE WHALING

9. CETACEAN STATUS AND HEALTH

- 9.1 Whale Stocks
 - 9.1.1 Antarctic minke whales
 - 9.1.2 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales
 - 9.1.3 Southern Hemisphere blue whales
 - 9.1.4 Western North Pacific gray whales
 - 9.1.5 Southern Hemisphere right whales
 - 9.1.6 North Pacific and North Atlantic right whales and small stocks of bowhead whales
 - 9.1.7 International Research Cruises
 - 9.1.8 Other stocks
 - 9.1.9 Summary of agreed whale abundance estimates
- 9.2 Small Cetaceans
 - 9.2.1 Concerns over status
 - 9.2.2 Progress with projects undertaken through the IWC Voluntary Fund
- 9.3 Cetacean Health and Disease
- 9.4 Stock definition and DNA testing

10. CETACEAN HABITAT

- 10.1 State of the Cetacean Environment (SOCER)
- 10.2 Ecosystem modelling
- 10.3 Arctic Ocean
- 10.4 Climate Change
- 10.5 Decadal Review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary

11. UNINTENDED ANTHROPOGENIC IMPACTS

- 11.1 POLLUTION 2000+ research programme
- 11.2 Marine Debris
- 11.3 Cetacean bycatch
- 11.4 Anthropogenic sound
- 11.5 Ship Strikes

12. THE IWC IN THE FUTURE

13. WHALE KILLING METHODS AND WELFARE ISSUES

- 13.1 Summary of data provided on whales killed
- 13.2 Improving the humaneness of whaling operations
 - 13.2.1 Reports from IWC Contracting Governments
 - 13.2.2 Report of the 2015 NAMMCO Expert group meeting
- 13.3 Whale Welfare
 - 13.3.1 Report of the IWC workshop on non-hunting aspects of cetacean welfare
 - 13.3.2 Engagement of other organisations and experts on issues relating to cetacean welfare
- 13.4 Welfare issues associated with the entanglement of large whales
 - 13.4.1 Report of the third IWC expert workshop on large whale entanglement issues
 - 13.4.2 Report of the joint expert workshop on large whale entanglement and bycatch reduction
 - 13.4.3 Secretariat's progress report
- 13.5 Strandings Response
 - 13.5.1 Report of the IWC workshop to develop practical guidance for the handling of cetacean stranding events
 - 13.5.2 Scientific Committee recommendations on strandings

14. SCIENTIFIC PERMITS

- 14.1 NEWREP-A
- 14.2 JARPN II
- 14.3 Procedures used by the Scientific Committee for reviewing special permits
- 14.4 Other

15. SAFETY AT SEA

16. OTHER CONSERVATION ISSUES

16.1 Conservation Management Plans

- 16.1.1 Western Pacific gray whale
- 16.1.2 South-west Atlantic southern right whale
- 16.1.3 South-east Pacific southern right whale
- 16.1.4 Additional CMP proposals
- 16.1.5 Progress Report by the CMP Standing Working Group

16.2 Whale watching

- 16.2.1 Report from the joint workshop on capacity building for whale and dolphin watching in the Indian Ocean Region
- 16.2.2 Progress report by the whale watching Standing Working Group

16.3 National Reports on Cetacean Conservation

16.4 Regional Research Partnerships

- 16.4.1 Southern Ocean Research Partnership
- 16.4.2 Status of the voluntary fund

17. OTHER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

17.1 Revised Management Procedure

- 17.1.1 General issues
- 17.1.2 Implementation process

17.2 Infractions

17.3 Catches by non-member nations

18. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

19. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

19.1 Administrative matters

- 19.1.1 IWC communications
- 19.1.2 IWC document archiving
- 19.1.3 Reporting of confidential communications
- 19.1.4 Meeting arrangements

19.2 Intersessional Working Groups

- 19.2.1 Operational effectiveness and cost saving measures
- 19.2.2 Strengthening IWC financing
- 19.2.3 Provision of options to Governments of limited means to participate in the Commission's work
- 19.2.4 Website guidance
- 19.2.5 Development of the Scientific Committee's rules of procedure

19.3 Financial contributions formula

19.4 Financial Statements

- 19.4.1 Provisional financial statement for 2016
- 19.4.2 Scientific committee work plan and research budget for 2017 and 2018
- 19.4.3 Commission budget for 2017 and 2018

19.5 Budgetary Sub-committee operations and membership

19.6 Scientific Committee working methods

20. ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 20.1 2015 Report of the Scientific Committee (SC66a)
- 20.2 2016 Report of the Scientific Committee (SC66b)
- 20.3 Report of the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues
- 20.4 Report of the Infractions Sub-committee
- 20.5 Report of the Budgetary Sub-committee
- 20.6 Report of the Conservation Committee
- 20.7 Report of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee
- 20.8 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

21. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 21.1 Election of Chair
- 21.2 Election of Vice-Chair

22. BUREAU MEMBERSHIP

23. TIMING AND VENUE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

24. OTHER MATTERS

25. ADOPTION OF SUMMARY OF MAIN OUTCOMES, DECISIONS AND REQUIRED ACTIONS FROM THE 66th MEETING

- 25.1 Adoption of summary of outcomes, decisions and required actions
- 25.2 Chair's closing remarks

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1.1 Welcome Address

The 66th Meeting will open formally at 09.45 on Monday 24 October 2016. Opening remarks will be provided by representative(s) of the Slovenia Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Environment and Spatial Planning, the Mayor of Piran and the IWC's Executive Secretary.

1.2 Opening Statements

The Commission's practice is to accept opening statements from Commissioners and Observers in writing only, although the Chair will invite any new Contracting Governments to make a short opening statement during this part of the plenary session. Written opening statements from Contracting Governments and observer organisations should be submitted to the Secretariat where they will be placed on the documents section of the IWC66 website and filed in the IWC's archive.

1.3 Secretary's Report on Credentials and Voting Rights

The Secretary will report on the status of credentials as requested under Rule of Procedure D.1.(d). The Secretary will also report on any current suspensions of voting rights under Rule of Procedure E.2.(a) and (b).

1.4 Meeting Arrangements

Delegates will be informed of any practicalities or other meeting arrangements at registration and by the Secretary.

1.5 Review of Documents

The list of documents will be available as document IWC/66/02

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was prepared by the Secretary under guidance from the Commission's Chair and the Bureau. It was circulated to Commissioners and Contracting Governments on 16 July 2016 (100 days prior to the opening of the meeting) with a request for comments and additions.

In commenting upon the provisional agenda, Japan expressed its views that the Commission should focus on its core mandate and responsibilities consistent with the object and purpose of the Convention and, from this viewpoint, it had proposed not to adopt a number of items from the agenda including: whale killing methods and welfare issues; proposals for new sanctuaries; health issues; whale watching; small cetaceans and the Conservation Committee. Japan recorded that it has not changed its position. However, in keeping with its attempt to promote a spirit of co-operation within the IWC, it will not propose deletion of these or any other agenda items at the Commission's 66th Meeting.

This item will also provide an opportunity for the Chair to advise on the time schedule for the meeting.

3. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

This item will allow the Chair of the Scientific Committee to provide a summary of the Committee's progress and main recommendations arising from its intersessional work and from its meetings in 2015 and 2016. Later in the agenda there will be an opportunity to discuss the Committee's future work plan and its associated budget at item 19.4.2.

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will also provide input on specific agenda items.

- 3.1 Main Recommendations
- 3.2 Future Work Plan

4. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

This item will allow the Chair of the Conservation Committee to provide a summary of the Committee's progress and main recommendations arising from its intersessional work and from the joint meetings of the Scientific and Conservation Committee representatives in 2015 and 2016. A report will also be available from the Committee's meeting on 21 October 2016.

Of particular interest this year will be the Committee's work to develop and improve its strategic and operational planning processes. The Chair of the Conservation Committee will also provide input on specific agenda items later in the agenda.

- 4.1 Strategic Plan
- 4.2 Main Recommendations and Work Plan

5. PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE

- 5.1 Proposal for the establishment of a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary

The Government of Brazil and co-sponsors will introduce a proposal to modify the Schedule to establish a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary. The proposal and its associated management scheme were reviewed by the Scientific Committee at its 2016 meeting. The Conservation Committee will provide its input to the review ahead of IWC66.

6. RESOLUTIONS

This item is included early in the agenda in order to allow maximum opportunity for discussion and debate on any Resolutions proposed for adoption by the Commission at IWC66.

The following draft Resolutions were circulated to Commissioners 60 days in advance of the meeting. Annotations are included here where they have been supplied by the sponsors.

- 6.1 **Enhancing the Effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission.**
This resolution seeks the Commission's agreement to undertake a comprehensive, independent review of the Commission's institutional and governance arrangements. The Commission has achieved significant reform, particularly over the last decade; however, there is still much to be done to bring the Commission into line with best practice for multilateral treaty bodies.
- 6.2 **Improving the Review Process for Whaling under Special Permit.**
This resolution aims to establish an intersessional working group to provide the Commission with clear advice on special permit whaling proposals and reviews. The working group could also advise whether each review has adequately followed review instructions provided by

Annex P. This work will assist the Commission to adequately scrutinise special permit whaling proposals and programs, and make appropriate recommendations to proponents.

