

Initial Draft 2020 Scientific Committee (SC68B) Plenary Agenda for suggestions by SC members

NB: Sub-group agendas will be developed by the relevant convenors and often will have more sub-items than shown here for the plenary agenda.

***indicates that a Chair's note will be included on the item in the next draft of the draft Agenda due in March**

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS*

- 1.1 Chair's welcome and opening remarks**
- 1.2 Remembrances**
- 1.3 Appointment of rapporteurs**
- 1.4 Meeting procedures and time schedule**
- 1.5 Establishment of sub-committees and Working Groups**

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA*

3. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

- 3.1 Documents submitted**
- 3.2 National Progress Reports on research**
- 3.3 Data collection, storage and manipulation**
- 3.4 Review past recommendations from Recommendations Database (initially in sub-groups)**
- 3.5 Guidance for format of recommendations and discussion of Recommendations Database***
- 3.6 Overview of Commission resolutions from 2018**

4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- 4.1 African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO)¹**
- 4.2 Arctic Council¹**
- 4.3 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) including the post-2020 process for revising biodiversity targets - Secretariat**
- 4.4 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)¹**
- 4.5 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) - Secretariat**
 - 4.5.1 Scientific Council*
 - 4.5.2 Conference of Parties*

4.5.3 Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)

4.5.4 Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)

4.6 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)¹

4.7 Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) – Secretariat

4.8 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)¹

4.9 Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) – Secretariat

4.10 International Committee on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (ICMMPA) – Rojas-Bracho

4.11 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) - Haug

4.12 International Maritime Organization (IMO) – Leaper, Secretariat

4.13 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – Cooke, Reeves

4.14 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) – Secretariat, Moronuki

4.15 North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES) - Tamara

4.16 Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean¹

4.17 Kobe (Tuna RFMO) Bycatch Working Group - Secretariat

4.18 Other (please identify)

¹No official observer last year – if anyone attended a summary would be welcome

5. GENERAL ASSESSMENT AND MODELLING ISSUES (IST)*

5.1 Evaluate the energetics-based model and the relationship between $MSYR_{1+}$ and $MSYR_{mat}$

5.2 Review work on implications of ISTs for consideration of species' and populations' status

5.3 Progress on previous recommendations and on the Biennial workplan

6. AWMP IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED MATTERS (IST)*

6.1 Common minke whales off Greenland

6.1.1 Synthesis paper on testing framework and results for the 'G-common minke SLA' for common minke whales off West and East Greenland

6.1.2 Conclusions on carryover and interim allowance for the 'G-common minke SLA'

6.2 Implementation Review for North Pacific gray whales (Chukotka and Makah hunts)

6.2.1 Review of new information

6.2.2 Undertake new modelling if deemed necessary

6.2.3 Conclusions and workplan if required to complete the Implementation Review

6.2.3 Conclusions on carryover and interim allowance for Eastern North Pacific gray whales

6.3 Progress on previous recommendations

6.4 Biennial workplan

7. STOCKS SUBJECT TO ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING (ASW)*

7.1 New information and progress on recommendations

7.1.1 Eastern Canada/West Greenland bowhead whales

7.1.2 North Pacific gray whales (and see Item 6.2)

7.1.3 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas bowhead whale

7.1.4 Common minke whale stocks off East Greenland (and see Item 6.1)

7.1.5 Common minke whale stocks off West Greenland (and see Item 6.1)

7.1.6 Fin whales off West Greenland

7.1.7 Humpback whales off West Greenland (and see Item 8.1.4)

7.1.8 Humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines (and see Item 8.1.4)

7.2 Biennial workplan

8. WHALE STOCKS NOT SUBJECT TO DIRECTED TAKES BY IWC MEMBERS

8.1 Comprehensive or In-depth Assessments (IA)*

8.1.1 Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific humpback whales

8.1.2 Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific sei whales

8.1.3 Progress on in-depth assessment of western North Pacific common minke whales

8.1.4 Preparation for in-depth assessment of North Atlantic humpback whales (and see Items 7.1.7 and 7.1.8)

8.1.5 Biennial workplan

8.2 Potential new assessments: progress on previous recommendations and prioritised workplan (SH and NH)*

8.2.1 Non-Antarctic blue whales in the Southern Hemisphere (SH)

8.2.2 Antarctic blue whales (SH)

8.2.4 Southern Hemisphere right whales not the subject of CMPs (SH)

8.2.5 North Pacific blue whales (NH)

8.2.6 *North Atlantic sei whales (NH)*

8.2.7 *North Atlantic right whales (NH)*

8.2.8 *Gulf of Mexico Bryde's whales [Omura's whale]*

8.2.10 *Biennial workplan*

8.3 New information (if provided) for other northern stocks (NH)

8.3.1 *North Atlantic blue whales (NH)*

8.3.2. *North Atlantic common minke whales (NH)*

8.3.2 *Biennial workplan*

8.4 New information (if provided) for other Southern stocks (SH)

8.4.1 *Southern Hemisphere humpback whales (If new information from Australia provided for estimating BSD)*

