

# SC/67b/RP26

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## SM - Guiana dolphin pre-assessment by the IWC Scientific Committee



INTERNATIONAL  
WHALING COMMISSION



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**PROJECT PROPOSAL REQUEST**

**1. PROPOSAL TITLE**

**Guiana dolphin pre-assessment (*Sotalia guianensis*) by the IWC Scientific Committee**

**2. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL AND ITS EXPECTED OUTCOME**

The Guiana dolphin (*Sotalia guianensis*) is restricted to shallow coastal estuaries and bays in western tropical South America, from Santa Catarina, in Brazil, to Nicaragua, in Central America. Its exclusive coastal habitat, shared with densely human inhabited environments, poses numerous threats to the various populations. Bycatch in artisanal gillnets is of major concern for the conservation of most populations. In addition, there is sufficient information on high levels of contaminant loads and emerging diseases (MeCV, herpesvirus, skin diseases of unknown etiology) affecting diverse populations throughout its range. On the other hand, there is a striking lack of data on population abundance for most areas of the distribution range of the species. Combined effects of densely human inhabited areas, bycatch and diseases are rapidly driving Guiana dolphins to many uncertainties regarding its future. Guiana dolphins are considered ‘Vulnerable’ in Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela, but there is an urgent need for action.

This proposal outlines a plan to develop an intersessional workshop to assess the geographic extent of the Guiana dolphin threats and conservation measures needed in both national and international contexts. The outcomes of the workshop shall include (1) a comprehensive assessment of the status of Guiana dolphins issue, (2) recommendations to potentially improve management actions and the monitoring efforts associated with the current conservation plans of actions and (3) a consolidated report to be presented to the SC at next year’s meeting for review.

**3. RELEVANT IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE GROUPS OR SUB-GROUPS**

This workshop is relevant to the SM subcommittee as well as to the HIM and E subcommittees. The work on this taxon will also involve the sub committees SD and ASI. River and estuarine dolphins in South America have been a topic of great concern by the SM subcommittee and a priority for review in 2018; additionally, Guiana dolphins has also been included as priority species in the SM agenda for 2019/2020 (SC67B\_SM\_WP12). Guiana dolphins is a small coastal dolphins in South America and has being hard hit by diverse of threats, however to assess this species the available information/data should be first be gather, compile and integrate.

**4. TYPE OF PROJECT (PLEASE TICK)**

Research project	
Modelling	
Workshop/meeting	X
Database creation/maintenance	
Compilation work/editing (e.g. on whalewatching regulations, SOCER, etc.)	
Other (please specify below)	

**5. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL AND ITS CONNECTION WITH SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS (DO NOT EXCEED 1500 WORDS)**

**(A) BACKGROUND, RATIONALE, AND RELEVANCE TO THE PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY THE IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:**

Considering all previously exposed threats, combined with the lack of knowledge of the status of many local populations along its extensive range, a pre-assessment of *Sotalia guianensis* is warranted. The last time when this genus was reviewed by the Scientific Committee-Small Cetaceans Sub-committee was in 2006, as part of a review of small cetaceans in the Caribbean and the Western tropical Atlantic. Since then, not only the taxonomy of the genus has been clarified, but also new information regarding populations in areas such as the Orinoco River, French Guiana and Maracaibo Lake has been gathered and is in the process of analyses. Also, some of the new threats for this species are of great concern, particularly disease by exposure to virus, and use for human consumption in Maracaibo Lake, a population that was already affected by exposure to pollutants, particularly oil.

An evaluation of population structure, current abundance estimates and ideally abundance trends (if possible) and more detailed information on confirmed distribution pockets is timely because it will provide critical information to guide discussions of the Committee's Agenda for the 2020 SC meeting, taking into consideration priorities established by the Small Cetacean Sub-Committee regarding riverine and estuarine dolphins from South America.

The workshop is proposed for the intersessional period following SC/68b. Participants, including SM conveners, governmental authorities, NGO representatives and local and international scientists are expected to attend. Funding is proposed to pay for logistic cost of hosting a three days meeting and travel for 16 attendees (both national and international). The workshop will provide a forum for government authorities and researchers to exchange information on *Sotalia guianensis*.

**(B) SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OR TOR AND DELIVERABLES/OUTCOMES:**

**Objectives:**

- 1) To assess the status of *Sotalia guianensis*, including information on:
  - distribution and population structure
  - abundance and trends
  - biological parameters (per stock);
  - current threats (and the potential effects);
  - conservation and management actions;
  - outcomes for conservation and recommendations for future studies.
- 2) To provide a forum for researchers to exchange on the best available data on the *Sotalia guianensis* populations to be integrated in interim reports.
- 3) To establish a framework for the review and reporting on the status of the *Sotalia guianensis* to the IWC SC in 2020 (SC68B).

