

Progressing the work of the IWC on the impacts of marine debris on cetaceans

Submitted by the Netherlands

Background

The Conservation Committee Strategic Plan 2016-2026 (IWC/66/CC08) and the Work Plan for the Intersessional Period 2016-20 (IWC/66/CC21) were adopted during the 66 IWC meeting in Portoroz, Slovenia. At the meeting of the Conservation Committee Planning Group (CCPG) in 2018 first steps were discussed in order to progress the work on marine debris under the Conservation Committees Strategic Plan and Work Plan.

In order to help set the direction of work of the IWC on this topic, it is proposed to establish an Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Debris and formalise its role with the following terms of reference:

Terms of Reference

- 1. Develop a costed programme of work on marine debris within the IWC to underpin delivery of the Conservation Committees Strategic Plan.*
- 2. Elaborate and develop key themes and objectives for inclusion in the Conservation Committees Work Plan.*
- 3. Ensure that advice from the Scientific Committee, and other IWC subsidiary bodies as appropriate, is incorporated into the considerations of the Conservation Committee.*
- 4. Contribute to a workshop, to be held in December 2019 (subject to available funds).*
- 5. Explore engagement with other international organisations to jointly advance this work such as the United Nations General Assembly, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its related bodies.*