

## Scientific Committee Research Budget

The Scientific Committee has proposed a research programme for 2021 in the table below. In recognition of the of the Commission's difficult financial situation, especially in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Committee maintained the 2021 budget request at the same level as the 2020 budget (£226,400), a budget freeze**. Funds brought forward from previous years (£157,730) were higher than normal primarily because the pandemic precluded some of the work of the Committee, especially related to the annual meeting and intersessional workshops, to be completed as planned. For example, funds for invited participants (IPs) were not spent because the 2020 SC meeting was cancelled. In addition, a reasonable amount of unspent funds was available to be re-allocated (£48,261). The total request for funding was substantially greater than the amount available in the Research Fund. However, integration of amounts brought forward from previous years with some underspends allowed the SC to propose supporting requests that are key to advance the Commission's directives as reflected in the Committee's agenda for 2021. The total amount available to fund these projects (£432,391) should be viewed as an exceptional situation in which cancellation of workshops and of the 2020 annual meeting resulted in unusual savings that will be applied to priority items on the Committee's agenda. Availability of all these funds is unlikely in the future, assuming the Committee resumes their regular work once the coronavirus pandemic situation is resolved.

The total amount requested from the Commission (blue column) is equivalent to the same level of funding requested in 2020. Details of each project are available on request from the Secretariat. **All figures are in GBP.**

Sub-Comm.	Project Title	Brought Forward From Previous Years*	Reallocated From Other Projects	2021 Core Budget	Total	Co-Funding / In-Kind Contributions Available / Sought
<b>General</b>						
ALL	Invited Participants 2021‡	67,809	7,044	25,147	100,000	-
ALL	Contingency Fund †	32,620	-	3,284	35,904	-
<b>Meetings / Workshops</b>						
CMP	SW Atlantic right whale CMP workshop	-	-	7,600	7,600	5,660
CMP	Central Amer humpback whale workshop	-	-	11,460	11,460	-
ASI	ASI pre meeting	2,000	-	4,000	6,000	-
CMP	Franciscana workshop	-	1,350	15,250	16,600	10,000
E	Climate change workshop	-	13,621	6,379	20,000	20,000
IA	WN Pacific minke: IA workshop	14,273	727	-	15,000	-
WW	Chile & Peru whale watching workshop	-	-	4,210	4,210	7,400
<b>Modelling / Computing</b>						
IA	Computing support WN Pac. minke whales	7,594	-	5,906	13,500	-
IA	NP sei whale assessment	-	-	2,500	2,500	-
<b>Research</b>						
SH	Pygmy blue whale pre-assessments	-	6,582	7,535	14,117	-
SH	Acoustics blue whale Oman	-	-	12,000	12,000	34,450
SH	Acoustic catch separation Durban	-	5,010	-	5,010	34,490
SH	Mid latitude Antarctic blue whale acoustics	-	1,040	3,360	4,400	-
CMP	Arabian Sea humpback songs, India	-	-	11,897	11,897	2,000
CMP	Arabian Sea humpback body condition and fisheries mapping	-	-	12,825	12,825	26,324
CMP	SE Pacific right whale acoustics	-	-	20,000	20,000	-
IA	N Pacific humpback mixed stock analysis	-	-	13,200	13,200	-
ASI/IA/NH	IWC-POWER Cruise	32,320	-	-	32,320	800,000
SM/CMP	Franciscana aerial survey	-	-	23,820	23,820	105,220
<b>Databases</b>						
HIM	Ship strike database coordinator	1,114	-	8,886	10,000	-
SH	a) SH blue whale catalogue	-	2,106	15,494	17,600	-

SH	b) SH blue whale catalogue (Chile)	-	5,010	5,418	10,428	-
SH	Reconciling Chilean blue whale catalogue	-	2,000	-	2,000	-
Secretariat	Database hosting	-	3,771	2,229	6,000	-
<b>Reports</b>						
E	SOCER	-	-	4,000	4,000	-
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>157,730</b>	<b>48,261</b>	<b>226,400</b>	<b>432,391</b>
						<b>1,045,544</b>

\*These funds are primarily Commission-approved 2020 budget allocations that were unable to be spent due to the COVID-19 crisis.

‡Amounts included for Invited Participants reflects actual costs in prior years, recognises that the agenda for 2021 will be increased and that there may be COVID-19 associated cost increases to consider.

†A small addition to the contingency fund is proposed to allow the Scientific Committee to respond to situations that may occur as a result of the COVID pandemic.

Note: One proposal received by the Committee was considered of medium priority and was not selected for funding in 2021. This proposal may be given consideration in the future as the work of the Committee progresses.

#### **Memo: Proposals to carry forward funds allocated in prior years only**

*These projects have already received Commission approval but have not yet been completed, in many cases due to the COVID-19 crisis. It is proposed that these funds to continue*

Ecosystem functioning workshop	20,300
N Pacific humpback whale workshop 2	11,040
Gray whale workshop	10,500
Focused session on disease	3,817
Strandings initiative	9,000
Cetacean Diseases of Concern	6,000
MAWI Workshop	17,000
Comparative biology, health, status & future of NA right whales	10,000
Development of Blue Whale Song Reference Library	4,000
Historic Catch Data	2,988
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94,645</b>

#### **Gray Whale Tagging Fund**

The Scientific Committee proposes that unspent voluntary contributions (£7,291) in the Gray Whale Tagging Fund are allocated to the following workshop: *Research on and Monitoring of Endangered Western North Pacific Gray Whales Feeding off Sakhalin Island in 2020.*

This **does not** impact the Commission's core budget.