- 6.3 Resolution on Food Security.
- 6.4 Resolution on the Creation of a Fund to Strengthen the Capacity of Governments of Limited Means to Participate in the Work of the IWC.
This resolution has been developed by the Working Group on Providing Options to Governments of Limited Means to Participate in the Commission's Work. Their report in support of this resolution will be submitted to the Finance and Administration Committee.
- 6.5 Cetaceans and Ecosystem Services.
- 6.6 Resolution on Minamata Convention.

Chairs of any Sub-committees engaged in topics relevant to Resolutions under discussion will be invited to report under this item.

7. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING

The Sub-committee on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (ASW) is scheduled to meet on Thursday 20 October 2016 and its report will be available.

The Sub-committee's Terms of Reference are to consider relevant information and documentation from the Scientific Committee, and to consider nutritional, subsistence and cultural needs relating to aboriginal subsistence whaling and the use of whales taken for such purposes, and to provide advice on the dependence of aboriginal communities on specific whale stocks to the Commission for its consideration and determination of appropriate management measures (*Rep. Int. Whal. Comm 48: 31*).

The Scientific Committee will report its progress to the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee. Accordingly, the ASW Sub-committee report will include a summary and conclusions from the Scientific Committee's reports arising from its meetings in 2015 and 2016.

7.1 Report of the Ad-hoc Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Working Group

The Ad-hoc group was first established at IWC63 in 2011 and its terms of reference are to identify and consider unresolved ASW issues. Of particular interest this year will be the report of the IWC's expert workshop on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling which took place in Maniitsoq, Greenland in September 2015.

Additionally, Dr Dalee Dorough (Expert Member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Alaska) will provide an update on discussions on indigenous people's rights at other inter-governmental organisations.

- 7.1.1 Working Group report
- 7.1.2 Report of the 2015 IWC Expert workshop on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling
- 7.1.3 Invited Speaker on Indigenous People's Rights

7.2 Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure

In 2014 the Commission adopted Resolution 2014-4 which emphasized the need to regulate ASW in the future through a more consistent and long term approach. *Inter alia*, the Resolution requested the Scientific Committee to give high priority to all AWMP related objectives.

The Commission has set objectives for the management of aboriginal subsistence whaling. These objectives were agreed in Resolution 1994-4 and they are to:

- a) Ensure that the risks of extinction to individual stocks are not seriously increased by subsistence whaling;
- b) Enable aboriginal people to harvest whales in perpetuity at levels appropriate to their cultural and nutritional requirements, subject to the other objectives; and
- c) Maintain the status of stocks at or above the level giving the highest net recruitment and to ensure that stocks below that level are moved towards it, so far as the environment permits.

Resolution 1994-4 further resolves that highest priority shall be accorded to the objective of ensuring that the risk of extinction to individual stocks are not seriously increased by subsistence whaling.

The Scientific Committee responded to these objectives by developing an ASW management procedure. This procedure ensures that proposed ASW catches are safely within the Commission's objectives.

This item allows the Chair of the ASW Sub-committee to update the Commission on work to develop the management procedure approach for subsistence whaling. This procedure involves the development of *Strike Limit Algorithms (SLAs)*, and it is these algorithms that establish the sustainability of proposed hunts according to the Commission's objectives.

To date the Scientific Committee has completed four long term *SLAs*, one for bowhead whales in the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas, a second for gray whales in the eastern North Pacific, and a third for humpback whales off West Greenland and a fourth for bowhead whales off West Greenland. Work continues to develop *SLAs* for the other stocks which support the Greenland hunt.

7.2.1 Report of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee

- Progress with the development of *SLAs* for the Greenland subsistence whaling

The development of *SLAs* is more complex for the Greenland hunt than for other aboriginal whaling. This is partly because the Greenland hunt is multi-species and therefore targets different stocks, and partly because the structure of the stocks themselves are more complex. The multi-species requirement arises in Greenland because of the need for flexibility amongst species in meeting subsistence needs.

Recognising these factors, in 2008 the Commission adopted a recommendation from the Scientific Committee to use an interim approach for setting catch limits. The Scientific Committee advise that this approach is safe and valid for up to two quota blocks, i.e. until 2018. The interim approach has been simulation tested in the same way as for a normal *SLA*, but not for as full a range of scenarios

- *Implementation review* for gray whales

The Commission adopted an *SLA* for gray whales taken by Russia and potentially also by the USA in 2002. Although *SLAs* generate long term advice, the Scientific Committee reviews their validity at regular intervals (usually every five years) to ensure no new information is available that would require further testing. These reviews are called *Implementation Reviews*.

An *Implementation Review* for gray whales was completed in 2010 and the *SLA* was left unchanged for providing advice for the Russian hunt off Chukotka, Siberia. However the Scientific Committee found that a second *Implementation Review* was required to provide advice for a potential hunt of gray whales by the Makah tribe on the west coast of the USA. This second *Implementation Review* was completed

in 2013 and takes account of the possibility of catching whales from a small feeding aggregation known as the 'Pacific Coast Feeding Group'.

