INTERSESSIONAL REPORT

of the International Whaling Commission

Sept 2014 - Oct 2016

70 YEARS

INTERNATIONAL *1946 - 2016*
WHALING COMMISSION

Produced by the IWC Secretariat

The International Whaling Commission (IWC)

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Front cover photograph: Bryde's whale, North Pacific.

FOREWORD

This first report in a brand new series records a diverse and dynamic programme of work undertaken over the last two years. It depicts an organisation that is constantly evolving: responding to its historical context, and adapting to an agenda now quite different to that which it was created to address in 1946.

IWC membership has grown from fifteen countries to eighty eight. Like almost any other global organisation, membership encompasses many different perspectives and there is not always agreement. This must not detract from the vast number of important issues on which there is both agreement and progress. Marine debris, chemical pollution, disease, oil spill, ship collisions, ocean noise, entanglement, stranding and whalewatching are just a selection of shared concerns on which the collective efforts of IWC members are producing tangible results.

The majority of these issues are ocean-wide if not world-wide, and most cetaceans are migratory animals, travelling between countries and sometimes continents. International coordination through organisations like the IWC is vital. It is also increasingly important to collaborate with other inter-governmental, regional and specialist organisations, sharing expertise and exchanging information to ensure all our efforts are as effective as possible.

There is a tremendous amount of both work and progress contained in this report. I thank those involved and I wish them all - member governments, the IWC scientific community, non-governmental observer organisations and all our collaborators - a very happy seventieth birthday.

Bruno Mainini
IWC Chair

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

Image: southern right whale, Argentina.

This report covers the period between the IWC's biennial Commission Meetings, from September 2014 to October 2016. Its new format aims to provide a short, accessible summary of the intersessional period, and place this work in a wider context where appropriate. It is part of the Commission's drive to improve accountability, increase transparency and build greater understanding of the IWC and its work programme.

Amidst so many valuable developments, it's never easy to pick highlights but I have selected three issues which I think demonstrate the breadth of today's IWC. The first is the continued success of the Small Cetaceans Voluntary Fund. This was established in 1994 in recognition of the endangered status of many small cetaceans. Since 2009 it has generated over £500k in contributions and its most recent call for funding applications attracted proposals from six continents.

Secondly, an important workshop took place in Greenland in 2015, aiming to support the Commission in its consideration of aboriginal subsistence catch limits. Regulation of subsistence whaling is a key IWC responsibility and it's important that the Commission is equipped with the information and processes to handle this effectively. The findings of this workshop will be presented at the 2016 Commission meeting.

Finally, it is impossible not to acknowledge the achievements of the Global Whale Entanglement Network. This intersessional period has seen the network expand into new regions, produce new trainers, and move beyond entanglement response to consideration of the long term aim of preventing entanglements occurring in the first place. This work only began in 2012 but has already shown how the IWC can use its global reach and expertise to achieve real change on the ground.

These are just a few examples of the diverse and important work programmes undertaken during the intersessional period. I encourage you to read on, and I hope you will agree that the IWC has been both busy and productive.

Simon Brockington
Executive Secretary

Image: sampling microplastics in the Mediterranean.

SCIENCE >

Strong science is the cornerstone of the Commission's work on conservation and management.

The IWC's Scientific Committee meets annually to provide advice on a wide range of issues, a few of which are covered in this section whilst others can be found elsewhere in this report.

POPULATION MODELLING

Obtaining good information about wild animal populations can be difficult. It becomes even more complex when many of the species studied are highly migratory and spend most of their time underwater, often in remote places.

The Scientific Committee has pioneered a modelling approach that quantifies and incorporates the uncertainties inevitably present in information on whales by examining thousands of potential scenarios. This approach was developed at the request of the Commission in order to calculate sustainable and precautionary commercial whaling catch limits. It has been adapted to calculate safe limits for aboriginal subsistence hunts, for other direct impacts such as ship strike and entanglement and for more 'subtle' threats such as chemical pollution and habitat degradation. (For more information on these subjects, see below under *Conservation*, *Welfare* and *Whaling*).

The Scientific Committee maintains an ongoing programme to assess the status of different species and ocean areas. In some cases, the focus is on species or populations that are hunted (these are reviewed formally every 5-6 years). In other cases the focus is on species/populations once heavily hunted, to examine whether or not they are recovering and the reasons for this. This allows new research to be reviewed, and modelling to be updated to incorporate new information.

In many cases, the biggest challenge is to understand population structure: the number of distinct populations in a region, and extent of any crossover amongst them. Ongoing or completed assessments/reviews during the reporting period included North Atlantic fin whales and common minke whales, Southern Hemisphere humpback and blue whales, and North Pacific gray and sei whales. (See also below *Conservation* for work on western gray whale population structure).

SCIENCE
Population Modelling

One of the foundations of IWC scientific work is 'population modelling.' Computer models are used to integrate different types of information: numbers of animals, population structure and the impact of specific human activities such as whaling, ship collisions or entanglement in fishing gear. This allows scientists to assess conservation status, and to identify and prioritise conservation and management issues.

Image: beach-based sightings survey, Congo.

FIELD RESEARCH

Each year, the IWC initiates, facilitates or supports a range of field research programmes. These are diverse in scope and scale, and are conducted all over the world. Below is a small sample of the field work conducted during this intersessional period.

IWC-POWER Research Cruise

Now in its seventh year, the IWC-POWER programme (North Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research) is a long term, international collaboration focused on developing a scientific basis for conservation and management of whales in the North Pacific. A primary focus is on surveying areas which have not been covered for over forty years and providing baseline data from which trends can be estimated in the future. The design of the programme and choice of scientists is the responsibility of the Scientific Committee. The surveys use sightings data to estimate abundance as well as collecting biopsy samples and photo-identification data to consider population structure and movements. Each research cruise sets sail in July and lasts approximately 60 days. Its hoped that the initial phase of the programme will have completed by 2019.

IWC-SORP

IWC-SORP (Southern Ocean Research Programme) is also a long term and multi-faceted international collaboration. It has five distinct programmes running concurrently and co-ordinated by the IWC's SORP Steering Committee. These include research into the predator/prey relationship between baleen whales and krill, a killer whale programme including analysis of distribution and migration patterns, and the flagship Antarctic Blue Whale Project which is improving understanding of the Southern Ocean's blue whales, including their numbers, role in the ecosystem and rate of population recovery post-industrial whaling.

SCIENCE
Field Research

Image: IWC-POWER photo-ID work in the North Pacific.

Small Cetaceans Voluntary Fund

Since 2009, increasing contributions from governments and non-governmental organisations have enabled the IWC to maintain progress under the IWC's Small Cetacean Research Fund. It now operates on a two-year cycle where funds are built and then applications invited from scientists all over the world. Since 2014 alone, the fund has awarded £40,000 in support of new and ongoing projects which range from photo-identification in the eastern Taiwan Strait to a bycatch survey of the Ganges River dolphin. The fund consistently demonstrates how much can be achieved with relatively small sums of money. The latest call for proposals was issued in 2016 and received responses from scientists on six continents, working on a wide range of different species, and habitats. See more information on small cetaceans below under *Conservation* and *Funding*.

Satellite tagging

Satellite tagging is an increasingly useful tool that allows scientists to track the movement of animals and, depending on the type of tag, provide information on behaviour, dive profiles and water temperature. This information is used to inform conservation strategies.

During the past two-years, IWC tagging projects have provided information on:

- feeding behaviour of Antarctic minke and humpback whales;
- migration and feeding of Southern right whales that visit Peninsula Valdes Argentina, assisting in investigations of the high numbers of calves stranding since 2003;
- migration routes of fin whales in the Mediterranean Sea to compare with shipping routes as part of work to minimise ship strikes.

