

## International Whaling Commission (IWC)

### Draft Conservation Committee Work Plan for the Intersessional Period 2016-20

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

#### **Issue**

The Conservation Committee does not have an up to date work plan in place. In order to ensure the work of the Conservation Committee is clear and in line with the proposed Strategic Plan a draft has been produced by the Chair/Vice Chair of the Conservation Committee.

The work plan should be considered a living document. However, there remain significant gaps, in particular with regards timescales, leads for deliverables, and resource requirements. These could be addressed through the establishment of an intersessional correspondence group which could continue to develop the work plan in advance of the next Conservation Committee Planning Meeting in 2017.

#### **Action**

##### **Conservation Committee members are asked to:**

1. Endorse the work plan in Annex 1, providing comments or suggestions for further improvements, in particular with regards its alignment with the draft Conservation Committee Strategic Plan.
2. Identify any additional deliverables/actions for inclusion.
3. Identify leads to take forward specific deliverables.
4. Agree on a process for finalising the work plan during the intersessional period, specifically with regards timescales and resource needs.

**ANNEX 1**

**International Whaling Commission (IWC)**

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – Work Plan for the intersessional period 2016-20**

Sources: IWC64 & IWC65 Conservation Committee reports; IWC64 & IWC65 Chair's Reports.

Draft as at October 2016

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Funding allocated
<b>Strategic Planning and Reporting</b>					
Develop a coherent strategy to aid work planning and raise awareness of the work of the Conservation Committee.	Develop a broad vision statement and an outward facing Strategic Plan for its delivery.		<b>Australia. UK.</b>		
	Draft and agree thematic strategic plans for the priority areas of work identified in the outward facing Strategic Plan		<b>Relevant working groups and sub-committees, in particular the Ship Strikes working group, and the Standing Working Group on Whalewatching</b>		
	Reach out to other IGO partners and identify potential funding donors to provide voluntary contributions to support conservation management actions.		<b>Secretariat</b>		
	Develop a coherent work plan with resources identified where possible.		<b>Conservation Committee Vice Chair</b>		
Ensure effective implementation of Conservation Committee recommendations and cross-fertilisation with the Scientific Committee.	Establish a Steering Group to be made up of: Chair and Vice Chair of Conservation Committee, Chair and Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee, representatives from Australia, Argentina, Belgium, USA, Secretariat and convenors of the Conservation Committee preparatory meeting.		<b>Conservation Committee Chair  Scientific Committee Chair</b>		
	Establish regular joint meetings (including agreeing Terms of Reference) of the Conservation Committee/Scientific Committee to facilitate the progression of recommendations.		<b>Conservation Committee Chair  Scientific Committee Chair</b>		

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	Undertake an analysis of Conservation Committee recommendations, including providing a consideration of successes and barriers to effective implementation		<b>Intersessional preparatory drafting group of the SC/CC working group</b>		
Ensure effective reporting to and from the Conservation Committee	Review the current Conservation Committee country reporting template to ensure it remains fit for purpose and delivers the necessary information		<b>Conservation Committee Chair/vice Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>		
	Ensure the information provided by countries in their reports to the Conservation Committee is used effectively in delivering its strategic goals		<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>		
	Increase the number of country reports provided to the Conservation Committee.		<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>		
<b>Sustainable management of whale and dolphin watching</b>					
Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of whalewatching operations on cetaceans.  Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on whalewatching.	Revise and update, as necessary, the 5-Year Strategic Plan for Whalewatching.		<b>Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair</b>		
	Develop and publish the online whale watching Handbook, seeking input from the Scientific Committee as appropriate.		<b>Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair</b>  <b>IWC Secretariat</b>		
	Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing whalewatching and progress any opportunities for capacity building.		<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>  <b>Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair</b>		
	Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities.		<b>Conservation Committee Secretariat</b>  <b>Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair</b>		

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	Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of whalewatching.		<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>  <b>Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair</b>		
<b>Conservation Management Planning</b>					
Further the development and implementation of conservation management plans (CMPs)	Complete a mid-term review of the 2014-2020 CMP WG work plan, to identify progress to date and to inform future priorities, including the status of expenditure under, and guidelines for the use of, the CMP fund.		<b>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</b>	<b>Inter-sessionally</b>	
	Develop a workplan to progress the development of regional inventories, including the Arctic and Indian Oceans..		<b>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</b>	<b>Inter-sessionally</b>	
	Maintain CMP guidelines, templates and funding principles on the IWC website for use by members wishing to undertake a CMP.		<b>Secretariat</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	
	Develop a list of priority species for future CMPs		<b>Scientific Committee</b>  <b>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</b>	<b>Inter-sessionally</b>	
	Refine the inventory of the inventory of cetacean conservation measures in the Pacific Islands Region and report to the next meeting of the SWG-CMP; Request the Scientific Committee to		<b>Secretariat</b>	<b>Inter-sessionally</b>	