The Scientific Committee also agreed that the next *Implementation Review* should not occur until the completion of the range wide assessment of gray whales which began in 2013.

7.3 Aboriginal Whaling Scheme

The purpose of the Aboriginal Whaling Scheme is to manage several practical issues including survey intervals, carry over, data collection etc. The Scientific Committee views the Scheme as constituting an important and necessary component of safe management under the management procedure discussed in Item 7.2 above.

7.3.1 Report of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee

7.4 Annual reviews of aboriginal subsistence whaling catch limits

Size and duration of catch limits for Aboriginal Whaling are set out at paragraph 13 of the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. In 2012 catch limits were re-established for a period of six years for stocks of bowhead whales in the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas, gray whales in the eastern North Pacific and humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines.

Some of the catch limits described in the Schedule are subject to annual review by the Commission in light of advice from the Scientific Committee. Other provisions are subject to review if new scientific data becomes available. This item allows the ASW Sub-committee to report its discussions on this review process.

- 7.4.1 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock of bowhead whales
- 7.4.2 North Pacific Eastern stock of gray whales
- 7.4.3 Common minke whale stocks off east and west Greenland
- 7.4.4 West Greenland stock of fin whales
- 7.4.5 West Greenland stock of bowhead whales
- 7.4.6 Humpback whales off West Greenland
- 7.4.7 North Atlantic humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines

7.5 Status of the voluntary fund for Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling

At IWC65 in 2014 the Commission agreed to establish a dedicated Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling fund. This item will provide a report on the status of the fund.

8. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS AND SMALL TYPE WHALING

A proposed Schedule Amendment to establish a catch limit for small type coastal whaling around Japan was not adopted by the Commission at its 65th meeting in 2014. Following the meeting, Japan took an initiative for an intersessional on-line consultation on Small-type Coastal Whaling to gain an understanding of those countries opposed to the proposal and to further identify the reasons for their opposition. As an output from the intersessional consultation, Japan intends to submit a discussion paper which will include a summary of its questionnaire, the responses received so far and Japan's analysis of the issue.

9. CETACEAN STATUS AND HEALTH

The Scientific Committee continues to progress the assessments of a number of whale stocks. Information on stocks that are subject to aboriginal subsistence whaling, or are relevant to discussions of Conservation Management Plans, or are being discussed under the Implementation process of the RMP are dealt with under Items 7, 16.1 and 17.1 respectively.

This item also provides an opportunity for the Scientific Committee to update the Commission on international research cruises, including in particular the IWC North Pacific Whale Ecosystem Research (POWER) programme. Note that regional research partnerships including the IWC-SORP are covered under item 16.4 below.

The Scientific Committee is developing an agreed list of abundance estimates for large whale populations. Item 9.1.9 gives opportunity for the first summary of this work.

9.1 Whale Stocks

- 9.1.1 Antarctic minke whales
- 9.1.2 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales
- 9.1.3 Southern Hemisphere blue whales
- 9.1.4 Western North Pacific gray whales
- 9.1.5 Southern Hemisphere right whales
- 9.1.6 North Pacific and North Atlantic right whales and small stocks of bowhead whales
- 9.1.7 International Research Cruises
- 9.1.8 Other stocks
- 9.1.9 Summary of agreed whale abundance estimates

9.2 Small Cetaceans

In 1990 and 1991 the Commission adopted Resolutions 1990-3 and 1991-5 on Small Cetaceans. Together these requested the Scientific Committee to commence and continue a process of collecting information on those stocks of small cetaceans subject to significant directed and incidental takes. Additionally, in 1994 the Commission adopted Resolution 1994-2 which *inter alia* commended the work of the Scientific Committee, agreed that the Commission and non-member coastal states should be involved in the selection of priority topics and established a voluntary fund to enhance the participation of developing countries in small cetacean work.

Of particular interest this year will be the Scientific Committee's recommendations for allocation of funding arising from voluntary contributions to the IWC's Small Cetacean's Fund.

Commissioners may wish to note the Scientific Committee's continued recommendations in respect of serious conservation cases, especially regarding Vaquita and Māui's Dolphins.

- 9.2.1 Concerns over status
- 9.2.2 Progress with projects undertaken through the IWC Voluntary Fund

9.3 Cetacean Health and Disease

This item provides an opportunity for the Scientific Committee to update the Commission on its on-going work programme covering Cetacean Diseases of Concern (CDoC). This item also covers cetacean mortality events including strandings. Note that issues related to unintended anthropogenic impacts are considered under item 11.

