

Structure of the Commission and Intersessional Working Groups for the period 2022-2023

An organogram illustrating the Commission's structure is available [here](#).

International Whaling Commission

The Chair's reports from Commission meetings are available [here](#).

Chair: Mr Amadou Télivel Diallo (Republic of Guinea)
Vice-chair: Mr Nick Gales (Australia)

The Commission has a membership of 88 Contracting Governments as of 09 November 2022 and meets every two years. The Government of Slovenia hosted the 2022 Biennial Meeting (IWC68), which took place 13-21 October 2022. The next meeting of the Commission will take place in 2024.

Bureau

Chair: Mr Amadou Télivel Diallo (Republic of Guinea)
Vice-chair: Mr Nick Gales (Australia)
Chair of the F&A Committee: Mr Ryan Wulff (USA)
Members: Ambassador Holger Federico Martinsen (Argentina)
Prof. Francis Nunoo (Ghana)
Mr Horace Walters (St Lucia)
Ms Stephanie Langerock (Belgium)

The Commission constituted the Bureau through Rule of Procedure M.9 for administrative support during the intersessional period. Reports of Bureau meetings are publicly available [here](#) but the sessions themselves are not open to observers.

Finance and Administration Committee (F&A)

The report this Committee presented to IWC68 is available as paper IWC/68/REP/FA/01 [here](#)

Chair: Mr Ryan Wulff (USA)

Intersessional groups reporting to the F&A Committee:

i. Budgetary Sub-committee (BSC)

The report this Committee presented to IWC68 is available as paper FA/68/07/01 [here](#)

Chair: Australia
Vice-chair: Vacant
Members:

Group 1:	Liberia, Marshall Islands
Group 2:	St Kitts & Nevis, Tanzania
Group 3:	Portugal, Slovak Republic
Group 4:	Germany, UK and USA

Membership of the Budgetary Sub-Committee rotates alphabetically at each meeting according to the Capacity to Pay Groups listed above.

ii. Working Group on operational effectiveness and cost savings measures (WG-OE)

The Report of the Workshop held in London, 17-18 July 2019 is available [here](#)

Co-Chairs: Ms Lisa Phelps (USA) and Ms Catherine Bell (United Kingdom)

Members: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Chile, Denmark, France, Grenada Guinea, Rep. of, Mali, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Palau, Rep. of, Peru, Sao Tome & Principe, Slovenia, St. Lucia, Suriname, Switzerland, Togo, United Kingdom, United States.
Membership remains open.

Accredited observers: Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, Animal Welfare Institute, Brazilian Humpback Whale Institute, Chile, Centro de Conservacion Cetacea, COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO, Environmental Investigation Agency, Fundacion Cethus, Global Law Alliance for Animals and the Environment (GLA), Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, IWMC World Conservation Trust, Japan, Makah Indian Tribe.

iii. Voluntary Conservation Fund Steering Group (VCFSG)

Chair: Ms. Catherine Bell (UK and Vice-chair of the Conservation Committee)

Members: Australia, Belgium, New Zealand, USA, UK, Chair and Vice-chair of the Scientific Committee, Chair of the Conservation Committee.
Membership remains open.

Conservation Committee (CC)

The Report of the Conservation Committee Meeting held 15 October 2022 is available [here](#)

Chair: Ms Catherine Bell (United Kingdom)

Vice-chair: Mr Miguel Iñiguez (Argentina)

Intersessional groups reporting to the Conservation Committee:

i. Ship Strikes Working Group (SSWG)

Chair: Ms Sharon Livermore (IFAW)

Members: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Italy, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, USA.

Membership remains open.

Collaborating IGOs: UNEP/CMS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS.

Accredited Observers: Environmental Investigation Agency, International Fund for Animal Welfare, WWF.

ii. Standing Working Group on whale watching (SWG-WW)

Chair: Vacant

Members: Australia, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA, Chair/Vice chair of the IWC Scientific Committee. Industry representatives: Rafael Benegas (Argentina).

Membership remains open.