**Deliverables:**

A first report compiling population structure and threats will be produced in a workshop during the SOLAMAC meeting in 2018 and be presented to the SM Subcommittee in 2019 (SC68A). The second one integrating full report will be produced during the second workshop (related with the presented proposal) and will be presented to the SM Subcommittee in 2020 (SC68B) (Appendix 1\_SC67B\_WP).

**(C) METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH/WORK PLAN/ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Broad work Plan (fig. 1)**

**Pre-requisites:**

- Inter-sessional work 1 (2018) – Workshop during SOLAMAC meeting, Peru, in November 2018.
  - a) Inform the proposed plan for assessing *Sotalia guianensis*
  - b) Review the information available on *Sotalia guianensis* (focusing on population structure and threats)
  - c) Prepare a report for presentation at the SC68A meeting
  - d) Encourage the network for continuous working on the reports for SC68B and prepare specific reports about

biological parameters, abundance estimates, and also management and conservation actions

**- Inter-session work 2 (2019) – IWC funds**

- a) **Review the information available on *Sotalia guianensis* (focusing on biological parameters, abundance estimates, and management and conservation actions)**
- b) **Integrate and consolidate the currently knowledge on *Sotalia guianensis***
- c) **Prepare a report with recommendations for presentation at the SC68B meeting**

**Administrative details:**

The workshop will involve 16 people.

It will run for two full days and a half in October 2019.

The UFPR, in Curitiba, Brazil, is likely the most convenient venue for organizing the workshop, as the university can provide some infrastructure.

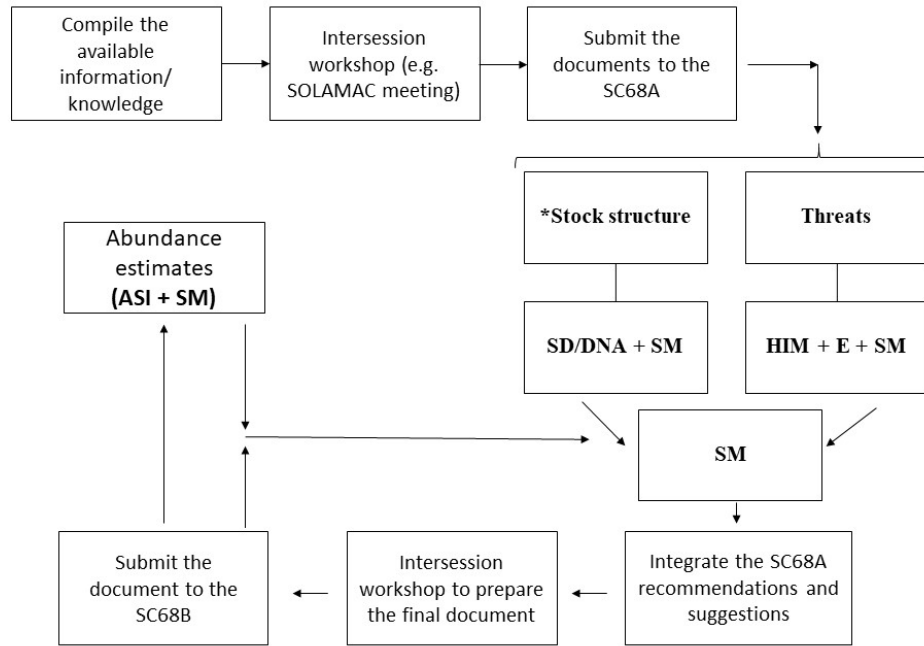


Fig 1. Flow chart showing how the different reviewed topics will be presented to the IWC subcommittees.

**(D) SUGGESTIONS FOR OUTREACH**

Lay summary for public awareness; provide information to the IWC website on stranding, mortalities rates and illegal hunting of small cetacean, and also on the effects of cumulative impacts; reinforce the role of *Sotalia guianensis* as ecological sentinels of costal habitat.