9.4 Stock definition and DNA testing

This item allows the Commission to discuss other aspects of the Scientific Committee's work, including Stock Definition and DNA Testing. DNA testing is discussed in response to Commission Resolution 1998-8.

10. CETACEAN HABITAT

Under Resolution 1998-5 the Commission agreed to establish a regular agenda item under which the Scientific Committee would report on its research on environmental concerns, and Contracting Governments could report on national and regional efforts to monitor and address the impacts of environmental change on cetaceans and other marine mammals.

10.1 State of the Cetacean Environment (SOCER)

The SOCER report is prepared in response to Resolution 2000-7 and its objective is to provide Commissioners and other interested parties with a non-technical periodic summary of events, developments and conditions in the marine environment that are relevant to cetaceans. The report is compiled on an annual basis with pre-selected regions treated each year. The focus of the report in 2015 was the Pacific Ocean and in 2016 is the polar seas (Arctic Sea and Southern Ocean).

10.2 Ecosystem modelling

This item provides an opportunity for the Scientific Committee to provide an update on its ecosystem modelling work.

10.3 Arctic Ocean

This item provides an opportunity for the Commission to discuss affairs relevant to the Arctic Ocean and associated cetacean populations. There will be an update from the Secretariat on engagement with the Arctic Council.

10.4 Climate change

This item provides an opportunity for the Scientific Committee to provide an update on its work related to climate change.

10.5 Decadal Review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary

The Southern Ocean Sanctuary was established in 1994 through paragraph 7b of the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. This paragraph states that the Sanctuary shall be reviewed ten years after its initial adoption and at succeeding ten year intervals. The first review was undertaken in 2004 and a second review was completed by the Scientific Committee at its 2016 meeting. The Conservation Committee will also provide its input to the review ahead of IWC66.

Of particular interest this year is a suggestion, arising from the Scientific Committee's review, to establish a management plan for the Southern Ocean Sanctuary.

11. UNINTENDED ANTHROPOGENIC IMPACTS

11.1 POLLUTION 2000+ research programme

This item provides for a progress update from the Scientific Committee.

11.2 Marine debris

This item provides for a progress update from the Scientific Committee. Note that the IWC's programme on responding to entangled large whales is reported through Agenda Item 11.3.

11.3 Cetacean bycatch

This item provides for a progress update from the Scientific Committee.

11.4 Anthropogenic sound

This item provides for a progress update from the Scientific Committee. Of particular interest this year will be the recommendations from an IWC Scientific Committee pre-meeting workshop in June 2016 on underwater noise.

11.5 Ship strikes

This item will allow a report from the Conservation Committee's Ship Strikes Working Group and from the Scientific Committee's Human Induced Mortality Sub-committee.

12. THE IWC IN THE FUTURE

This item will provide for discussions on the IWC's organisational and strategic development.

13. WHALE KILLING METHODS AND WELFARE ISSUES

The Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues is scheduled to meet on Thursday 20 October 2016 and its report will be available.

13.1 Summary of data provided on whales killed

This item allows the Chair of the Working Group to summarise data received from Contracting Governments as specified in Resolutions 1999-1 and 2001-2.

13.2 Improving the humaneness of whaling operations

This item allows the Chair of the Working Group to report information received in accordance with Resolutions 1997-1 and 2001-2.

Of particular interest this year will be a report from NAMMCO of an expert group meeting held in November 2015 to assess time to death data from large whale hunts

13.2.1 Reports from IWC Contracting Governments

13.2.2 Report of the 2015 NAMMCO expert group meeting

13.3 Whale Welfare

At IWC65 in 2014, the Commission agreed to reflect the full scope of the IWC's consideration of welfare within the Terms of Reference of the Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues group¹, and agreed an updated Action Plan for the WG-WKM&WI (See Report of the 65th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission in 2014, Annex H, Appendix 4).

Of particular interest this year will be the report arising from an IWC workshop which was hosted by the Government of South Africa in May 2016.

13.3.1 Report of the IWC workshop on non-hunting aspects of cetacean welfare

13.3.2 Engagement of other organisations and experts on issues relating to cetacean welfare

13.4 Welfare issues associated with the entanglement of large whales

In 2010 and 2011 the IWC held two workshops which developed a series of recommendations for responding to the welfare concerns caused when whales become entangled in marine debris. At IWC64 in 2012 the Commission endorsed the recommendations arising from these workshops which

¹ At IWC65 in 2014 the revised name ('Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues', WG-WI), Terms of Reference and Action Plan outlined in IWC/65/WKM&AWI05 Rev2 was adopted by consensus.

included promoting the establishment of national entanglement response networks. A dedicated co-ordinator has been attached to the Secretariat since 2011 to implement these recommendations.