#### **Southern Ocean Research Partnership Fund**

##### ***Proposed allocation of funds from the IWC-Southern Ocean Research Partnership (IWC-SORP) Research Fund - 2020***

*Document Submitted by the IWC-SORP coordinator (Elanor Bell) in conjunction with the IWC-SORP Scientific Steering Committee*

This paper summarises the proposed allocation of funds from the IWC's Southern Ocean Research Partnership (IWC-SORP) Research Fund in 2020/21 and the establishment of a new IWC-SORP Research Theme.

Commission approval is sought for:

1. The allocation of **£129,955 GBP** from the IWC-SORP Research Fund to six new projects in 2020/21.
2. Establishment of a new IWC-SORP research theme, *Recovery status and ecology of Southern Hemisphere fin whales*, to support the Scientific Committee's pre-assessment of Southern Hemisphere fin whales.

## 1. IWC-SORP Research Fund allocations

Following an open, competitive Call for Proposals, which opened on 7 October 2019 and closed on 10 January 2020, an assessment panel (the Panel), composed of 13 individual participants of the IWC's Scientific Committee, assessed nine eligible proposals. Six of these proposals were recommended for funding. A tenth proposal was not assessed by the Panel; it was deemed ineligible by the IWC-SORP Scientific Steering Committee (IWC-SORP SSC) because it was submitted five days after the deadline.

The IWC-SORP SSC and the IWC's Scientific Committee reviewed these allocations (see SC/68B/O01) and **agreed** that Commission approval be sought. **Table 1** summarises the proposed funding allocations by project.

The IWC-SORP Secretariat, on behalf of the IWC-SORP SSC, therefore seeks the approval of the Commission for the allocation of **£129,955 GBP** from the IWC-SORP Research Fund to these six projects in 2020/21.

**The IWC-SORP Research Fund is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions from member states, therefore allocation of this money will have no effect on the Commission's or Scientific Committee's core budget.**

## 2. Proposed new IWC-SORP Theme

At SC/68A the IWC's Scientific Committee **agreed** to seek the Commission's endorsement of a new IWC-SORP research Theme: *Recovery status and ecology of Southern Hemisphere fin whales (SHFW)*.

The specific objectives of the Theme would be to:

- 1) Evaluate distribution patterns and local abundance estimates of SHFW;
- 2) Analyse the population structure of SHFW across the Southern Hemisphere (in particular between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans);
- 3) Track migration routes and locate breeding grounds and migratory destinations;
- 4) Investigate feeding ecology;
- 5) Create a collaborative network of SHFW researchers.

The proposed work will support the Scientific Committee's pre-assessment of Southern Hemisphere fin whales, is highly collaborative, has clear avenues for medium- to long-term funding (external to the IWC) and will be conducted by renowned experts (Theme leader: Dr Helena Herr).

Table 1: List of the funding allocations by project recommended by the IWC-SORP Assessment Panel						
Proposal number	Chief Investigator	Co-Investigators	Title	Requested amount (£)	Recommended amount (£)	Level of funding
1	Andrews-Goff, Virginia; Double, Michael	Alex Zerbini; Guy Williams; Robert Harcourt; Natalie Kelly; William de la Mare; Alastair Smith	Remote aerial deployment and sampling: development of a new sampling platform for large cetaceans	9,520	9,520	Full
2	Bengtson-Nash, Susan	Ari Friedlaender; Claire Garrigue; John Totterdell; Milton Marcondes; Natalia Botero Acosta	Extracting standardised health parameter data from five Southern Hemisphere humpback whale populations; facilitating direct inter-population comparison of relative circum-polar foraging success	40,230	40,230	Full
3	Branch, Trevor	Paula Olson; Virginia Andrews-Goff; Michael Double; Jennifer Jackson	Insights into Antarctic blue whale population structure and movements from photo-identification, Discovery marks and satellite tracks	30,255	30,255	Full
4	Buchan, Susannah; Stafford, Kate	Ana Širović; Ilse van Opzeeland; Carlos Olavarria	A comparison of acoustic population identifiers for fin whales off Chile and in the Southern Ocean: a passive acoustic monitoring approach for gaining insights into population structure	8,800	8,800	Full
5	Butterworth, Doug; Cooke, Justin	Els Vermeulen; Claire Charlton; Anabela Brandão; Andrea Ross-Gillespie; Maruano Sironi; Vicky Rowntree; Karina Groch; Michael Double; Mandy Watson; Will Raymont; Emma Carroll; Stephen Burnell	Multi-ocean assessment of southern right whale demographic parameters and environmental correlates	25,250	25,250	Full
6	Carroll, Emma; Childerhouse, Simon	Alexandre Zerbini; Virginia Andrews-Goff; Rochelle Constantine	Foraging ecology of the southern right whale in the Indo-Pacific	15,900	15,900	Full
7	Luciano Dalla Rosa	Pedro Fruet; Eduardo Secchi; Artur Andriolo; Daniela Drummond de Mello; Jorge Acevedo	Distribution, habitat use and health status of cetaceans in the Northern Antarctic Peninsula	50,794	0	None
8	Ari Friedlaender	Jeremy Goldbogen	Direct measures of the interactions between two baleen whale species and Antarctic krill, a novel assessment of species-specific differences in predator-prey dynamics around the Antarctic Peninsula	23,732	0	None
9	Fannie Shabangu, Els Vermeulen	Trevor Branch; Kathleen Stafford	Using bioacoustics to separate historic catches of Antarctic and pygmy blue whales from the former Durban whaling ground, western Indian Ocean	48,174	0	None
10	Jean-Benoit Charrassin <sup>1</sup>	Laurene Trudelle; Virginia Andrews-Goff	Application of satellite telemetry data to better understand the wintering strategies of humpback whales in the Southern Hemisphere – Part 2	51,600	0	None
			<b>TOTAL</b>	304,255	129,955	

<sup>1</sup> Submitted 5 days after the deadline and therefore not deemed eligible for assessment.