

Background to the Conservation Committee's review of the

South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary (SAWS)

(Submitted by the Conservation Committee Vice-Chair)

Introduction

1. At its 2015 meeting, the IWC Scientific Committee agreed on a dual process to complete its review of the proposed South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary (SAWS). It was agreed that the Scientific Committee would review the scientific aspects of the SAWS proposal, with aspects relating to policy being deferred to the IWC Conservation Committee for the provision of advice to the IWC Commission.
2. The Scientific Committee completed its review of the SAWS proposal at its 2016 meeting, identifying a number of questions that might usefully be considered by the Conservation Committee.
3. The 2016 planning meeting of the Conservation Committee subsequently agreed a process for contributing to the review carried out by the Scientific Committee without duplicating effort (see below). Further, the Conservation Committee planning meeting agreed that a joint workshop with the Scientific Committee, as proposed at its 2015 meeting, was no longer required in order to make best use of resources.

Process for the Conservation Committees contribution to the review of the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary proposal

4. The Scientific Committee convened a workshop to review the SAWS proposal on 5-6 June 2016. The review followed the Terms of Reference developed by the Scientific Committee at its 2015 meeting (IWC/66/Rep01(2015); Annex O, Appendix 5). The workshop reached a series of conclusions and made a number of recommendations in its report, including identifying areas where input from the Conservation Committee was needed (SC/66b/REP/08). Those questions relevant to the Conservation Committee can be found in Annex 1.
5. The Conservation Committee planning meeting agreed the following process for reviewing the SAWS:
 - a) The SAWS proponents to be asked to draft an initial response to the issues identified by the Scientific Committee (Annex 1) for consideration by the Conservation Committee.
 - b) Chair of the Conservation Committee to circulate the proponent response as a working document to Committee members requesting any additional considerations.
 - c) Final working document taking into account any additional contributions to be tabled at the Conservation Committee meeting in October 2016 for discussion and agreement
 - d) The Conservation Committee's review to be presented to the IWC Commission at IWC66 alongside the Scientific Committee's review.

Key Documents

- Proposal for a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary- IWC66/08 (<https://archive.iwc.int/?r=6158>)
- 2016 Scientific Committee Report – IWC/66/Rep01(2016) (<https://archive.iwc.int/?r=6127>)
- Report of the Intersessional Meeting to Review the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary (SAWS) Proposal, 5-6 June 2016, Bled, Slovenia - SC/66b/REP/08 (<https://archive.iwc.int/?r=6030>)
- Terms of Reference for the review of the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary proposal –IWC/66/Rep01(2015); Annex O, Appendix 5. (<https://archive.iwc.int/?r=5429>)

Annex 1

Following the review of the SAWS proposal by the Scientific Committee, the proponents of the SAWS are asked to:

- 1. Consider whether the SAWS is consistent with other measures to protect whales from anthropogenic and other environmental factors.**
- 2. Assess the effectiveness of the SAWS and any adjacent IWC Sanctuaries in terms of International agreements concerning biodiversity and conservation of nature.**
- 3. Assess whether the SAWS is consistent with the precautionary approach in accordance to Principle 15 of the 1992 Rio Declaration.**
- 4. Make any further points or provide additional relevant information for inclusion in the Conservation Committees review of the SAWS proposal**