Of particular interest this year will be the report of the third IWC expert workshop on large whale entanglement issues which took place in Provincetown in April 2015. In addition, the report of a workshop jointly convened by the IWC, NOAA, the New England Aquarium (NEAq) and the Consortium for Bycatch Reduction will provide recommendations for ways to reduce large whale entanglement.

- 13.4.1 Report of the third IWC expert workshop on large whale entanglement issues
- 13.4.2 Report of the joint expert workshop on large whale entanglement and bycatch reduction
- 13.4.3 Secretariat's progress report

13.5 Strandings Response

This item has been included following the adoption at IWC65 in 2014 of the Action Plan for the WG-WKM&WI which included an objective to 'work through existing strandings networks to produce specific recommendations to the Commission in relation to the welfare implications of responding to cetacean stranding events'.

Of particular interest will be the recent IWC workshop, hosted by the Government of South Africa, to develop guidance for the handling of cetacean stranding events.

- 13.5.1 Report of the IWC workshop to develop guidance for the handling of cetacean stranding events
- 13.5.2 Scientific Committee recommendations on strandings

14. SCIENTIFIC PERMITS

Paragraph 30 of the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946) refers to scientific permits and states that *'Proposed permits shall be reviewed and commented upon by the Scientific Committee at Annual Meetings when possible'*.

The Scientific Committee has developed a document known as 'Annex P' which provides the Terms of Reference and the procedure for the scientific review of special permit proposals and research results from existing and completed permits. For periodical reviews of long-term programmes, a review occurs normally around every six years.

14.1 NEWREP-A

NEWREP-A (New Research Programme in the Antarctic) is a special permit programme operated by the Government of Japan. This item allows the Scientific Committee to give its report.

14.2 JARPN II

JARPN II (Japan Research Programme in the North Pacific) is a special permit programme operated by the Government of Japan. This item allows the Scientific Committee to give its report.

14.3 Procedures used by the Scientific Committee for reviewing special permits

This item allows the Chair of the Scientific Committee to update the Commission on its 'Annex P' process which it uses when reviewing special permits.

14.4 Other

15. SAFETY AT SEA

This item is provided in follow up to Resolution 2011-2 and associated discussions at previous IWC meetings. In commenting upon the draft agenda, Japan noted that in spite of the related Resolutions and statements adopted by the Commission, in January 2016 the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society again expressed its intention to conduct violent activities. Japan requested an opportunity to provide updates upon this issue.

16. OTHER CONSERVATION ISSUES

16.1 Conservation Management Plans

In 2008 the IWC adopted Conservation Management Plans as an adaptive, flexible and tailored management tool to improve the conservation outcomes for the most at risk cetacean populations.

Work is progressed through the Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans and through the Scientific Committee's work on whale stocks and environmental concerns.

- 16.1.1 Western Pacific gray whale
- 16.1.2 South-west Atlantic southern right whale
- 16.1.3 South-east Pacific southern right whale
- 16.1.4 Additional CMP proposals
- 16.1.5 Progress report by CMP Standing Working Group

16.2 Whale watching

In 2012 the Commission adopted its Five Year Strategic Plan for Whalewatching and the Standing Working Group (SWG-WW) has continued to make progress against the actions outlined in the plan. Of particular interest this year will be an update on progress with developing the IWC online whale watching handbook and a report from the Indian Ocean Rim Association workshop entitled 'Building sustainable whale and dolphin watching tourism in the Indian Ocean region' held in Sri Lanka in February 2016.

The scientific aspects of whalewatching are discussed by the Scientific Committee in response to a request in Resolution 1994-14 for it to provide advice relating to whalewatching.

- 16.2.1 Report from the joint workshop on capacity building for whale and dolphin watching in the Indian Ocean Region
- 16.2.2 Progress report from the Conservation Committee's whale watching Standing Working Group

16.3 National Reports on cetacean conservation

Contracting Governments may submit voluntary national reports on cetacean conservation to the Conservation Committee. The Committee welcomes these reports and has encouraged more countries to submit them.

16.4 Regional research partnerships

16.4.1 Southern Ocean Research Partnership

The IWC Southern Ocean Research Partnership (SORP) is a multi-lateral scientific research programme to deliver relevant scientific information to the IWC. This item allows the Chair of the Scientific Committee to provide an update on its progress. International research cruises are covered under agenda item 8.1.7 above.

16.4.2 Status of the voluntary fund

Voluntary contributions in support of the SORP programme are held in a dedicated IWC fund. This item provides an opportunity to review the status of the fund.

