SC/67B/GEN03

Powerpoint guide to Scientific Committee

Greg Donovan



Papers submitted to the IWC are produced to advance discussions within that meeting; they may be preliminary or exploratory. It is important that if you wish to cite this paper outside the context of an IWC meeting, you notify the author at least six weeks before it is cited to ensure that it has not been superseded or found to contain errors.

The mysteries of the IWC Scientific Committee: an idiot's guide or...

Greg Donovan Head of Science, IWC





Scientific Committee Handbook

• The place to go for more information –

- An updated version is on the portal
- SC/A18/SCP02rev.1
- Online easy source of information on the Scientific Committee working methods and activities.
- Cross-references to Rules of Procedures and Financial Regulations and relevant Commission decisions
- 'Annex': compilation of full documents on the Scientific Committee rules, working methods, guidelines and protocols' as agreed by the Committee and endorsed by the Commission

The Existential Approach

• Why are we here?

- To provide the best scientific advice to the Commission on matters related to cetacean conservation and management
- *Policy* is for the Commission
- Established 1950 met every year since
- Numbers of scientists and topics of interest have grown over the years
- Primary international body looking at the science of cetacean conservation and management

Position in the ecosystem



Who are we?





Who we are?

- Participants
 - National delegates
 - Invited participants
 - Invited organisations
- Observers
 - Non-member governments
 - NGOs

















Stock structure

- Within the membership there is considerable site fidelity on the meeting grounds
 - Year after year, older members return to the same seats relative to the top table irrespective of venue (Bled!)
- Several techniques have been used to try to prevent infiltration:
 - Aggressive behaviour (rarely beyond 'MOVE -NOW')
 - Habitat exclusion (more difficult now we are paperless)
 - Acoustic stress (long low frequency harrumphs and short high frequency exhalations)
 - Changing the name of the meeting rooms and the decoration

Whailing Away the Time

SUB-GROUPS:

Sub-committees Standing Working Groups Working Groups Ad hoc Working Groups PLENARY Receive and conclude on work of subgroups. Consider broad issues e.g. budget, workplan, procedures

DAY OFF??



8/9 Days

3 Days

Sub-Group culture



- Know your acronym.....
- ...and your Convenors

'Helping others' groups



'Helping others' groups

• **SD**: stock definition and DNA testing

- practical and analytical methods to examine population structure, units-to-conserve
- DNA registers and related matters
- provides specific advice to those who need it!
- ASI: abundance, status and international cruises
 - abundance methods and provides specific advice to those who need it
 - Summarises information on status
- **HIM**: human-induced mortality (WG)
 - non-intentional kills including bycatch in fishing gear, and ship strikes
 - provides specific advice to those who need it!

Whaling-related



Whaling-related

- **RMP**: Revised Management Procedure
- **AWMP**: Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure
 - Modelling that integrates stock structure, abundance, productivity, survivorship, human-induced mortality, catastrophes and changing carrying capacity
 - IWC conservation and management objectives
 - Provides long-term advice on safe levels of human removals including direct catches in light of uncertainty
- **SP**: Special Permits
 - Reviews special permit programmes of member governments

Species-based sub-committees



Species-based sub-committees

- **SH**: Southern Hemisphere baleen whales
- NH: Northern Hemisphere baleen whales
- **CMP**: species that are the subject of Conservation Management Plans (or potential)
- SM: small cetaceans (too many to list!)
 - Review information, provide advice and decide whether to recommend for an in-depth assessment
- IA: In-depth assessments
 - Undertake ocean basin based populations assessments (modelling approaches that integrate stock structure, abundance, productivity, survivorship, human-induced mortality etc.

Topic-based groups



Topic-based groups

• E: environmental concerns

 looks at many environmental matters – pollution, habitat, climate change, noise, marine debris, disease etc.

• **EM**: ecosystem modelling

 looks at developments in ecosystem modelling of relevance to cetacean conservation and management

• WW: whalewatching

 looks at scientific matters related to responsible whalewatching ranging from possible adverse impacts through guidelines and regulations to their use as platforms of opportunity

• **PH**: IWC photographic databases and related matters

How does this work?



How does this work?

- Convenors' group Chaired by the Chair
- Fight for a slot during the Convenors' meeting
 - Up to 100 sessions!
 - 3 concurrent sessions per slot (1.5 hours)
 - Start at 0830 finish at 1830
 - Possible evening sessions
- Beware the Butterworth unit.....

What's a day like?: choices and conflicts

	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3
0830-1000	AWMP	SM	E
1030-1200	RMP	ΙΑ	DNA
1330-1500	EM	WW	SH
1530-1700	SP	SD	HIM
1700-1830	СМР	PH	SM
Evenings - flexible			

Inside a sub-committee

- Elect the Chair (often the Convenor)
- Know where you should be and when
 - Keep your eye on the signs/website to know your slot and room
- Read the papers in advance of the session
 - Presentations of papers are just highlights
- 'Workshop' not a 'conference'
 - Focussed discussions by agenda item
 - Don't be shy to speak and ask questions
 - Conclusions and practical recommendations
- Concise report agreed by all.....

Papers and Reports

Primary papers

- Have to be in by the deadline new trial this year
 - Papers submitted are produced to advance discussions within the SC; they may be preliminary or exploratory. It is important that if you wish to cite a paper outside the context of an IWC meeting, you notify the author at least six weeks before it is cited to ensure that it has not been superseded or found to contain errors.
- For info papers
 - Published, in press or submitted previously
- Working papers
 - Produced during meeting
 - Must be asked for/approved by Chair
 - Disappear unless appended

Reports

• Sub-Group Reports

- All that's left of all that work so VERY important
- Must make sense to people who weren't there as well
- NOT verbatim records but try to cover important points raised in discussion providing sufficient information for:
 - Ourselves in future years
 - Outside scientific readers
- Must:
 - justify consensus views/recommendations or
 - clearly explain any differences of views and the logic behind them

Plenary sessions

- The official view of the Committee
 - Review and endorse/change work of the sub-groups
 - Draft for the Committee's report prepared by sub-group Chair
 - Concise summary of key conclusions and recommendations with sufficient justification
 - Recommendations stand alone in standard style
 - Broad 'intelligent' non-specialised audience NOT chunks of subcommittee report
 - New business
 - General items (e.g. if needed collations responding to Commission requests)
 - Business items e.g. funding, workshops, workplan, working methods
 - 2-year cycle

Remember....

- It's a great opportunity to learn
- There are some people here with brains the size of a planet and they are surprisingly nice!
- Don't be frightened to ask questions and to contribute
- Don't worry if English isn't your first language even Americans can make themselves understood!
- This is a *Scientific* Committee
 - But it is OK to be a scientist with a smile



Take up Irish history tonight