Collaborating IGOs: UNEP/CMS

Accredited Observers: Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), Fundacion Cethus, Greenpeace, Orcalab.

iii. Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (SWG-CMP)

Chair: Ms Annie Robinson (Australia)
Members: Australia, Argentina, Ghana, Italy, Mexico, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA, Chair/Vice chair of the IWC Scientific Committee. Membership remains open.
Accredited Observers: Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Fundacion Cethus, OceanCare, WWF.

iv. Standing Working Group on bycatch (SWG-BC)

Chair: Ms Anne-Marie Svoboda (NL)
Members: Australia, Argentina, France, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, USA, UK, IWC Bycatch Coordinator, Chair/Vice-chair of the Scientific Committee. Membership remains open.
Collaborating IGOs: UNEP/CMS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS
Accredited Observers: CSI, EIA, WWF, WDC

v. Conservation Committee Planning Group (CCPG)

Chair: Chair of the Conservation Committee
Membership: Vice-chair of the Conservation Committee, Chairs of the Committee's Standing Working Groups, nominees from Contracting Governments. Additional expertise may be included as appropriate at the discretion of the Conservation Committee Chairs.

Scientific Committee (SC)

Chair: Dr Alexandre Zerbini (Brazil)
Vice-chair: Dr Lindsay Porter (UK)

The Scientific Committee meets annually. The next meeting will be in Bled, Slovenia, from 24 April – 7 May 2023 (tbc). The Report from the 2022 Scientific Committee Meeting is available [here](#).

The Committee currently operates 16 Sub-groups.
The 2022 Sub-groups were:

1. ASI - Standing Working Group on Abundance estimates, stock status and international cruises
2. ASW - Sub-committee on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling
3. CMP - Sub-Committee on Conservation Management Plans
4. E - Sub-Committee on Environmental Concerns
5. EM - Standing Working Group on Ecosystem Modelling
6. GDR - Ad hoc Working Group on Databases and related issues
7. HIM - Sub-Committee on Non-deliberate Human-Induced Mortality of cetaceans
8. IA - Sub-Committee on In-depth Assessments
9. IST - Sub-committee on Implementation Reviews and Simulation Trials
10. NH - Sub-Committee on the other Northern Hemisphere whale stocks
11. PH - Ad hoc Working group on Photo-id
12. SAN - Ad hoc Working Group on Sanctuaries
13. SD&DNA - Working Group on Stock Definition and DNA testing
14. SH - Sub-Committee on the other Southern Hemisphere whale stocks
15. SM - Sub-Committee on Small Cetaceans
16. WW - Sub-Committee on Whale watching

Joint Working Group between the Conservation and Scientific Committees (CC/SC WG)

The Commission established this Working Group under Resolution 2014-4 to propose a procedure to facilitate the implementation of and follow up of conservation recommendations. It usually meets annually. The Report from the July 2022 Virtual Meeting is available [here](#).

Chairs: Chairs of the Scientific and Conservation Committees.

Vice-chairs: Vice-chairs of the Scientific and Conservation Committees.

Membership: The Joint Working Group between the Conservation and Scientific Committees is comprised of nominees from the Scientific Committee, Conservation Committee and Contracting Governments. Additional expertise may be included as appropriate at the discretion of the Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee Chairs.

Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee (ASW)

The report this Sub-Committee presented to IWC68 is available as paper IWC/68/REP/ASW/01 [here](#).

Chair: Mr Bruno Mainini (Switzerland)

Credentials Committee

A Credentials Committee is appointed at the beginning of each biennial Commission meeting and are mandated to examine the credentials of representatives in attendance. It consists of three members, Morocco, New Zealand and a member of the Secretariat. The Committee reports to the Commission on the status of credentials throughout the duration of the meeting.

Infractions Sub-committee (INF)

The report this Committee presented to IWC68 is available as paper IWC/68/REP/INF/01 [here](#)

Chair: Norway

Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues (WKMWI)

The report this Committee presented to IWC68 is available as paper IWC/68/REP/WKMWI/01 [here](#)

Chair: Ms Jan Henderson (New Zealand)

Intersessional groups reporting to the Working Group:

i. Intersessional Working Group on Welfare (IWGW)

Chair: United Kingdom

Members: Argentina, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA.

Membership remains open.

Accredited Observers: Humane Society International, World Animal Protection.

Global Whale Entanglement Response Network (GWERN)

The Global Whale Entanglement Response Network reports to the WKM&WI Working Group given their work on addressing welfare issues for individual cetaceans entangled in fishing gear and other debris.