17. OTHER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

17.1 Revised Management Procedure

The RMP is a method of calculating sustainable removal levels which are consistent with the Commission's objectives for commercial whaling as developed at the 1990 annual meeting. It consists first of the Catch Limit Algorithm (CLA) which is the formula used to compute the number of removals permitted, based on past catches and estimates of abundance. It also includes rules for spreading such removals by area to take account of uncertainties about both the number of stocks of the species concerned, and the extent of the areas that they inhabit. Additional description of the RMP is provided through the IWC website at <https://iwc.int/rmp>

The Commission adopted the RMP in 1994 through Resolution 1994-5, although the same Resolution reaffirmed that the RMP should not be applied in practice until all aspects of the Revised Management Scheme (RMS) are incorporated into the Schedule. The Commission recognised that discussions on the RMS had reached impasse at IWC/58 in 2006.

The Scientific Committee continues to prepare for how the RMP could best be applied. This work includes ongoing consideration of ways to improve the RMP itself and these are reported under 'General Issues' below.

The Scientific Committee also continues to assemble and analyse information on how best to apply the RMP for a range of stocks. This process is known as an "Implementation of the RMP", and is an ongoing process given new knowledge continuously becomes available. The results would allow the Scientific Committee to recommend catch limits for stocks should commercial whaling be re-introduced, and to specify how such catches would need to be spread spatially. It is reported under the item 'Implementation process' below. While the CLA computations require data on past catches and estimates of abundance by area only, the Implementation process takes account of other data as well, such as genetic information which indicates the areas which different stocks inhabit. .

Bycatch is part of the RMP. This is because the RMP considers all removals, including those caused by ship strikes, bycatch and entanglement. Estimates of likely future removals of this nature would be subtracted from the catch limits generated by the RMP when recommending catch limits for commercial whaling.

17.1.1 General Issues

17.1.2 Implementation process

17.2 Infractions

The Infractions Sub-committee will meet on 21 October 2016. The Sub-committee allows Contracting Governments to report Infractions as required under Article IX.4 of the ICRW(1946). It also considers matters and documents relating to national inspection schemes, information required under Section VI of the Schedule and updates to national laws and regulations.

17.3 Catches by non-member nations

This item provides the opportunity for Contracting Governments to raise issues related to catches by non-member nations. The Scientific Committee will report on communications received during the intersessional period from the Government of Canada.

18. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

This item provides an opportunity for the Commission to receive the reports arising from IWC observers to other organisations.

In addition, the Secretariat will report on engagement with other organisations arising from recent IWC recommendations and from Resolution 2014-2.

19. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Finance and Administration Committee is scheduled to meet on Saturday 22 October 2016 and its report will be available.

19.1 Administrative matters

19.1.1 IWC communications

This item will allow the F&A Committee to report on progress to develop and increase the IWC's external and internal communications.

19.1.2 IWC document archiving

This item will allow the F&A Committee to report on progress to increase online access to the Commission's extensive document archive.

19.1.3 Reporting of confidential communications

Rule of Procedure P.3 requires the Secretary to report any confidential communications arising during the previous year to the Commission or Bureau in the years when the Commission does not meet. This item will allow the F&A Committee to report the Secretary's statement.

19.1.4 Meeting arrangements

At IWC65 in 2014 the Commission recommended that the Secretariat should conduct a formal review of meeting arrangements in the light of previous procedural changes. This item will allow the Secretariat to report the results of the feedback survey undertaken at the close of IWC65.

19.2 Intersessional Working Groups

19.2.1 Operational effectiveness and cost saving measures

At IWC63 in 2011 the Commission adopted Resolution 2011-1. This resolved *inter alia* to include the effectiveness of the operations of the IWC as a regular item on the Commission's agenda to ensure the Commission's rules and procedures are kept up to date with international good practice, and to address any specific problems or issues arising in the operation of the Commission. Also at IWC63 the F&A Committee stressed the importance of continued examination of savings that could be brought about by changes in the Commission's working practices.

A Working Group to examine these issues was established at IWC64 in 2012 and the F&A Committee will report on its continued progress.

19.2.2 Strengthening IWC financing

At IWC62 in 2010 the Commission endorsed a recommendation to convene a small correspondence group to examine ways of integrating conservation funding into the overall budget of the IWC. The group's terms of reference were refined at IWC63 in 2011 and it gave a

progress update to IWC64 in 2012 and IWC65 in 2014. Intersessional work has continued and the F&A Committee will report on progress.

19.2.3 Provisions of options to Governments of limited means to participate in the Commission's work

At IWC65 in 2014 the Commission reconstituted its Working Group on the Provision of Assistance to Governments of Limited Means to Participate in the Commission's Work. This item provides an opportunity for the F&A Committee to report progress since 2014.

19.2.4 Website guidance

In March 2015 the Bureau established a Working Group on website guidance to provide general principles and practical guidance on the use of the IWC website. The Working Group has completed its work and will report to the Finance and Administration Committee. This item allows the Chair of the F&A Committee to report the F&A Committee's recommendations.