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	review the <b>Oceania Humpback Recovery Plan</b> and assess whether there are gaps that can be addressed by the IWC; and submit reports on the implementation of the Humpback Recovery Plan.		<b>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</b>  <b>SPREP/Australia</b>		
	Support discussions between scientists and relevant range state governments to continue to further progress development of an <b>Arabian Sea humpback whales CMP</b>		<b>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	
	Implement the nine high priority actions that were identified in the <b>Southwest Atlantic Southern right whale CMP</b> .		<b>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	
	Implement the <b>Southeast Pacific Southern right whale CMP</b> , focusing on the short term objectives in the early implementation stages.		<b>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	
	<p>Consider actions arising from May 2013 meeting of the SWG-CMP, to determine if these still remain a priority in light of the 2014-2020 work plan and the proposed mid-term review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review guidelines on the use of the CMP fund.</li> <li>• Develop a list of recommendations to be provided to the IWC communications officer for the development of media to promote CMPs.</li> <li>• Draft a proposal for submission to the Scientific Committee on how CMPs can be addressed by the Scientific Committee, and how Scientific Committee information related to CMPs can be provided to proponents.</li> </ul> <p>(cont.)</p>		<b>Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans</b>	<b>Inter-sessionally</b>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request the ICG to review the World Bank's Global Program on Oceans guidelines, and if appropriate, draft a proposal seeking funding for marine debris.</li> <li>Develop a 10-year framework for CMPs to guide the work of the SWG.</li> <li>Review the SWG-CMP terms of reference in light of the group's broader working agenda.</li> </ul>				
<b>Whale Sanctuaries and protected areas</b>					
Provide conservation and management input into reviews of proposed and existing whale sanctuaries as appropriate.	Work with the Scientific Committee to ensure the Conservation Committee contributes to the review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SoS) from a policy and management perspective.		<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>		
	Work with the Scientific Committee to ensure the Conservation Committee contributes to the review of the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary (SAWS) from a policy and management perspective.		<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>		
<b>Ship Strikes</b>					
Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of ship strikes on cetaceans at a population and individual level.  Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on ship strikes.	Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing ship strikes and progress any opportunities for capacity building.		<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>  <b>Ship Strikes Working Group</b>		<b>SC Research budget</b>  <b>Netherlands</b>  <b>USA</b>
	Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on		<b>Conservation Committee Secretariat</b>		

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	how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities.		<b>Ship Strikes Working Group</b>  <b>David Matilla (IWC entanglement adviser)</b>		
	Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of ship strikes.		<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>		
	Ensure the maintenance of a dedicated IWC ship strike data co-ordinator and consider reports on the development of the IWC ship strike databases.		<b>Conservation Committee</b>  <b>Scientific Committee</b>		
	Maintain dialogue with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government of Sri Lanka with regards the risk of ship strike to blue whales</li> <li>• The Government of Greece with regards ship strike risk to sperm whales</li> </ul>	The Secretariat has established a dialogue with the Sri Lanka Government, including a meeting between the Secretary and Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife (Gamini Jayawickrama) to draw attention to the discussion of ship strikes and ways in which the Commission may assist.	<b>IWC Secretariat</b>  <b>Scientific Committee</b>		
	Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications.		<b>Conservation Committee</b>		
	Develop a Ship Strikes Strategic Plan to include data gathering and mitigation and to ensure effectiveness of the IWC ship strikes database.		<b>Ship Strikes Working Group Chair</b>		
	Facilitate the submission of data to the Ship Strike database and inclusion in voluntary conservation reports		<b>Conservation Committee</b>		
<b>Marine Debris</b>					
Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of marine debris on	Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing marine debris and progress any opportunities for capacity building.		<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>		

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<p>cetaceans at a population and individual level.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on marine debris.</p>	<p>Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities.</p>		<p><b>Conservation Committee</b></p> <p><b>Secretariat</b></p> <p><b>David Matilla (IWC entanglement adviser)Secretariat</b></p>		
	<p>Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of marine debris.</p>		<p><b>Conservation Committee</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p><b>Secretariat</b></p>		
	<p>Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications.</p>		<p><b>Conservation Committee</b></p>		
<b>Bycatch</b>					
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of bycatch on cetaceans at a population and individual level.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on bycatch.</p>	<p>Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing bycatch and progress any opportunities for capacity building.</p>		<p><b>Conservation Committee</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p><b>Secretariat</b></p>		
	<p>Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities.</p>		<p><b>Conservation Committee</b></p> <p><b>Secretariat</b></p> <p><b>David Matilla (IWC entanglement adviser)Secretariat</b></p>		
	<p>Provide a detailed consideration of options for tackling the issue of bycatch through the Conservation Committee.</p>		<p><b>Conservation Committee</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p>		
	<p>Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of bycatch.</p>		<p><b>Conservation Committee</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p><b>Secretariat</b></p>		
	<p>Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications.</p>		<p><b>Conservation Committee</b></p>		

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<b>Anthropogenic Sound</b>					
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on anthropogenic noise.</p>	<p>Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing anthropogenic noise and progress any opportunities for capacity building, in particular with regards the IMO (<i>IWC/64/Rep5. IWC/64/Rep1</i>).</p>		<p><b>Conservation Committee</b></p> <p><b>Secretariat</b></p> <p><b>Intersessional Group on Anthropogenic Sound</b></p>		
	<p>Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities.</p>		<p><b>Conservation Committee</b></p> <p><b>Secretariat</b></p> <p><b>Intersessional Group on Anthropogenic Sound</b></p>		
	<p>Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of anthropogenic noise.</p>		<p><b>Conservation Committee</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p><b>Secretariat</b></p>		
	<p>Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased Marine Activities on Cetaceans in the Arctic (<i>IWC/65/Rep07 Rev1</i>)</li> <li>• Planned workshop on the evaluation of stress and sound (<i>IWC66 rep1 (2015) 12.4.3</i>).</li> </ul>				
<b>Other Threats</b>					
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of chemical pollution on cetaceans.</p>					

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Funding allocated
Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of climate change on cetaceans.					