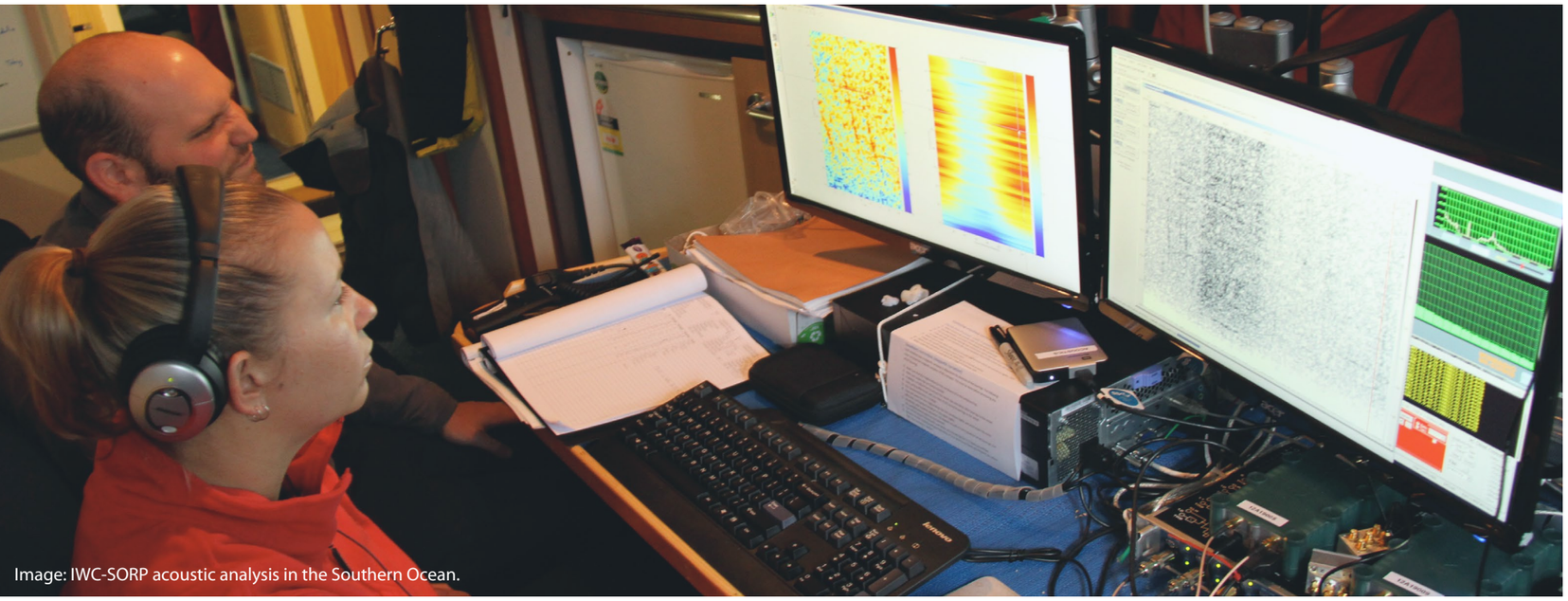


Image: IWC-SORP acoustic analysis in the Southern Ocean.

Healthy cetacean populations require a healthy habitat. There are many ways (direct and indirect) that human activities can have an adverse effect on the cetacean environment. Understanding the links between these activities, the habitat and cetaceans is complex. Whilst the connection between a piece of marine debris and a whale entanglement can be clearly visible, the impacts of chemical pollutants in the water, coastal and offshore development, ocean noise or retreating polar ice are less easy to establish.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The Scientific and Conservation Committees of the IWC work together to understand and develop ways to minimise possible threats. This immense task is being tackled through a range of activities. Key amongst these are the holding of special Scientific Committee sessions and specialist workshops that provide advice to the Conservation Committee and the Commission. Climate change, ocean noise, marine debris and chemical pollution have been important topics during this biennial period.

Effective responses to these issues require international and cross-discipline collaboration. The need to coordinate and share resources has been the focus of a variety of different work programmes during this period and the IWC has worked in conjunction with other intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organisations.

Litter, discarded or lost fishing gear and other types of ocean debris is one example. Following two earlier expert workshops, during this period the IWC engaged with the relevant organs of the United Nations (UN) including the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to exchange information and help coordinate global efforts. This represents a significant strengthening of engagement between the IWC and the United Nations.

The importance of information-sharing has also led to the development of data collation and mapping tools in several areas. Those studying chemical pollution are now able to map and explore possible contaminant trends using a new database recording global pollution reports. Another project is building an intranet forum on cetacean disease, including a comprehensive online library, image database and discussion forum. As well as sharing expertise and assisting with diagnosis, this site aims to enable real-time, global alerts which could enable identification of diseases and their causes more quickly.

A Resolution passed at the 2014 Commission meeting focused on data sharing in the context of highly migratory cetaceans. This resulted in an initiative to highlight the availability of IWC data which is ongoing and includes the creation of a new website area, cataloguing the various types of data held and explaining how it can be accessed.

Data held includes a comprehensive historical record of modern whaling catch data, sightings data related to abundance estimates, photo-identification images and catalogues, ship strikes data, and DNA samples from IWC sponsored cruises.

An environmental work programme instigated following the Deep Water Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is also highlighting the importance of collaboration. Research has found quantifiable injuries in nearly all the cetacean species found in the oil spill region, leading the Scientific Committee of the IWC to recommend that dialogue is opened up between marine mammal scientists and those in government and industry responsible for oil spill risk management and contingency planning.

STATUS AND RECOVERY

The scientific work programme continues to advance understanding of whale populations.'

Right Whales

(Three species). Heavily exploited pre-20th century.

North Atlantic

(Eubalaena glacialis). One of the most endangered species with little signs of recovery in most areas. In the east, sightings are extremely rare. In the west, the population numbers around 500 with some signs of slow increase. The main threats are entanglement and ship strikes.

North Pacific

(Eubalaena japonica). Also very endangered with few signs of recovery. There may be several hundred animals in the Sea of Okhotsk feeding grounds and around 1,000 in the northwest Pacific but only tens of animals in the eastern North Pacific.

Southern right whales

(Eubalaena australis). There may once have been around 70,000-100,000 animals. In 2009, there were around 14,000. Off Argentina/Brazil, South Africa and Australia the populations are recovering strongly at 7-8% per year. Other populations (e.g. off western South America) remain small. The South Atlantic and Eastern Pacific populations are the subject of CMPs (see p. 19).

Blue Whales

(Balaenoptera musculus) were heavily exploited in all areas.

North Atlantic

Present status has not been fully assessed, but encouragingly, evidence suggests they are increasing, at least in the central area. There are some 1,000 animals off Iceland and several hundred in the Gulf of St Lawrence. They remain rare in the northeastern Atlantic where they were once common.

North Pacific

There are insufficient data to comment on present status in western areas. There are over 2,000 animals in the eastern North Pacific and the population has almost recovered.

Southern Hemisphere

Pre-exploitation size may have been as many as 2-300,000 whales. They were estimated to number around 2,300 in 1998 and to be increasing between 2.4-8.4% per year. The IWC is undertaking an assessment of Antarctic blue whales at present. There have been no assessments of the pygmy blue whale sub-species to date.

Fin Whales

(B. physalus) were heavily exploited in all areas.

North Atlantic

Present total abundance is over 75,000 whales although not all areas have been surveyed. Assessments show the Central and West Greenland populations to be in a healthy state. See pp. 32-33 for recent catches. Their status in other areas has not been fully assessed. They are vulnerable to ship strikes in the Mediterranean.

North Pacific

There are insufficient data to assess their present status. However, partial estimates for the eastern North Pacific show around 10,000 whales with some evidence of annual increase rates of 4-5%.

Southern Hemisphere

There has been no recent full assessment of the status. There is some evidence that populations summering in the Antarctic are increasing at a small but unknown rate.