19.2.5 Development of the Scientific Committee's rules of procedure

- Consideration of changes arising from Resolution 2014-4
This item allows the Commission to receive the Scientific Committee's proposals in relation to the changes to its Rules of Procedure initially proposed by the Commission through Resolution 2014-4.
- Consideration of changes arising from the Scientific Committee meeting in 2016
This item allows the Commission to receive the Scientific Committee's requests to update its rules of procedure following discussions at its 2016 meeting.

19.3 Financial contributions formula

The Chair of the F&A Committee will report on its discussions on the formula for calculating financial contributions or any other related matters.

19.4 Financial Statements

These matters will first have been discussed by the Budgetary Sub-committee at its meeting which is scheduled to take place on Thursday 20 October 2016. The Budgetary Sub-committee will report to the Finance and Administration Committee.

19.4.1 Provisional financial statements for 2016

19.4.2 Scientific Committee work plan and research budget for 2017 and 2018

This item provides an opportunity for the Commission to receive the Scientific Committee's workplan as developed at its 2016 meeting and the associated research budget.

19.4.3 Commission budget for 2017 and 2018

The F&A Committee will present a two year budget, developed through the Budgetary Sub-committee, for Commission approval.

19.5 Budgetary Sub-committee operations and membership

Membership of the Budgetary Sub-committee is through rotation of Contracting Governments. Two seats are allocated to Contracting Governments in each capacity to pay group, and Governments serve for three years with membership then passing on in alphabetical order. Two open seats are available to any Contracting Government.

This item will allow the Chair of the F&A Committee to update the Commission on the current membership of the Budgetary Sub-committee.

19.6 Scientific Committee working methods

The Scientific Committee has a standing agenda item to allow review and update of its working methods. This item provides an opportunity for the Chair of the Scientific Committee to update the Commission on recent progress.

20. ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

This item allows for formal adoption of all Committee, Sub-committee and Working Group reports as listed and endorsement of all recommendations contained therein.

- 20.1 2015 Report of the Scientific Committee (SC66a)
- 20.2 2016 Report of the Scientific Committee (SC66b)
- 20.3 Report of the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues
- 20.4 Report of the Infractions Sub-committee
- 20.5 Report of the Budgetary Sub-committee
- 20.6 Report of the Conservation Committee
- 20.7 Report of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee
- 20.8 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

21. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Bruno Mainini (Switzerland) took up the Chairmanship of the IWC at the end of IWC65 in 2014 and has completed his two year term.

Joji Morishita (Japan) took up the Vice-Chairmanship of the IWC at the end of IWC65 in 2014 and has completed his two year term.

Under Rule of Procedure M.9 the Chair, Vice-Chair and Chair of F&A are automatic members of the Bureau.

- 21.1 Election of Chair
- 21.2 Election of Vice-Chair

22. BUREAU MEMBERSHIP

The Bureau is established under Rule of Procedure M.9. Commissioners are appointed for a period of two years and this item will allow for the nomination of new members.

23. TIMING AND VENUE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Commission's biennial schedule means that its next meeting is due in September or October 2018. Rule of Procedure B.1 encourages any Contracting Government desiring to extend an invitation to provide notice two years in advance.

The Scientific Committee retains its annual meeting schedule and is expected to meet next in late May or early June of 2017 and again at a similar time in 2018.

Circular Communication IWC.ALL.248 of 24 March 2016 offered IWC Contracting Governments the opportunity to host forthcoming meetings. The role of the host is to provide an appropriate venue and a backdrop for the meetings. For both Commission and Scientific Committee meetings the IWC provides a budget which aims to cover the majority of costs, and most of the arrangements are made through the

Secretariat whose Technical Manager will lead in both the planning and on-site management of the meeting.

Around 500 delegates from 64 countries visited Slovenia for the 2014 Commission meeting. In addition, over 50 journalists, photographers and camera crews attended the meeting which attracted media attention from around the world. Similar numbers are anticipated in 2018 and potential venues need hotel rooms and facilities to accommodate these numbers.

The Secretariat is able to provide detailed information to any Contracting Government considering an offer to host either a Commission or a Scientific Committee meeting. Any member wishing to understand more about hosting is welcome to contact either Simon Brockington or Mark Tandy at the Secretariat for an informal conversation.

23.1.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

23.1.2 Commission discussions and action arising

24. OTHER MATTERS

25. ADOPTION OF SUMMARY OF MAIN OUTCOMES, DECISIONS AND REQUIRED ACTIONS FROM THE 66th MEETING

A summary of the main outcomes, decisions and actions from the meeting will be presented for adoption by the plenary. This item produces the formal adopted summary of outcomes arising from the meeting.

25.1 Adoption of summary of outcomes, decisions and required actions

25.2 Chair's closing remarks