

## Conservation Committee: Strategic Plan 2016-2026

**Submitted by the Chair of the Conservation Committee** 

## Healthy, well managed, and recovered cetacean populations worldwide

# Robust conservation advice

Deliver effective and relevant conservation advice to the Commission and the international community that contributes to global efforts for cetacean conservation

# Best practice threat management

Identify and promote best practice and collaborative management to address priority global threats facing cetaceans

# Conservation agenda collaboration

Coordinate and deliver the conservation agenda across the Commission and in partnership with relevant organisations

### **Securing finance**

Establish and leverage financing mechanisms to resource global cetacean conservation efforts

#### **Priority actions**

Sustainable management of whale and dolphin watching

Conservation management planning

Whale sanctuaries and protected areas

Effective financing

Effective data collection and reporting

Ship strikes

Marine debris

Bycatch

Anthropogenic sound

**Priority threats\*** 

Chemical pollution

Climate change

#### **Near term**

Priority actions to mitigate threats are identified, agreed and [annually/regularly] reviewed by the Committee in liaison with subcommittees

Committee reporting demonstrates progress against Scientific Committee and Commission recommendations, and priority actions and threats

Conservation
Management
Plans are
implemented and
monitored, with
an ongoing
process to
develop new
plans

Conservation and management advice contributes to priority actions and threats, including for reviews of whale sanctuaries and protected areas

A[n]
[strategy/Outreach
Strategy] is being
implemented to
attract additional
voluntary
contributions for
whale
conservation

The Ship Strike database is resourced and maintained collaborates with range states, the Scientific Committee and regional and international bodies to address priority threats

The Committee

The
Committee's
communication
products are
used by a wide
range of
stakeholders

[Decline of the most atrisk cetacean populations has been halted]

#### Long term

The Committee has increased buy-in from the Commission and is better resourced to achieve its objectives

The Committee's advice supports the Commission's decision-making and leads to wider uptake and global reach of conservation efforts

The most at-risk cetacean populations are recovering

<sup>\*</sup> The Committee is aware that there are a broader range of threats to cetaceans, including [cetacean diseases, marine energy developments, and intentional killing]. The Committee has prioritised threats that are within its resourcing capacity and scope of influence over the next 10 years, and commits to regularly review these priorities

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#### **HOW WE WORK** International Whaling Commission Conservation Aboriginal Subsistence Killing methods and Committee Structure Chair: Mexico Welfare Issues Vice-chair: UK Committee Standing Working Group on Conservation Ship Strikes Working Group Standing Working Group on Whale Watching Chair: USA Management Plans Chair: USA Develops detailed proposals for mitigation of ship strike Chair: Australia Provides advice on the impacts of whale watching on events and coordinates work between Contracting Provides advice on the nomination, development and cetacean conservation Governments implementation of Conservation Management Plans

#### Partnerships across the Commission

Other Commission bodies: the Committee collaborates with the Secretariat, Bureau and other committees to ensure cetacean conservation remains a critical focus of the Commission. This includes relevant standing, intersessional and ad-hoc groups

#### Partnerships external to the Commission

The Committee collaborates with other international organisations, multilateral environmental agreements, the private sector and non-government organisations on cetacean conservation

### Commission resourcing

**Voluntary Conservation Fund:** aims to leverage donations from Contracting Governments, international organisations and other appropriate donors to support the Commission's conservation priorities

Small Cetacean Conservation Fund: aims to enhance international cooperation to conserve and rebuild depleted populations of small cetaceans

Scientific Committee: the Committee collaborates with

the Scientific Committee and its sub-committees to

implement conservation decisions and understand and

address a range of threats to cetaceans and their habitats.

This includes the formation of intersessional and ad-hoc

joint working groups

Conservation Management Plans Fund:
provides support for collaborative efforts
of Contracting Governments to nominate,
develop, or implement Conservation
Management Plans

'Other Work' Fund: supports conservation and research efforts across the Commission. Under this fund, resourcing has historically been available for conservation efforts that may not fall under other funds, for example through the Whale Entanglement Response

Training Programme

### External resourcing

Other funding mechanisms: the
Committee works to leverage additional
funding for cetacean conservation in
liaison with the Finance and
Administration Committee and relevant
sub-committees