Sperm Whales

(Physeter macrocephalus).
Heavily exploited in all areas.

The IWC has no recently accepted reliable estimates of abundance; their estimation is complicated by their long dive times and their behaviour.

Although not endangered, there have been no recent assessments of status by the IWC. Plans are being developed to undertake an assesment.

Gray Whales

(Eschrichtius robustus).
Heavily exploited pre-20th century.

There are believed to have been two populations of gray whales. A basin wide assessment is underway. They have been protected since the 1930s apart from some subsistence whaling (see pp. 32-33) from the recovered eastern North Pacific population whose abundance was around 21,000 animals in 2011.

The situation for the western North Pacific population is uncertain and it is the subject of a CMP (see p. 19). The feeding area off Sakhalin Island may contain both western and eastern animals. Only around 180 gray whales regularly feed there but numbers are increasing at around 4%. Primary threats revolve around entanglement and oil and gas related activities.

Bryde's Whales

(B. edeni but taxonomy review is underway).

Bryde's whales are found in warmer waters, generally between 40°N and 40°S. They have been subject to a shorter and less intensive history of whaling than other whales and primarily for this reason no populations are considered endangered. In the western North Pacific, the most recent (partial) abundance estimate accepted by the IWC is over 20,000 in 2000. A reassessment of status and management advice will begin in 2017. Recent catches are listed on pp. 32-33. The only other reliable estimate of abundance (around 13,000 in the late 1980s) is for the eastern tropical Pacific.

SCIENCE
Population Status & Recovery

Sei Whales

(B. borealis) were exploited in all areas.

North Atlantic

There are insufficient data to assess their present status. Surveys show little sign of increase in the northeastern Atlantic. There were around 10,500 whales in 1989 in the central region, where exploitation was less. No recent abundance estimates are available off Canada where they were heavily exploited.

North Pacific

Recent surveys indicate current abundance is over 35,000. An assessment of North Pacific sei whales is underway. See pp. 32-33 for recent catches.

Southern Hemisphere

The IWC has no recent accepted estimates of abundance or trends. It is not possible to evaluate whether they have increased since protection from whaling, although in the absence of other major threats this seems likely.

Antarctic Minke Whales

(Balaenoptera bonaerensis).

Exploitation of Antarctic minke whales began in the early 1970s, much later than the other large whales. The most recent estimate of total abundance in the surveyed areas south of 60°S is around 515,000 so the species is not endangered. However, there has been an appreciable decline in estimated abundance between the 1982/83-1988/89 and 1991/92-2003/04 circumpolar surveys. Work continues to determine whether this decline is real or an artefact. Recent catches (see pp. 32-33) are not at levels thought likely to cause declines.

Common Minke Whales

(B. acutorostrata).
See pp. 32-33 for recent catches.

North Atlantic

These stocks are in a healthy state. Recent reliable abundance estimates for the northeastern and central North Atlantic and off West Greenland total around 180,000 animals. A new assessment is underway.

North Pacific

They were heavily hunted in the western North Pacific. Stock structure complexity makes conclusions on status difficult. Partial abundance estimates total over 25,000. There is concern over the status of the 'J-stock(s)', whose range includes the Yellow, East China and Sea of Japan/East Sea, where there is considerable bycatch in fishing gear. The eastern region has been poorly covered by surveys, but few catches have been reported from there.

Southern Hemisphere

The dwarf minke whale which typically occurs from the Equator to the Antarctic, is believed to be B. acutorostrata or possibly a sub-species. There are no estimates of abundance and catches have been low.

Humpback Whales

(Megaptera novaeangliae) were heavily exploited in all areas.

North Atlantic

In central and western areas they have recovered to perhaps pre-exploitation levels and number over 12,000 animals. Less is known of the abundance in eastern regions but almost 5,000 animals are estimated in the Norwegian and Barents Seas. They have been increasing off West Greenland (see pp. 32-33 for catches). They are vulnerable to entanglement.

North Pacific

They have been increasing in most areas for which there are data, although abundance in the western North Pacific may be only about 1,000. Total abundance around 22,000. A full assessment of status has yet to be undertaken.

Southern Hemisphere

They were exploited primarily from the 1920s-1950s in both their Southern Ocean feeding grounds and tropical breeding grounds.

Thankfully, in many areas, they have shown evidence of strong recovery towards their unexploited size (which may have been 75,000-100,000 in total), with annual increase rates of about 10% being recorded off Australia, Southern Africa and South America. However, there is little evidence of recovery in some parts of Oceania, although for Oceania (Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia) there are over 4,000 animals. The total Southern Hemisphere abundance is probably at least 80,000.

Bowhead Whales

(Balaena mysticetus).
Heavily expolited pre-20th century.

At least two stocks are now in a healthy state. The population in the Bering- Chukchi-Beaufort Seas has been increasing anually at over 3% since the first reliable census in 1978 and may be approaching pre-exploitation levels. In 2011 its abundance was nearly 17,000 animals.

The eastern Arctic-West Greenland population numbers around 6-8,000. There are no good estimates of abundance for the Spitsbergen or Okhotsk Sea stocks but they show no signs of significant recovery. See pp. 32-33 for recent subsistence catches.

Image: Coastal fishing, subject of a threat assessment, Malaysia.

CONSERVATION >

Growth in the number and nature of conservation concerns is one of the biggest challenges for the Commission.

The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling was one of the first international agreements to make a link between conservation and sustainable exploitation. Since 1946, the IWC has been charged with conservation of whale stocks. In the early days, the primary focus of the fifteen member governments was to agree sustainable whaling catches. Much has changed since then.

Today the IWC manages a work programme that also includes concerns ranging from the impact of offshore energy to responsible whalewatching. The growth in the number and nature of conservation concerns, and the IWC's response to them, are some the biggest challenges for the Commission.

This intersessional period has been extremely busy for both the Conservation and Scientific Committees who are working to address them. A Resolution was adopted at the 2014 Commission meeting which outlined new processes to support Scientific and Conservation Committee collaboration and two joint committee meetings have now been held to take forward this work.

WHALEWATCHING

Image: whalewatching, USA

2016 sees the culmination of the IWC's first five year Whalewatching Strategy. Whilst regulation of whalewatching is a national responsibility, the IWC is in a unique position to share best practice and support countries or regions seeking to develop a responsible whalewatching industry.

This was the overall aim of the Strategy which has seen the IWC partner with countries and regions holding whalewatching workshops, deliver a compendium of worldwide regulations and best practice, and begin to develop an online handbook for industry, regulators, educators and the public.

Highlights of this Intersessional period include:

Attendance of forty participants from fifteen countries at an Indian Ocean Rim Association workshop on the development of sustainable whalewatching, and work to turn the online handbook concept into a working platform which will be trialled at the 2016 Commission Meeting before publication via the IWC website.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

The IWC has adopted Conservation Management Plans (CMP) as a tool that can be flexibly targeted to maximise coordination and therefore effectiveness of conservation work on some high risk cetacean populations. Regional collaboration is key to the CMP concept which is designed to complement and support local and national initiatives. Three CMPs currently operate through the IWC and considerable work has been undertaken during the intersessional period.

Western Pacific Gray Whale

A rangewide review of this population is ongoing. It was instigated by the Scientific Committee in 2014, following a CMP-supported tagging programme which revealed some crossover between two populations of gray whales previously understood to be completely distinct: healthy east Pacific gray whales, and those subject to the CMP in the western Pacific which are critically endangered. The conclusions of the rangewide review may have implications for understanding of population structure but at present, the western gray whales feeding off Sakhalin Island, a region of high oil and gas activity, are believed to number less than 200.

To date, the focus of the CMP has been collaboration between range states, industry and other inter-governmental organisations, especially IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature). A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed at the last IWC meeting in 2014. This followed a 2013 collaborative scientific paper involving scientists from IUCN and IWC, which outlined responsible oil and gas industry practices for marine seismic surveys, which has been endorsed by both organisations.

