

# Proposal for a stakeholder workshop on the CMP for western gray whales

USA, JAPAN, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, DONOVAN, REEVES, IUCN

## BACKGROUND

IUCN and the IWC have developed and endorsed a draft Conservation Management Plan for western North Pacific gray whales. Since the plan was adopted, three countries (Japan, Russian Federation and the USA) have also adopted a Memorandum of Co-operation on western gray whales that refers to the CMP, the IWC and the IUCN WGWAP. Subsequently, as a result of a telemetry program that was one of the 'Actions' of the draft plan, it was recognised that the plan needed to be updated to take into account the new information that at least some and possibly many animals that feed off Sakhalin Island in the summer, at least in some years migrate across the Pacific to Mexico in the winter. The IWC Scientific Committee is engaged in (1) a rangewide review of North Pacific gray whales that it expects to complete in 2017 and (2) an update of the draft CMP to take into account new scientific information. It has recommended the holding of a stakeholder workshop.

## PROPOSAL

An important component of the draft Plan is the need for a stakeholder meeting that finalises the revised Plan and develops a strategy for its implementation. The Workshop, which could be co-sponsored by IWC, IUCN and the signatories to the Memorandum of Co-operation, should be broad-based and include representatives of national and local governments, industry (e.g. oil and gas, fishing, shipping and tourism), IGOs and NGOs etc.

## OBJECTIVES

The stakeholder meeting should:

- (1) review and update the CMP;
- (2) establish a stakeholder Steering Group to monitor implementation;
- (3) arrange for a co-ordinator for the CMP;
- (4) establish a workplan and consider funding mechanisms to implement the Actions of the Plan.

## TIMING

The meeting should occur at a convenient time in 2017/2018 after the 2017 IWC Scientific Committee meeting such that it allows the CMP to be presented at the 2018 IWC meeting.

## VENUE AND PARTICIPANTS

The venue and participant list will be determined by the Steering Group (see below). To be effective, it is expected that there will be no more than about 40 participants.

## WORKSHOP STEERING GROUP

It is proposed that the Steering Group should comprise:

Donovan (IWC Head of Science, co-chair IUCN WGWAP, chair of rangewide workshop),

Reeves (co-chair IUCN WGWAP, chair of IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group),

Kato (new co-ordinator of the Memorandum of Co-operation),

Representative from IUCN

One nominee from each range state,

One representative from the oil and gas industry, fishing sector, shipping and tourism sector.....

The tasks of the steering group are to:

- (1) develop a draft agenda based upon the objectives above;
- (2) determine the venue and length of the workshop (up to 4 days is suggested);

- (3) develop the list of participants and a Chair for the workshop;
- (4) develop a final budget and raise any additional funds required.

**FUNDING**

The Workshop requests £20,000 from the IWC CMP fund. This should be sufficient to allow for approximately 10-12 invited participants. Additional funding or in-kind support will be sought e.g. from IUCN, range states etc. as necessary. The USA has offered to provide a venue should the Steering Group agree.

**OUTCOMES**

- (1) an agreed CMP with an implementation workplan to be presented at IWC67
- (2) an agreement regarding expected funding levels from a variety of sources
- (3) identification of a CMP coordinator