8.4.2 *Southern Hemisphere fin whales (SH)*

8.4.3 *Biennial workplan*

8.5 Progress on previous recommendations

9. STOCKS THAT ARE OR HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO BE THE SUBJECT OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS (CMP)*

9.1 Stocks with existing CMPs: new information and progress with previous recommendations*

9.1.1 *SE Pacific southern right whales (CMP, SH)*

9.1.2 *SW Atlantic southern right whales (CMP, SH)*

9.1.3 *North Pacific gray whales (CMP, IST, ASW)*

9.1.4 *Franciscana (CMP, SM)*

9.2 Progress with identified priorities*

9.2.1 *Humpback whales in the northern Indian Ocean including the Arabian Sea*

9.2.2 *Central American humpback whales*

9.2.3 *Mediterranean sperm whales*

9.2.4 *Mediterranean fin whales*

9.2.5 *South American river dolphins*

9.3 Progress on previous recommendations

9.4 Biennial workplan

10. STOCK DEFINITION AND DNA TESTING (SD-DNA)*

10.1 DNA testing and advice on stock structure to other sub-groups as required

10.1.1 New techniques for species, stock, and individual identification

10.1.2 Reference databases and standards for DNA registries

10.2 DNA data quality and genetic analyses guidelines

10.2.1 Review and finalise updated DNA quality guidelines (including Next Generation Sequencing data and precautions when using GenBank)

10.3 Recommendations on the avoidance of sample depletion

10.4 Review terminology used for stock structure related terms used within the IWC

10.5 New genetic approaches of use to the Scientific Committee in addition to stock structure issues

10.6 Progress on previous recommendations

10.7 Biennial workplan

11. CETACEAN ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES, STOCK STATUS (ASI)*

11.1 Review of abundance estimates

11.2 Review and provide advice on surveys (past and future)

11.3 Methodological issues

11.3.1 Amendments to RMP guidelines to consider model-based abundance estimates

11.3.2 Progress on simulation software to evaluate methods for abundance estimates

11.3.3 Consider diagnostic methods for mark-recapture models

11.3.4 Review new survey techniques/equipment

11.4 Provide advice to the Commission on the status of stocks

11.5 Progress on previous recommendations

11.6 Biennial workplan

12. BYCATCH AND ENTANGLEMENTS (HIM)*

12.1 IWC's Bycatch Mitigation Initiative

12.1.1 Update on progress of Expert Panel

12.1.2 Identification of pilot projects

12.1.3 Review of other activities and provision of advice, if requested

12.2 Review new methods and estimates of entanglement rates, risks and mortality

12.3 Review mitigation measures for preventing bycatch and entanglement

12.4 Reporting of bycatch (including small cetaceans) and large whale entanglements

12.4.1 Review progress on the global entanglement database

12.4.2 National progress reports

12.5 Collaboration on bycatch mitigation with IGOs (including FAO, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and others)

12.6 Provide advice on observer schemes in South Africa

12.7 Progress on previous recommendations

12.8 Biennial workplan

13. SHIP STRIKES (HIM)*

13.1 Review new methods and estimates of rates of ship strikes, risk of ship strikes and mortality (including review progress on ship strike database)