South Atlantic Southern Right Whale

One important component of this CMP is to help understand the reasons for the large numbers of mainly newborn calves that have been washed up on shore each season since 2003. Efforts undertaken during this intersessional period include satellite tagging (see above under *Science*) and sightings surveys to understand the behaviour of the whales. An IWC workshop was also held, and wider work undertaken to analyse whale post mortems and the impact of gull attacks on the whales, and research the possible role of harmful algal blooms or krill depletion. This work is ongoing and involves a wide range of specialists.

Eastern Pacific Southern Right Whale

The CMP for this critically endangered population of just 50 adults was developed in 2012 and prioritises efforts to minimise manmade threats such as entanglement or ship collisions. In this intersessional period, an entanglement training workshop was held in Chile and another is planned for Peru in the coming months (see below under *Welfare*).

Image: ship struck Bryde's whale, Bonaire.

SHIP STRIKES

The focus of the IWC's work on collisions between whales and vessels is a global database recording these incidents, known as ship strikes. Comprehensive and accurate data will enable IWC's scientists to build a picture of where and when ship strikes occur and the vessel types and speeds involved, in order to provide targeted advice on prevention for ocean users.

To raise awareness of the ship strike risk and the database, and to encourage international coordination on the issue, IWC has been working with the International Maritime Organization, through their Maritime Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) who are encouraging their member governments to alert national authorities and mariners to the issue. During this intersessional period, the IWC has been involved in a number of other awareness-raising campaigns, including working with the World Wildlife Fund to highlight the collision risk to both competitors and whales during the Volvo Ocean Yacht Race.

SANCTUARIES

The IWC has designated two whale sanctuaries, the first in the Indian Ocean and the second in the Southern Ocean around Antarctica. Each is subject to review every ten years and the Southern Ocean Sanctuary review took place in 2015/16. This involved a Scientific Committee reassessment of the Sanctuary's aims in light of any new information and changes in circumstances.

The results will be reported to the Commission for consideration at its 2016 meeting. A proposal for a new sanctuary in the South Atlantic Ocean has been put to the Commission on a number of occasions. To date such a proposal has not achieved the necessary majority to be adopted by the IWC (see below under *Governance*). A new proposal and accompanying management scheme will be submitted to the 2016 Commission Meeting. The proposal has already been reviewed by the Scientific Committee who will provide advice to the Conservation Committee and the Commission on its scientific aspects.

SMALL CETACEANS
(DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES)

Some of the most vulnerable mammal species are small cetaceans. The IWC has been advising on small cetacean conservation issues since the late 1970s and the first Small Cetaceans Voluntary Fund was established in 1994 in recognition of the importance of international coordination and conservation (see above under *Science* and below under *Finance*). A wide variety of work programmes are underway or have been completed, and progress has been made in terms of understanding, communicating and responding to risks to a number of species in different parts of the world, but there is much still to do.

At its most recent meeting in June 2016, the IWC Scientific Committee again stressed that urgent action was required to address the real threat of extinction to several species, particularly the vaquita. Found only in the Upper Gulf of California, Mexico, the vaquita population has dropped by 92% in less than ten years. This dramatic decline is due to illegal but lucrative totoaba fishing operations using gillnets which unintentionally entangle and drown the vaquita. With a population now estimated at no more than 60 animals, in 2016 the Scientific Committee warned that, without a concerted effort involving the enforcement agencies of all the countries involved in the illegal totoaba trade, the vaquita will follow the baji as the second entirely preventable marine mammal extinction in ten years.

Image: apprentices assist with a real entanglement, USA.

WELFARE >

The IWC has evolved in response to its historical context, and the development of its welfare agenda demonstrates this perhaps more clearly than any other area of work.


Image: entanglement response training, Greenland.

ENTANGLEMENT

Welfare considerations were first added to the agenda in 1959 in order to improve the humaneness of commercial whaling. In 1978 the IWC asked countries to begin providing welfare data for analysis that could lead to improvement in hunting techniques in terms of safety and quicker times to death. The prohibition of cold (non-explosive) harpoons followed in 1980. Aboriginal subsistence whaling communities continue to work through the IWC's Welfare Committee to maximise the safety and humaneness of the hunts, and the remit of this Committee has expanded to consider many other non-whaling threats to cetacean welfare.

Ship strikes, live stranding and entanglement are today all recognised as significant cetacean welfare concerns. Since 2012, the IWC has been working to approach welfare issues more strategically, coordinating different programmes into a single action plan, improving general understanding of the issue, and integrating welfare considerations into the wider IWC agenda. A 2016 workshop in South Africa sought to consolidate progress and assess current understanding, knowledge gaps, and IWC applicability of developments in the discipline of animal welfare science.

Entanglement is now widely regarded as the single most significant threat to cetacean welfare. It can also be an obstacle to the recovery of some endangered whale populations and is the main conservation threat to many small cetacean populations. Research has suggested that over 300,000 whales and dolphins die each year due to entanglement in fishing gear or marine debris. Some animals drown whilst others tow heavy, tightly wrapped lines which cut through skin and blubber causing infection, starvation and even amputation of fins or tail.

In 2011, and in response to the rising number of reported entanglements, the IWC appointed an expert advisor who was tasked with the development of a Global Whale Entanglement Response Network (the Network). The initiative brought together international experts to establish safe and effective disentanglement protocols which were then developed into a capacity building training programme, available to all national governments.

Since then, the IWC has trained more than 700 entanglement responders across twenty six countries and four continents. The 2014-16 intersessional period saw rapid expansion of the programme with many significant new developments:

- **entanglement response trainings in three new regions: the Indian Ocean (Oman), east North Pacific (Japan) and the Arctic (Greenland);**
- **the first combined entanglement and stranding response training;**
- **the first training conducted by some of the programme's own apprentices;**
- **the first non-English language trainers (training in Spanish, without the need for interpreters);**
- **the first 'advanced' training, to equip those who have already received training to handle more difficult entanglement scenarios;**

Perhaps the most important development during this period was a focus on the long-term aim of preventing entanglements occurring in the first place.

The inaugral meeting of both international experts and newly trained Network members was held in 2015 and identified the important first step of building a better understanding of the types of fishing gear or debris that cause entanglement.

The IWC training already emphasises the need to record all available information about the type of entanglement. A new database is proposed, which will allow the data to be collated and analysed. This initiative was supported at a second entanglement prevention workshop held jointly with the US Government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the New England Aquarium.

The success of the Network over the last four years has led the IWC to consider this a potential blueprint for tackling other issues of concern, including strandings.

Image: entanglement Workshop, Mexico.

STRANDINGS

There are many reasons why whales, dolphins and porpoises strand. Natural causes include disease or navigational mistakes. Strandings can also have human causes such as ship strike or loud, disorientating ocean noise. It is usually difficult to establish definitive reasons for cetacean stranding, particularly as there may be a combination of causes, including combinations of natural and human factors.

The IWC has led or contributed to a number of projects investigating the causes of particular stranding events. In recent years, the organisation has also focused on the welfare aspects of stranding including a euthanasia workshop in 2013. During this intersessional period two workshops were held. The first, in 2015, examined mass strandings response, including how best to collaborate internationally, sharing information and resources in order to handle major, multiple strandings events.

The aim of the second workshop in 2016 was to establish a process for developing and disseminating practical guidance on stranding response.

Learning from the success of the Network, the IWC Scientific Committee is now proposing that a panel of international strandings experts is established, to agree best practice guidance and develop both a framework for offering advice to national governments, and an international repository for information and advice.

Image: experts respond to a stranding, Western Australia.

