

## Draft Annotated Agenda

### Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group

11 July 2022 (15:00-17:00 GMT+1)

Location: Virtual via zoom

#### 1. Welcome and aims of the meeting

- i. Appointment of Co-chairs [Cat Bell and Alex Zerbini are proposed]
- ii. Appointment of Rapporteur [The Secretariat will offer to act as rapporteur]
- iii. Terms of Reference and aims of the meeting
- iv. Review of documents available to the meeting

*IWC Resolution 2014-4 agreed to establish a Working Group between the Conservation Committee and the Scientific Committee in order to propose a procedure to facilitate the implementation and follow-up of conservation recommendations. At its first meeting, on 4 June 2015, the Joint CC-SC WG adopted Terms of Reference. These are given in Annex 1 and were reviewed and revised during the 2021 joint meeting and are shown in Annex 2.*

#### 2. Adoption of the agenda

#### 3. Review of Terms of Reference and future work plan of the Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group

*This agenda item will allow for a discussion on any comments received intersessionally on the future Terms of Reference. There will also be an update from the small group on the development of a process for determining conservation priorities and the workplan of the Joint CC-SC WG, and related recommendations to the Commission. A paper from the small group will inform this discussion.*

- i. Evaluate and finalise the ToR
- ii. Update from small group on process for determining conservation priorities

#### 4. IWC database of recommendations

*At IWC66 in October 2016 the Commission approved a recommendation from the Conservation Committee to establish a web-accessible database of recommendations. Following a generous voluntary contribution from the UK, the database was developed, and initial population of the database undertaken by the Secretariat.*

*This agenda item will provide an opportunity for an update on the status of the database (including entry of historical data) and its use by the Scientific and Conservation Committees, and a discussion on data entry for recommendations not yet included in the database. The group might also want to discuss how the joint CC-SC could use the database in the future to review implementation.*

- i. Status update
- ii. Update on database use
- iii. Use by the Joint CC-SC WG.

## **5. Topics of mutual interest between the CC and SC**

An update paper with a brief summary on topics of overlap between the SC and CC will be provided. This paper will be briefly introduced, followed by discussion on the specific topics below.

- i. Species of urgent and emerging concern
- ii. Anthropogenic Underwater Noise
- iii. Chemical pollution
- iv. Strandings Initiative
- v. Ecosystem modelling/Ecosystem functioning
- vi. Climate change
- vii. Marine debris
- viii. Whale Sanctuaries
- ix. BMI- Collaboration with other organisations and regional efforts to address bycatch (Indian and Western Pacific Ocean basins)
- x. Pan-regional cetacean surveys in the Indian Ocean
- xi. Directed Take of Small Cetaceans (Caribbean, northern Europe/Arctic and Micronesia)

## **6. Matters to transmit to IWC68 and next SC meeting**

*This item will allow for agreement of any issues from the joint CC-SC discussions that need to be brought to the attention of the SC. This item will also allow for agreement on issues that need to be brought to the attention of Commissioners at the planned October 2022 meeting.*

## **7. Any other business**

## **Annex 1. Terms of Reference for the Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group**

The Joint CC-SC working group (CC-SC WG) is tasked with facilitating the communication, implementation, and follow-up of conservation recommendations.

The CC-SC WG shall:

- review, collate and prioritise conservation recommendations made by the Scientific and Conservation Committees where further efforts/actions are needed, in the first instance focussing on those from 2010 onwards;
- report, as appropriate, to the Commission on progress in delivering conservation recommendations;
- develop clear procedures/strategies for effectively transmitting and facilitating the implementation of conservation recommendations to and from the SC-CC WG to the appropriate Committees and sub-committees/working groups, including for further technical work;
- provide advice to the Conservation Committee on those priority conservation recommendations it could assist in implementing;
- provide feedback to the Scientific Committee on further advice and/or actions to assist in the implementation of conservation recommendations;
- respond to specific requests for support in facilitating the implementation of conservation recommendations from the Scientific and/or Conservation Committees.

The CC-SC WG will be 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.

## **Annex 2. DRAFT Revised Terms of Reference for the Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group**

The Joint Conservation Committee/Scientific Committee working group (CC-SC WG) is tasked with facilitating communication between the two Committees on matters related to the IWC's conservation priorities. The main benefit of the WG is to jointly discuss recommendations addressing those priority issues, and efforts to implement and track their progress by the Commission, relevant subsidiary bodies, Contracting Governments, intergovernmental organisations, accredited observers and other relevant organizations.

The CC-SC WG shall develop and promote a clear strategy and mechanism for:

- a) review, collate, and suggest priorities to the Commission about conservation issues and associated recommendations made by the Scientific and Conservation committees, while respecting the direction provided by the Commission to both Committees;
- b) the effective transmission of identified priority recommendations to the appropriate entities and stakeholders likely to implement the recommendations (e.g., Commission, its subsidiary bodies, Contracting Governments, and Intergovernmental organisations);
- c) review and report progress to the Commission, through the CC and SC committees, including use of the database of recommendations

An important component of the CC-SC WG is the facilitation of communication between the Committees on proposed work required by each to address priority conservation issues, including the direct communication and collaboration between convenors and standing group chairs and topic leads, the identification of the need for further technical work and/or more clear advice on the practical implementation of priority recommendations (e.g. identifying resources required, key actors and any socio-economic implications and if needed, identify the obstacles to achieve these recommendations).

The CC-SC WG will comprise at least the Chairs and Vice-chairs of the Scientific and Conservation committees, with encouragement of SC convenors and leads of the CC SWGs to attend. Additional expertise (or requests for participation by specified Contracting Governments) may be included as appropriate at the discretion of the Chairs of the SC and CC. Temporary working groups may be established to address topics requiring consideration at a more detailed or focused level. The group will be supported by the Secretariat.