13.2 Mitigation of ship strikes in high risk areas

13.2.1 Review progress towards assessing and mitigating ship strikes in previously identified high risk areas

13.2.2 Provide advice on routing measures

13.2.3 Review new research relevant to mitigation

13.3 Co-operation with IMO Secretariat and relevant IMO committees

13.4 Consider best methods for requesting/providing marine traffic data (e.g. AIS through an MOU with Marine Traffic)

13.5 Progress on previous recommendations

13.6 Biennial workplan

14. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (E)*

14.1 Chemical pollution

14.1.1 Final report of the Pollution 2020 project

14.1.2 Review Terms of Reference and recommend a Biennial workplan for Pollution 2025

14.2 Diseases of concern: Focus session on infectious diseases (Part 1 this year Part 2 in 2021)

14.3 Strandings and mortality events

14.3.1 Update on the IWC Strandings Initiative and Workplan 2020-2022

14.3.2 New information on unusual mortality events

14.4 Review draft report from pre-meeting on noise

14.5 Review report from workshop on marine debris

14.6 Review SOCER report, focus on Atlantic Ocean

14.7 Progress on previous recommendations

14.8 Biennial workplan

15. ECOSYSTEM MODELLING*

15.1 Cooperation with CCAMLR and CMS on multi-species modelling including progress from workshop(s)

15.1.1 Review report from Workshop on the Role of Cetaceans in Ecosystem Functioning: Gap Analysis

15.1.2 Finalise response to Commission's request on multi-species modelling effort (Resolution 2016-3)

15.1.3 Progress on the future joint IWC-CCAMLR workshop(s)

15.2 Progress on species distribution models (SDMs)

15.3 Modelling of competition among whales including progress with IBEMs

15.4 Standing topics

15.4.1 Progress on considering effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations

15.4.2 Review progress on evaluation of krill distribution and abundance

15.5 Progress on previous recommendations

15.6 Biennial workplan

16. SMALL CETACEANS*

16.1 Review of previous recommendations (with a view to amending and consolidating as and if progress has been made)

16.2 Poorly documented hunts of small cetaceans for food, bait or cash and changing patterns of use including summary of workshops and databases

16.3 Small cetacean task team

16.4 Review of intersessional workshops on *Sotalia guianensis*

16.5 Review direct takes and live captures of small cetaceans

16.6 Status of the voluntary fund for small cetacean conservation research

16.7 Biennial workplan

17. WHALE WATCHING

17.1 Assess the impacts of whale watching and swim-with-whale operations on cetaceans

17.1.1 Studies on assessing impacts, (i) short-term; (ii) mid- to long-term; (iii) swim-with operations; (iv) Emerging areas of concern.

17.1.2 Review results from the 3rd workshop on Modelling and Assessment of Whale Watching Impacts (MAWI)

17.2 Finalise IWC's General Principles for Whale Watching

17.3 Progress with regional reviews of whale watching

17.3.1 Sri Lanka

17.3.2 Latin America

17.4 Collaborative work within the IWC

17.4.1 IWC's Whale Watching Handbook

17.4.2 Work of Conservation Committee Standing Working Group on Whale Watching

17.4.3 Collaboration with other SC sub-committees on platforms of opportunity and citizen science

17.5 Progress on previous recommendations

17.6 Biennial workplan

18. WHALE SANCTUARIES (IN SAN IF NEW INFORMATION PROVIDED OR REQUESTS RECEIVED)*

18.1 Updates from relevant sub-committees on new information relevant to the SOS management plan

18.2 New information for other sanctuaries

18.3 Biennial workplan

19. UPDATES TO IWC LIST OF RECOGNISED SPECIES*

20. IWC DATABASES AND CATALOGUES*

20.1 Guidelines for IWC catalogues and photo-ID databases (PH)

20.2 Progress with existing or proposed new catalogues (PH)

20.2.1 Integration of eastern South and Central Pacific blue, humpback and fin whale photo-catalogues

20.2.2 Antarctic Humpback Whale Catalogue (AHWC)

20.2.3 Arabian Sea Whale Network's Flukebook

20.2.4 Southern Hemisphere Blue Whale Catalogue (SHBWC)

20.2.5 Antarctic Blue Whale Catalogue (ABWC)

20.2.6 Southern Hemisphere fin whale photo catalogues

20.2.7 Western gray whale catalogue

20.3 Progress with existing IWC databases - Secretariat

20.4 Potential future IWC databases

20.4.1 Global database for disentanglement activities

20.4.2 Global bycatch database

21. IWC MULTINATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AND NATIONAL RESEARCH CRUISES THAT REQUIRE IWC ENDORSEMENT (ASI)*

21.1 IWC-POWER and co-operation with Japan

21.2 Southern Ocean Research Partnership (IWC-SORP)

21.3 National cruises that require IWC oversight

21.4 Work plan

22. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR THE CURRENT BIENNIUM*

22.1 Status of funded research, workshop proposals, data processing and computing needs

22.1.1 Funded proposals for the current biennium 2019-20

22.1.2 Funded proposals in previous years still ongoing

22.1.3 Report on funds reallocations and contingencies for the Research Fund, Voluntary Fund for Small Cetaceans and SORP Voluntary Fund

22.2 Proposed budget for 2021-2022 developed under Committee's guidelines

23. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR 2021

24. WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE*

24.1 Updates on Rules of Procedure and Handbook of the Scientific Committee

24.2 Biennial reporting to the Commission and related matters

24.3 Capacity building and succession plan for Scientific Committee

24.4 Update on Data Availability requests and consideration of potential updates/clarifications

24.5 Committee involvement in the IWC recommendations database (Initial discussion on Day 1)

24.6 Governance Review: Review of papers from the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (Initially in an *Ad Hoc* Working Group)

24.7 Any other matters

24.8 Biennial workplan

24. PUBLICATIONS

25. ADOPTION OF REPORT