WELFARE
Strandings

Animals may strand alive or dead. Sadly, live strandings can often prove terminal. Without the support of water, the organs of large whales are subjected to immense weight and pressure.

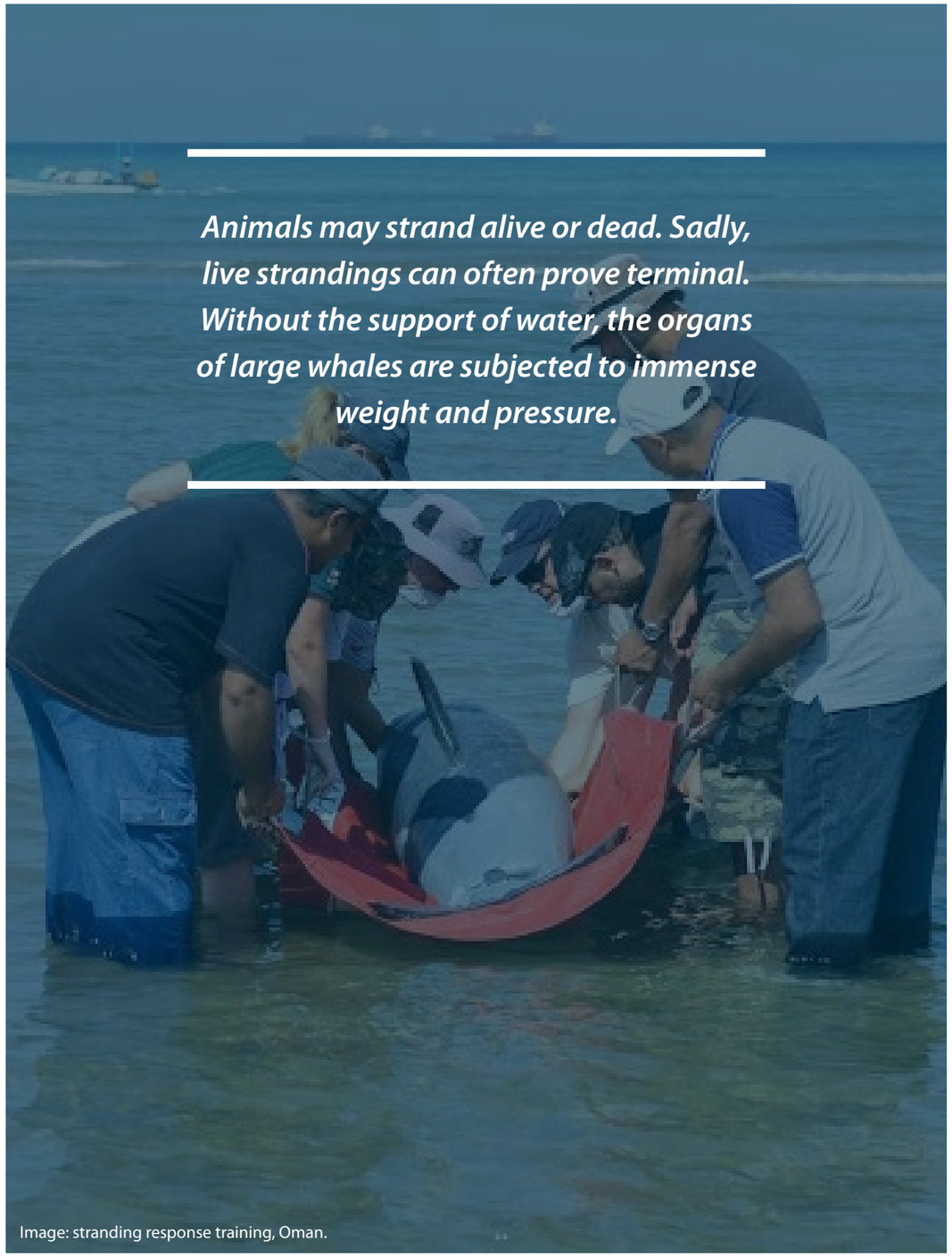


Image: stranding response training, Oman.

Image: bowhead whale, Greenland.

WHALING >

Whaling is a complex and often controversial issue, and the IWC has a responsibility to hear and respect views on all sides of the debate.

The IWC recognises three different types of whaling:

The first of these is aboriginal subsistence whaling which has been regulated by the IWC since the organisation was formed in 1946.

The second is commercial whaling. Regulation of commercial whaling was the principle reason for the establishment of the IWC, although concerns led to the introduction of a moratorium in 1986, which remains in place today.

The third type of whaling recognised by the IWC is called special permit (or scientific) whaling. This type of whaling has always been managed by national governments who develop their own scientific programmes and issue their own permits.

A proposal for Small Type Coastal Whaling, as a separate category of whaling, has also been put to the Commission but has not achieved the necessary majority for adoption. The IWC is often asked why it does not regulate the hunting of small cetaceans (dolphins and porpoises). The IWC has never regulated small cetacean hunts and could only do so in the future if the Commission reached consensus that this should fall within its remit.

ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING

The IWC currently regulates four aboriginal subsistence hunts, in Alaska, Chukotka, Greenland and Bequia. Aboriginal whaling hunting limits are set every six years and next due for renewal in 2018. They are decided according to sustainability advice from the Scientific Committee and the Commission's consideration of 'Need Statements.'

These statements set out the cultural and nutritional need for the hunt and are provided by governments representing hunting communities.


Image: whaling boat, Alaska.

Since 2002 it has proved difficult to reach agreement on aboriginal whaling catch limits and in 2012 the Commission was unable to agree a catch limit for Greenland, the most complex of the four hunts in terms of the number of species. A catch limit was subsequently set in 2014, and a Resolution adopted that reasserted the importance of developing a consistent long term approach to the Commission's handling of subsistence whaling. Work to achieve this has been ongoing throughout the intersessional period.

The Scientific Committee has been developing a set of algorithms to provide precautionary strike limits for ASW hunts (see above under Science). Known as Strike Limit Algorithms (or SLAs), these have been completed for the Alaskan bowhead hunt, the Chukotkan gray whale hunt, a proposed gray whale hunt off Washington State, and the Greenland hunts for bowhead and humpback whales. During this period work has focused on completing the final two SLAs – for the Greenlandic fin and common minke whale hunts. The aim is to complete these before the 2018 renewal of catch limits, which will provide the Commission with consistent and precautionary scientific advice, well into the future.

Non-scientific aspects of regulation have proved most contentious in the past and are the focus of a separate programme of work. During this period a workshop was held which looked at what the IWC might learn from wider, external discussions on the rights of indigenous people, and how the process around Needs Statements might be improved.

COMMERCIAL WHALING

The moratorium on commercial whaling has been in place for thirty years. Aside from non-IWC member countries, the only commercial whaling conducted at present is by countries exercising an objection or reservation to the moratorium. These countries share catch and other relevant data with the Commission and the Scientific Committee although this whaling is not regulated by the IWC.

SPECIAL PERMIT WHALING

International law (the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW - see below under Governance)) does not give the IWC any regulatory role in special permit whaling. This type of whaling is instigated and managed by national governments and there is well-documented disagreement within the Commission on the benefits of scientific whaling, or whether comparable information can now be obtained using non-lethal research methods.

The ICRW requires that governments conducting special permit whaling programmes inform the Commission of their plans and regularly report scientific findings to them. All member governments are therefore made aware when special permits are issued and the Scientific Committee plays an advisory role, scrutinising special permit proposals and findings. In order to do this effectively, and manage the controversy surrounding the scientific requirement for special permit whaling, the Scientific Committee agreed a dedicated process for receiving and evaluating special permit activity that was endorsed by the Commission. During the intersessional period, this process was reviewed and revised in response to a Resolution adopted at the 2014 Commission meeting.