**6. TIMETABLE FOR ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS**

Activity to be undertaken	Key person(s)	Start(mm/yy)	Finish (mm/yy)
Workshop	ALL	10/2019	10/2019

Expected outputs	Completion date (mm/yy)
Report to present at the SM Subcommittee in 2019	03/2020

**7. RESEARCHERS' (OR STEERING GROUP) NAME(S) AND AFFILIATION**

Please, also specify if the project team has any direct connection (e.g. same research group or institute, collaborator on common project) with people involved or likely to be involved in taking the funding decision (e.g. IWC SC heads of delegations, SC convenors, etc.). Add as many rows as you need to the table below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Connection with decision</b>
Alexandre Zerbini	NOAA, USA	Steering group/SC convenors
Camila Domit	CEM/UFPR, Brazil	Steering group
Lindsay Porter	SMRU, UK	Steering group/SC convenors
Meike Scheidat	Wageningen Marine Research, Netherlands	Steering group/SC convenors
Suzana Caballero	Universidad de los Andes, Colombia	Steering group

<b>Potential collaborators (researchers to be invited to the workshop)</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Alexandre Azevedo	UERJ, Brazil
Ana Carolina Meirelles	AQUASIS, Brazil
Ana Paula Farro	UFES, Brazil
Andre Barreto	UNIVALI, Brazil
Artur Andriolo	UFJF
Camila Rosso-Londoño	Universidad Bogotá
Camilah Zappes	UFF
Carolina Bertozzi	Instituto Biopesca, Brazil
Carlos Hugo Soares Sampaio	Ministério do Meio Ambiente/Brazil
Emygdio Monteiro-Filho	IPeC / UFPR, Brazil
Fabia Luna	CMA/ICMBio, Brazil
Fabio Daura-Jorge	UFSC, Brazil
Federico Mosquera-Guerra	Fundación Omacha, Colombia
Fernando Trujillo	Fundación Omacha, Colombia
Javier Rodrigues	
Laura May-Collado	University of Vermont, USA
Leonardo Flach	IBC, Brazil
Lisete Trejos-Lasso	Ministerio de Ambiente, Panama
Marcos Cesar de Oliveira Santos	USP, Brazil
Marcos Rossi-Santos	UESC, Brazil
Marta Cremer	UNIVILLE, Brazil
Mauricio Cantor	UFSC
Paulo Simoes-Lopes	UFSC
Olga Herrera	
Rodrigo Tardin	UNIRIO, Brazil
Salvatore Siciliano	FIOCRUZ, Brazil
Vincent Ridoux	La Rochelle, France
Y. Briceño	

## 8. TOTAL BUDGET

Breakdown into: (1) salaries/wages (include name/position of each individual and breakdown of time and duties i; (2) travel/subsistence expenses (breakdown by person and justification) unless for IPs for workshops where a total estimate based on an average for the total number of IPs is acceptable; (3) services (e.g. aircraft/vessel time, consultancy fees, ARGOS fees, etc.; (4) reusable capital equipment (e.g. reusable equipment such as a hydrophone, cameras, etc. Note that this equipment will have to be registered at the IWC Secretariat and will remain property of the IWC at the end of the project), (5) expendable capital equipment (e.g. consumables, tags, stationery), (6) shipping costs, (7) insurance costs, (8) in kind co-funding (specify whether other funding is available for personnel/name, equipment, venues, etc.). Note that "Overheads" are not admissible. Add as many rows as you need to the table below.

Type	Detailed description	Cost in GB pounds
(1) Salaries (by person)		0
(2) Travel/subsistence (by person or est. total for IPs)	Flight, lodging and food (16 people)	9,730
(3) Services (by item)		
(4) Reusable equipment		
(5) Consumables	Workshop material, prints, equipment	260
(6) Shipping (by Item)		
(7) Insurance (by item)		
(8) Co-funding		
(9) Other		
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,990</b>

## 9. DATA ARCHIVING/SHARING

Please state your plans for data archiving and sharing. Note that data collected primarily under IWC grants are considered publicly available after an agreed period of time for publication of papers, usually about two years. The work of the IWC depends on the voluntary contribution of data to the various databases and catalogues IWC supports. Please consult the Secretariat ([secretariat@iwc.int](mailto:secretariat@iwc.int))

Results of both workshops will be made public in form of reports that will be presented at the SC/SM 68A and SC/SM 68B

## 10. PERMITS (PLEASE TICK)

Do you have the necessary permits to carry out the field work and have animal welfare considerations been appropriately considered?	
Do you have the appropriate permits (e.g. CITES) for the import/export of any samples?	

If 'Yes' please provide further details and enclose copies where appropriate:

## Appendix 2 – DRAFT SCORING SHEET

If a project presents multiple primary objectives which are achieved using sub-projects, a sheet should be used to evaluate each single sub-project. Note that not all criteria are equally applicable depending on the nature of the project (e.g. field work versus workshops).

IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING - REVIEW CRITERIA - TEST			
TITLE OF THE PROJECT/sub-projects:			
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:			
Key criteria	Explanation of scoring	Score	Supporting Remarks
<i>Relevance to Scientific Committee priorities</i>			
1	How well aligned are the scientific outcomes of the project/activity with the current SC priority areas?	1 - Not aligned/poorly aligned (e.g. too vague or generic reference to general SC priorities) 2 - Reasonably aligned (e.g. some aspects may be vague or links are not clear) 3 - Well aligned (e.g. outcomes clearly deliver in the most part on priority areas, may also address longer term or potential future issues). 4 – Closely aligned (e.g. of interest for multiple sub-groups or delivers on specific SC high priority topics/recommendations in the immediate or short term).	
2	To what extent will the outcomes of the project/activity contribute to improvements in the conservation and management of cetaceans?	1 - Not at all 2 - Poorly 3 - Reasonably or over the longer term 4 - Well or over the medium term 5 - Excellently or to almost immediate effect	
<b>Note:</b> if in each of the two above key criteria under this section the project does not score singularly at least 2 points, do not proceed in further evaluation. Of course, proposals within a sub-group would only be developed if in their estimation scores were of			

4 or above.				
<b>Approach and methodology</b>				
3	What degree of scientific merit/value is there in carrying out the work?	1 - Not demonstrated or of low scientific value 2 - Useful/basic scientific value 3 - Very good scientific value 4 - Excellent/innovative scientific value		
4	Is the proposed methodology scientifically sound and feasible in terms of field and analytical methods?	1 - Feasibility unrealistic & poor methodology or not properly addressed 2 - Feasibility & methodology acceptable but would benefit from some substantial amendments 3 - Feasibility & methodology good, some small changes beneficial 4 - Feasibility & methodology excellent or a highly promising innovative approach to an important question facing the Committee		
5	What is the likelihood of success based on the proposed overall approach and methodology?	1 - No chance of success 2 - Low chance of success/better approaches available 3 - Medium chance of success/some changes to the approach necessary 4 - High chance of success/little or no changes to the approach necessary		
5 a	Are objectives of the research likely to be achieved within the proposed time-frame?	1 - No or unlikely 2 - Partially or potentially ambitious 3 - Yes with some minor suggestions 4 - Yes		
5 b	Are any proposed intermediary targets timely and achievable?	1 - No or unlikely 2 - Partially 3 - Probably 4 - Yes		
5 c	Is the proposed time-frame/work necessary (e.g. can the project produce results in a	1 - No or unlikely 2 - Partially 3 - Probably		



	shorter time period)?	4 - Yes		
<b>5</b> <b>d</b>	Is the sample size adequate to achieve the stated objectives?	1 – Not demonstrated/not properly addressed 2 – No or unlikely (too low/too high) 3 – Probably (additional analysis needed) 4 - Yes		
<b>6</b>	Is the project likely to affect adversely the population(s) involved?	1 - Not properly addressed/ unknown 2 - Yes severely 3 – Possibly at a low level 4 - No		
<b>6</b> <b>a</b>	<b>IF YES</b> , are analyses provided on simulations of the effects using different time-frames for the project if applicable?	1 – No 2 – Partially 3 - Yes		
<b>Note:</b> if in each of the above key criteria under this section the project does not score singularly at least 2 points, do not proceed in further evaluation. Of course, proposals within a sub-group would only be developed if in their estimation scores were of 3 or above.				
<b>Project team and Project management</b>				
<b>7</b>	To what extent does the team have the relevant expertise, experience, and balance?	1 – Poor or not demonstrated 2 – Sufficient 3 - Very good 4 - Excellent		
<b>8</b>	Contingency plan: To what extent have potential problems/risks been considered and appropriate mitigation proposed?	1 – Poor or not demonstrated 2 – Sufficient but could be improved 3 - Fully or requiring only minor suggestions or not applicable		
<b>Value for Money</b>				
<b>1</b> <b>0</b>	Does the project represent good value for money?	1 – No or significant amendments would be needed 2 – Yes but with some minor amendments 3 – Yes		

<p>1 1</p>	<p>Have sufficient links been made to the wider research community/other organisations/capacity building.</p>	<p>1 – No 2 – Some but significant amendments needed 3 – Yes but with some minor additions 4 – Yes or not applicable</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>
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