

IWC/M17/CPG/04

Proposal for annual meetings of the Conservation Committee

United Kingdom



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

Proposal for annual meetings of the Conservation Committee.

Issue

- The Conservation Committee has a large agenda covering a significant number of important issues related to the conservation and management of cetaceans. With the recent move to biennial Commission meetings, it has become more challenging to progress the work of the Conservation Committee intersessionally.
- In order to support delivery of this ambitious agenda, the June 2016 Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting requested consideration be given to options and practical implications for different arrangements of the Conservation Committee and related meetings of the Joint Conservation Committee/Scientific Committee (CC/SC) and the Conservation Committee Planning Group (CCPG).
- This consideration was subsequently presented to the Conservation Committee at IWC66 in 2016 (Paper IWC/66/CC19). As a result, the Conservation Committee agreed that a more detailed proposal for annual meetings should be drafted for endorsement at IWC67.
- The Conservation Committee Planning Group is now asked to:
 - Consider the draft proposal for annual meetings of the Conservation Committee and make recommendations for content and next steps.

Summary of proposed meeting arrangements

1. Overview

- In a Commission year:
 - As per current arrangements, ½ day to allow for a Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting immediately after the annual Scientific Committee meeting (back to back with the joint Conservation Committee/Scientific Committee Working Group meeting).
 - As per current arrangements, 1 day allowed for a full Conservation Committee meeting during the biennial Commission meeting.
- In a Non-Commission year
 - 1 day Conservation Committee meeting immediately after the annual Scientific Committee meeting.
 - As per current arrangements, ½ day to allow for the Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting during the annual Scientific Committee (post Conservation Committee meeting and back to back with the joint Conservation Committee/Scientific Committee Working Group meeting).

2. Example timetable

- October 2018 - Conservation Committee meeting (1 day)
- May 2019 - Conservation Committee and Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting (1.5 days)
- May 2020 - Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting (0.5 day)
- October 2020 - Conservation Committee meeting (1 day)
- May 2021 - Conservation Committee and Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting (1.5 days)

3. Benefits and drawbacks

Benefits	Drawbacks
Increased meeting frequency allows for greater progress to be made.	Scientific Committee Convenors and the Secretariat may need to attend for longer incurring additional costs.
Allows for closer engagement by Scientific Committee members in the work of the CC and allows for new issues or recommendations from the Scientific Committee to be considered immediately and for early direction to be set.	Irregular meeting cycle – the gap between full Committee meetings will fluctuate from 7 months following a Commission year to 17 months following a non-Commission year. The gap between Conservation Committee Planning Group meetings will remain constant at 12 months due to it being linked to the annual Scientific Committee meeting.
Costs of holding an annual Conservation Committee meeting are minimised by linking with the Scientific Committee in non-	Could interfere with the Scientific Committees meeting agenda or conflict with other ad-hoc

Commission year.	meetings
	The Scientific Committee report would not be finalised making it difficult to consider all recommendations in a systematic and efficient way.

4. Estimated Costs

- *In a Commission year:*
 - 0.5 day for Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting - £3160 (shared with joint SC/CC meeting and already budgeted for).
 - 1 day Conservation Committee meeting during Commission meeting - £4370 (already budgeted for)
- *In non-Commission year:*
 - 1 day Conservation Committee meeting and 0.5 day Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting - £5,690 (costs also include 0.5 day for joint CC/SC meeting – already budgeted for alongside the Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting)

Total cost - £13,220

Additional non-budgeted cost - £2,845¹

The costs provided in this document are estimates only and based on the costs incurred for meetings of the Commission and Scientific Committee held in Slovenia. Costs outside of European destinations would likely increase. If this approach is agreed, more accurate costings will be developed in conjunction with the Secretariat and included in any proposal made at IWC67.

5. Alternative Model

An alternative model to address the drawbacks of fluctuating timings between full Conservation Committee meetings and the difficulty in considering recommendations from the Scientific Committee immediately preceding it, would be to hold a standalone meeting not linked to the Scientific Committee. A drawback to this would be the additional costs with a two-day standalone meeting of the Conservation Committee in the region of £7500 (subject to the same caveats above). These additional costs could in part be mitigated by seeking out opportunities to join with other ad-hoc IWC meetings. This model could be expanded upon if appropriate in any proposal to IWC67.

¹ These costings do not include secretariat support due to the difficulty in estimating the level of support necessary. Should this approach be agreed further consideration will be given to the capacity of the secretariat and possible additional costs.