The revised process was then used to consider two separate special permit submissions from the Government of Japan. The first was a proposal for a new special permit whaling programme in the Southern Ocean (NEWREP-A). The second was a final report from a concluding special permit programme in the North Pacific (JARPN-II).

Catches by IWC member nations in 2014

AREA	NATION AND EXPEDITION	FIN	HBK	SEI	BRYDE	MINKE	GRAY	BOWHD	RIGHT	TOTAL	NOTES
W.Indies	St Vincent & the Grenad. Aboriginal	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	Inc. 2 struck and lost
Greenland W	Denmark, W.Greenland Aboriginal	12	7	0	0	146	0	0	0	165	Inc. 4 lost: 2 minke, 1 fin & 1 hbk
Greenland E	Denmark, E.Greenland Aboriginal	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	11	
Iceland W	Iceland, Hvalfjordur	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	137	Whaling under reservation. Inc. 3 lost.
Iceland	Iceland Small Type	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	24	Whaling under reservation. Inc. 1 lost
Atlantic NW	Norway Small Whale	0	0	0	0	736	0	0	0	736	Whaling under objection. Inc. 5 lost.
Japan	Japan, Ayukawa: research	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	30	Special permit catch
Japan	Japan, Kushiro: research	0	0	0	0	51	0	0	0	51	Special permit catch
Korea	Korea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		No information received to date.
Chukotka	Russia Aboriginal	0	0	0	0	0	124	0	0	124	Inc. 2 gray lost
Alaska N	USA, Alaska Aboriginal	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	53	Inc. 15 struck & lost
Pacific NW	Japan, Nisshin Maru	0	0	90	25	0	0	0	0	115	Special permit catch

Catches from non-member nations reported to the IWC

AREA	NATION AND EXPEDITION	FIN	HBK	SEI	BRYDE	MINKE	GRAY	BOWHD	RIGHT	TOTAL	NOTES
Canada HudsnBy	Canada Aboriginal	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	

Catch Databases

PERIOD	BLUE	FIN	SPERM	HUMP-BACK	SEI	BRYDE'S	MINKE	GRAY	BOW-HEAD	RIGHT	UNSPEC	SMALL CETN	TOTAL	INDIVIDUAL DATA
Pre 1900	4,021	8,314	229	1,603	4,159	0	2	0	18,967	24	5,539	13	42,871	1,346
SINCE 1900	379,521	875,628	758,975	250,962	287,147	29,662	310,767	12,122	4,999	5,608	20,957	13,700	2,950,048	2,301,878
TOTAL	383,542	883,942	759,204	252,565	291,306	29,662	310,769	12,122	23,966	5,632	26,496	13,713	2,992,919	2,303,224

Catches by IWC member nations in 2015

AREA	NATION AND EXPEDITION	FIN	HBK	SEI	BRYDE	MINKE	GRAY	BOWHD	RIGHT	TOTAL	NOTES
W.Indies	St Vincent & the Grenad. Aboriginal	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Greenland W	Denmark, W.Greenland Aboriginal	12	6	0	0	133	0	1	0	152	Inc. 5 lost: 3 minke and 2 fin
Greenland E	Denmark, E.Greenland Aboriginal	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	
Iceland W	Iceland, Hvalfjordur	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	155	Whaling under reservation. Inc. 1 lost.
Iceland	Iceland Small Type	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	29	Whaling under reservation.
Atlantic NW	Norway Small Whale	0	0	0	0	660	0	0	0	660	Whaling under objection.
Japan	Japan, Ayukawa: research	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	19	Special permit catch
Japan	Japan, Kushiro: research	0	0	0	0	51	0	0	0	51	Special permit catch
Korea	Korea	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	1	16	Illegal catches inc. 1 unidentified whale
Chukotka	Russia Aboriginal	0	0	0	0	0	125	0	0	125	Inc. 1 struck but lost and 1 stinky
Alaska N	USA, Alaska Aboriginal	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	0	49	Inc. 10 struck & lost
Pacific NW	Japan, Nisshin Maru	0	0	90	25	0	0	0	0	115	Special permit catch
Antarctic	Japan, Nisshin Maru	0	0	0	0	335	0	0	0	335	Special permit catch. Inc. 2 lost minke.

Catches from non-member nations reported to the IWC

AREA	NATION AND EXPEDITION	FIN	HBK	SEI	BRYDE	MINKE	GRAY	BOWHD	RIGHT	TOTAL	NOTES
Canada HudsnBy	Canada Aboriginal	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	Inc. 1 struck & lost

New versions of the IWC catch databases (Version 6.1) were released in July 2016. The databases list almost 3 million whales by species, season and expedition and include individual data for over 2.3 million of these (see table). Catches since 1900 are essentially complete. These data are a critical resource for use in population modelling and almost all of them are publicly available.

Image: research conducted with support from the Small Cetaceans Voluntary Fund, Malaysia.

FINANCE >

The IWC's core funding comes from member government contributions. In recent years, the Commission has been able to increase efforts in particular areas of work thanks to a growing number of voluntary contributions from governments, non-governmental organisations and industry bodies.

In the sixteen months from September 2014 to 31 December 2015 the Commission received £1,946,538 British Pounds in core contributions, and an additional £511,604 in voluntary contributions.


Image: voluntary contributions have supported entanglement response training all over the world.

CORE FUNDS

The core funds are divided into a General Fund which supports the biennial Commission and annual Scientific Committee meetings and maintains the Secretariat, and a Research Fund which is ring-fenced for scientific research including Scientific Committee workshops.

A Budgetary Sub-Committee allocate General Funds and the Scientific Committee devise a work plan based on the amount available in the Research Fund. The spending proposals of both groups must be agreed by the Commission.

VOLUNTARY FUNDS

Some voluntary contributions are in support of long term, formal funds and some are made to finance or co-finance a specific project. There are currently three formal voluntary funds.

Small Cetaceans Voluntary Fund

The Small Cetaceans Voluntary Fund (see above under *Science*.) was established in 1994 in response to threats facing a growing number of dolphin and porpoise species around the world, and recognising the IWC's expertise and potential to coordinate global responses.

The fund has been supported by governments and non-governmental organisations, and their continued support enables the IWC to issue periodic calls for new project funding applications. Over £500k has been made available since 2009.

Fifteen projects have already received support and their commitment and imagination has shown how much can be achieved with relatively small sums of money. The latest call was made in 2016 and it's anticipated that this will be shared amongst seven different applications.

Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Fund

The Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Fund was established in 2012 in order to assist subsistence communities in achieving compliance with IWC measures such as data collection and hunter safety.

During the intersessional period, this fund enabled a variety of experts to attend a workshop (see above under *Whaling*) helping to develop a long term, consistent approach to handling Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling at the Commission.

Voluntary Conservation Fun

In 2014, a Voluntary Conservation Fund was established, and seven priority topics highlighted. These are Conservation Management Plans, whalewatching, entanglement, ship strikes, stranding and pollution. Potential projects will be assessed by a steering group according to an agreed set of objectives and geographical spread. Ad hoc voluntary contributions have been made to a wide range of projects. During this intersessional period, the biggest recipient was the Global Entanglement Response Network whose work attracted support from over thirty regional, government and non-governmental organisations which paid for training workshops, sponsored entanglement response apprentices and purchased equipment including specialist, pole-mounted disentanglement knives. Additional voluntary funding was received for a whalewatching workshop held in conjunction with the states of the Indian Ocean Rim Association and for a welfare workshops in South Africa.

