

IWC/M17/CPG/01

Proposal to establish Working Methods for the Conservation Committee

IWC Secretariat



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

Proposal to establish Working Methods for the Conservation Committee

Submitted by the Secretariat

Introduction

The Chair of the Conservation Committee has requested that the Committee give some consideration to its Working Methods.

In the first few meetings following its establishment the Committee undertook some discussion on Working Methods but did not formally agree these in detail other than establishing the timing of Conservation Committee meetings (at the time, annual to coincide with annual Commission meetings).

In recent years, the Conservation Committee has undergone some significant development including the agreement of a strategic plan and workplan, an expanded programme of work, and an increased availability of voluntary donations to take this forward. Given this, and other recent developments such as the establishment of the Voluntary Conservation Fund, it may benefit the Committee to elaborate further on its working methods. Existing working practices of the Committee (that though established, may not yet be formalised), such as the establishment of Standing Working Groups and intersessional correspondence groups, will be a good starting point, and the Committee may also draw lessons from the working methods of the Scientific Committee (Scientific Committee Handbook).

This paper provides some information on the Scientific Committee working methods, and suggests some items that could be included under Working Methods of the Conservation Committee.

The Conservation Committee Planning Group is invited to discuss the proposal to establish Working Methods and agree on next steps including a process for developing Working Methods for IWC67.

Scientific Committee Handbook

The Scientific Committee Working Methods are set out in the Scientific Committee Handbook. Though this is currently being updated the most recent agreed version is available at <https://iwc.int/scientific-committee-handbook>. This covers the work of the Scientific Committee and its procedures in the following sections:

- Introduction- What is the SC Handbook
- Place- Its place in the Commission system
- Membership- Membership and Officers
- Structure- SC Structure and Meetings
- Documents- SC documents and papers
- Research Fund- SC research fund and budget details
- Permit review- Process for review of Scientific Permits
- Data availability- Data availability report
- SC work- Scientific Committee work (section to be completed)
- DNA data quality- Guidelines for genetic studies related to management

Conservation Committee Working Methods

Potential items under working methods for the Conservation Committee might include:

- *Introduction*- Including Terms of Reference for the Conservation Committee
- *Commission structure*- The place of the Conservation Committee in the Commission structure.
- *Membership*- Details of membership; and roles of members, officers and observers
- *Meetings*-Timing and frequency of meetings. This could also include a provision for expert workshops on particular issues.
- *Structure*- including provision for standing working group, intersessional working groups and intersessional correspondence groups; as well as the role of the Conservation Committee Planning Group.
- *Documents and papers*- Briefly outlining different document types for Conservation Committee meetings including meeting papers and information documents. Clarifying process for submission
- *Priority setting*- including the strategic plan, work programmes and agenda setting
- *Funding*- including development of project proposals and costed programmes of work; Voluntary Conservation Fund.
- *Collaboration with other IWC Committees and subgroups* – including the Scientific Committee, Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening IWC Finance, the Steering Group for the Voluntary Conservation Fund, and the Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues Working Group.

The Conservation Committee Planning Group is invited to:

- Comment on the proposal to establish Working Methods
- Discuss the headings outlined above and suggest additional headings
- Establish a process for developing Working Methods for IWC67, including leads for drafting documents.