An IWC financial statement for the period Sept 2014 – Dec 2015 is reproduced below. A financial statement for the relevant period (January to October) of 2016 will be published at the end of the year, on the IWC website. Of particular note is the purchase of the IWC's headquarters building in 2016. This was prompted by the landlord's decision to sell the premises, occupied by the Secretariat of the IWC for over forty years. The purchase generates an estimated saving of £149k over the first five years, an estimated annual saving thereafter of £23k, as well as releasing the Commission from commercial lease constraints for a welfare workshop in South Africa.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	NOTE	BUDGET 16 MONTHS 2014/15 £	ACTUAL 4 MONTHS DEC 14 £	ACTUAL 6 MONTHS JUN 15 £	ACTUAL 6 MONTHS DEC 15 £	ACTUAL 12 MONTHS DEC 15 £	ACTUAL 16 MONTHS DEC 15 £	ACTUAL 12 MONTHS AUG 14 £
INCOME: continuing operations								
Contributions from member governments		1,913,380	363,976	1,582,562	- 0	1,582,562	1,946,538	1,583,141
Interest on overdue financial contributions		9,700	- 0	9,820	- 0	9,820	9,820	9,709
Voluntary contributions for all Funds	App 1	50,000	102,780	196,038	212,786	408,824	511,604	292,580
Sales of publications		- 0	(15)	- 0	927	927	912	1,610
Sales of sponsored publications		- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	(120)
Observers' registration fees		- 0	786	- 0	- 0	- 0	786	42,235
UK taxes recoverable		23,530	2,323	(6,732)	- 0	(6,732)	(4,409)	8,563
Staff assessments		247,316	60,125	93,155	91.982	185,137	245,262	173,508
Interest receivable		8.250	1,080	8,543	12,138	20,681	21,761	11,503
Sundry income		- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0
		2,252,176	**531,055**	**1,883,385**	**317,833**	**2,201,219**	**2,732,274**	**2,122,729**
EXPENDITURE								
Secretariat	1	1,579,369	378,372	574,127	582,294	1,156,421	1,534,793	1,534,793
Publications	2	8,000	840	2,522	1,718	4,240	5,080	5,786
Annual meetings		- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	2,160
Scientific meetings		199,500	1,691	168,564	78,141	246,705	248,395	142,840
Biennial meetings		100,250	(311)	(359)	-0	(359)	(670)	199,947
Bureau Meetings		5,000	-0	-0	9,000	9,000	9,000	3,775
Research expenditure	3	315,800	(1,204)	218,194	102,444	320,639	319,434	330,147
Small cetaceans	4	- 0	- 0	18,772	5,000	23,772	23,772	91,266
Aboriginal Whaling Subsistence Fund	5				57,013	57,013	57,013	- 0
Southern Ocean Research Partnership (voluntary fund)	6	- 0	- 0	2,016	- 0	2,016	2,016	14,094
Conservation Management Plan fund	7	- 0	6,044	- 0	- 0	- 0	6,044	29,527
IWC - other work fund	8	- 0	102,885	54,374	20,406	74,779	177,664	204,063
Gray Whale Tagging (voluntary fund)	9	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	23,987
		2,207,919	**488,317**	**1,038,210**	**856,015**	**1,894,225**	**2,382,542**	**2,142,579**

PROVISIONS MADE FOR:								
Unpaid contributions		- 0	(19)	(30,537)	57,875	27,338	27,319	(26,370)
Unpaid interest on overdue contributions		- 0	- 0	9,820	- 0	9,820	9,820	9,709
Dilapidations		17,500	688	8,418	8,418	16,836	17,504	2,004
Severance pay	15	41,536	- 0	- 0	39,300	39,300	39,300	30,500
Other doubtful debts		- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	5
		2,266,955	**488,966**	**1,025,910**	**961,608**	**1,987,519**	**2,476,485**	**2,158,427**
(DEFICIT)/SURPUS FOR THE YEAR BEFORE TRANSFERS		(14,779)	42,089	857,475	(643,775)	213,700	255,789	(35,698)
NET TRANSFERS TO/(FROM) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT								
Research fund	3	104,000	(1,322)	4,118	104,540	108,658	107,336	(4,036)
Small cetaceans fund	4	(50,000)	(9,695)	(48,689)	(3,775)	(52,465)	(62,159)	39,181
Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Fund	5	- 0	- 0	(9,488)	19,869	10,380	10,380	- 0
Southern Ocean Research Partnership fund	6	- 0	- 0	(15,613)	(117)	(15,730)	(15,730)	13,989
Conservation Management Plan fund	7	- 0	5,989	(1,438)	(1,191)	(2,629)	3,360	28,190
IWC - other work fund	8	- 0	9,783	(44,701)	(17,173)	(61,875)	(52,091)	(21,728)
Gray Whale Tagging fund	9	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	- 0	23,987
Sponsored Publications fund	10	- 0	- 0	(294)	(239)	(533)	(533)	(127)
Meeting fund	11	(1,000)	1,380	(82,546)	14,687	(67,859)	(66,479)	39,947
Conservation fund	12	- 0	- 0	- 0	(65,002)	(65,002)	(65,002)	- 0
Operations fund	13					- 0		
		53,000	**6,136**	**(198,652)**	**51,599**	(147,053)	**(140,917)**	**119,403**
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR AFTER TRANSFERS		**38,221**	**48,225**	**658,823**	**(592,176)**	66,647	**114,872**	**83,704**

There are no recognised gains or losses for the current financial period and the preceding financial year other than as stated in the income and expenditure account.

Image: the 2014 Commission Meeting in Slovenia.

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION >

The IWC's 88 member governments are responsible for agreeing and managing the diverse work programme of the organisation.

The legal framework of the IWC is the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, first signed by fifteen founding member governments in 1946. The Convention is made up of eleven Articles which set out its aims and jurisdiction, and establish the IWC as the organisation which will implement the Convention. The Convention is accompanied by a Schedule which contains the specific measures that the IWC has decided are necessary to deliver the aims of the Convention: to regulate whaling and conserve whales. Unlike the Convention, which stands as it was drawn up in 1946, the Schedule is regularly amended by the IWC.

Changes to the Schedule are made by consensus if all countries are able to agree. If not, proposed changes are put to a vote, with a three-quarters majority required to pass an amendment. The most recent Schedule amendment related to the setting a new aboriginal subsistence catch limit for Greenland, passed by vote at the 2014 Commission meeting (see above under *Whaling*.)

The Commission is also able to adopt Resolutions which can be passed by consensus or by vote. Unlike Schedule Amendments, Resolutions require a simple majority. They are not legally binding although they become public statements of the IWC. Five Resolutions were passed at the 2014 meeting. Two were passed by consensus and three by vote. (See Useful Links below to read the *Resolutions*).

The IWC's formal role is to decide and implement Schedule Amendments and Resolutions, but the organisation's operational scope is much wider than this. In order to meet the Convention's overall aims of regulating whaling and conserving whales, the Commission manages the diverse programme of work outlined in this report, which today includes scientific research, conservation management, global coordination and facilitation, and training and education.

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION CONT'D

The organisational structure of the IWC has also evolved over the past seventy years and work is now divided between six sub-committees, and in turn between many more standing and ad hoc groups whose members come from the 88 member countries (See *Organisational Chart* below). This large and diverse work programme is drawn together at biennial meetings and reported to an IWC plenary session comprised of delegations from the 88 countries. This is where decisions are taken and IWC policy is set, via Schedule Amendments, Resolutions, and acceptance of the recommendations of these groups.

On moving from an annual to a biennial meeting cycle in 2012, the Commission established a Bureau of seven Commissioners to oversee progress during the intersessional period, respond to administrative requirements and prepare for the next biennial meeting. During this intersessional period, the Bureau has met three times (March and September 2015 and June 2016).

The IWC is also supported by a Secretariat of ten full and eight part time staff. The Secretariat provides a range of services and capabilities including financial management, oversight of the work programmes established by the many committees and groups, organisation of meetings and workshops, and management of statistical data, IT services, publications and communications.

Transparency and accountability have been important themes in IWC governance and administration in recent years. A free, open access electronic archive was launched in 2013 and work to upload seventy years of IWC records and research is an ongoing and major undertaking. In 2014, the Commission passed a Resolution seeking increased civil society participation at meetings and wider efforts continue to increase understanding of the breadth of the IWC's role today.

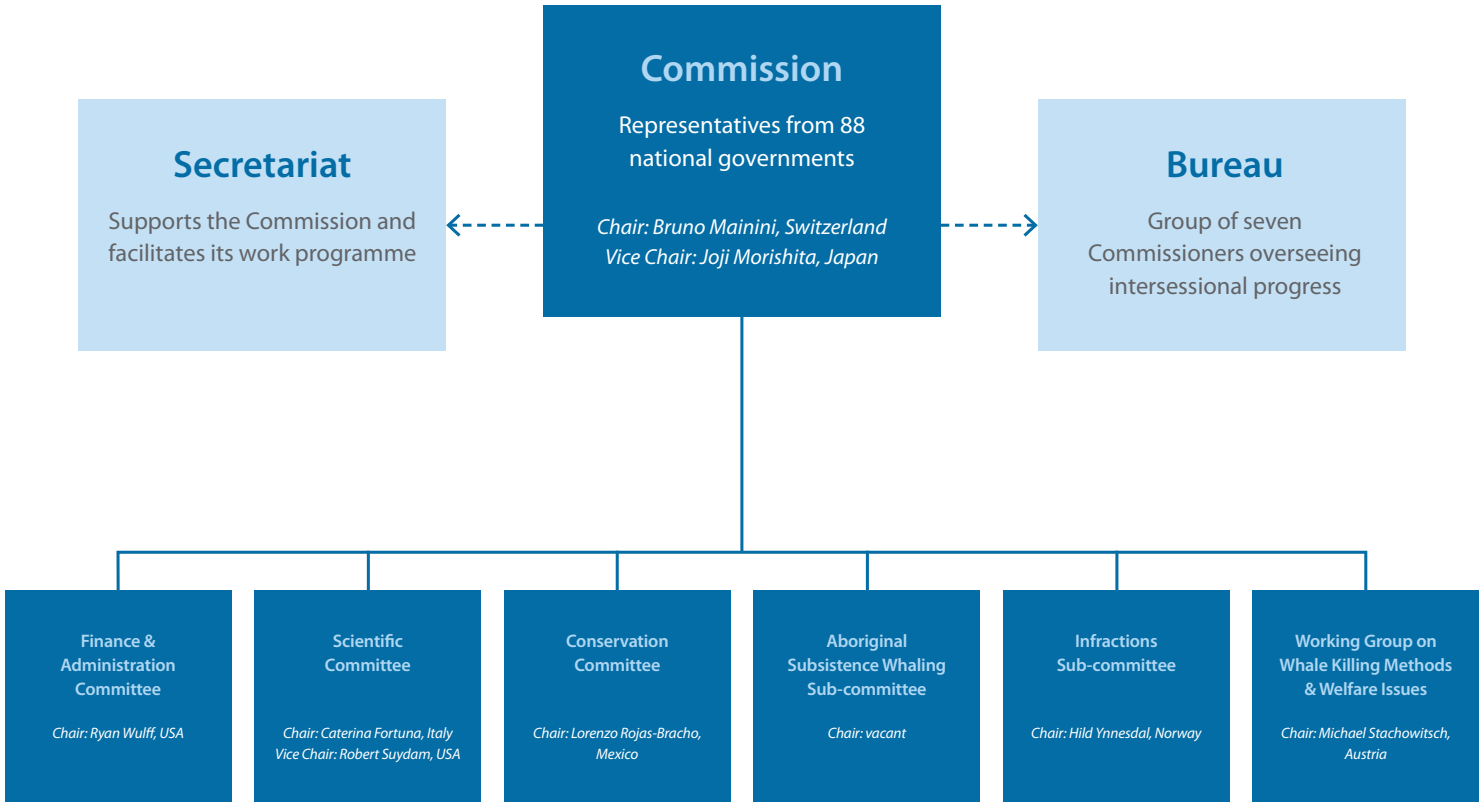
As the work programme diversifies, operational effectiveness has become another priority, emphasising the importance of collaboration across the different groups and committees of the IWC and with other organisations. This theme was also reflected in two Resolutions at the 2014 meeting, the first addressing collaboration between the Scientific and Conservation Committees of the IWC and the second on the importance of sharing of data and research on highly migratory cetaceans with other organisations.

GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION
Introduction

Image: the signing of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling in 1946.

Image: the 2014 Commission Meeting in Slovenia.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



IWC MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

A
Antigua & Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Austria

B
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Brazil
Bulgaria

C
Cambodia
Cameroon
Chile
People's Republic of China
Colombia
Republic of Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Republic of Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic

D
Denmark
Dominica
Dominican Republic

E
Ecuador
Eritrea
Estonia

F
Finland
France

G
Gabon
The Gambia
Germany
Republic of Ghana
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea-Bissau
Republic of Guinea

H
Hungary

I
Iceland
India
Ireland
Israel
Italy

J
Japan

K
Kenya
Kiribati
Republic of Korea

L
Laos
Lithuania
Luxembourg

M
Mali
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco

N
Nauru
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Norway

O
Oman

P
Republic of Palau
Panama
Peru
Poland
Portugal

R
Romania
Russian Federation

S
San Marino
St Kitts and Nevis
St Lucia
St Vincent & The Grenadines
Senegal
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Spain
Suriname
Sweden
Switzerland

T
Tanzania
Togo
Tuvalu

U
UK
Uruguay
USA

WORKSHOPS HELD IN THE 2014-16 INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD

(SC) IWC-POWER Planning and Technical Advisory Group meeting, Oct 2014
(SC) Workshop on developing SLAs for the Greenland ASW hunts, Feb 2015
(SC) Workshop on Implementation Review for North Atlantic fin whales, Feb 2015
(SC) Workshop on Implementation Review for North Atlantic minke whales, Feb 2015
(SC) Expert panel review of NEWREP-A special permit whaling proposal, Feb 2015
(SC) Second workshop on the rangewide review of North Pacific gray whales, Apr 2015
(WGWI) Global Whale Entanglement Response Network workshop, Apr 2015
(SC) IWC-NMFS workshop on cetacean distribution models, May 2015
(ASWWG) Expert workshop on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling, Sept 2015
(SC) IWC-POWER, Planning and Technical Advisory Group meeting, Oct 2015
(SC) Workshop to develop SLA's for Greenland ASW hunts, Dec 2015
(SC) Mass mortalities and strandings workshop, Dec 2015
(SC) Final review of JARPNII, Feb 2016
(CC) Indian Ocean Rim Association Whale and Dolphin watching workshop, Feb 2016
(SC) Workshop on Implementation Review for North Atlantic common minke whales, Mar 2016
(SC) Workshop on Implementation Review for North Atlantic fin whales, Mar 2016
(SC) Third workshop on the rangewide review of North Pacific gray whales, Apr 2016
(WGWI) Workshop on welfare, May 2016 *report published shortly*
(WGWI) Workshop on stranding, May 2016 *report published shortly*
(SC) Entanglement prevention workshop, May 2016 *report published shortly*
(SC) Entanglement database expert group, May 2016
(SC) Review of the South Atlantic Sanctuary proposal, Jun 2016
(SC) Workshop on acoustic masking, Jun 2016
Joint working group of the Scientific and Conservation Committees, Jun 2016

SC – Scientific Committee workshop; CC – Conservation Committee workshop; WGWI - Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues workshop; ASWWG – Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Working group workshop

Related links

Resolutions adopted at the 2014 Commission Meeting
Report of the Commission Meeting, 2014 (IWC65)
Report of the Scientific Committee Meeting, 2015 (SC66a)
Report of the Scientific Committee Meeting, 2016 (SC66b)

Photographic credits

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IWC-POWER
IWC-SORP

INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION