

2023 Scientific Committee (SC69A) Plenary DRAFT Agenda

SUB-GROUP AGENDAS WILL BE DEVELOPED BY THE RELEVANT CONVENORS

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- 1.1 Chair's welcome and opening remarks
- 1.2 Remembrances
- 1.3 Appointment of rapporteurs
- 1.4 Meeting procedures and 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 Guidance for the format of recommendations and discussion of Recommendations Database
- 3.5 Review of Commission resolutions from 2022

4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS [OBSERVER]

- 4.1 Summary of Secretariat co-operation with other organisations
- 4.2 African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO)
- 4.3 Arctic Council [no official observer but report welcome]
- 4.4 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) [Secretariat]
- 4.5 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
- 4.6 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)
 - 4.6.1 *Scientific Council*
 - 4.6.2 *Conference of Parties*
 - 4.6.3 *Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)*
 - 4.6.4 *Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)*
- 4.7 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) [no official observer but report welcome]
- 4.8 Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
- 4.9 Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)

4.9.1 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

4.9.2 Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

4.10 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

4.11 International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

4.12 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

4.12.1. IUCN Red List status of cetaceans

4.12.2. Integrated Conservation Planning for Cetaceans

4.12.3. IUCN Task Force on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (formerly ICMMPA)

4.12.4. Co-ordination between IUCN and the IWC SC

4.13 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)

4.14 North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES)

4.15 Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean

4.16 Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) [Secretariat]

4.17 Marine Traffic

4.18 Other

5. GENERAL ASSESSMENT AND MODELLING ISSUES (IST)

5.1 Progress on previous recommendations

5.2 Biennial workplan

6. AWMP AND RMP IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED MATTERS (IST)

6.1 Implementation Review of North Atlantic fin whales (AWMP and RMP)

6.2 Plan for provision of AWS advice to the Commission in 2024

6.2.1 Consideration of gray whale hunts in the light of new information on inter alia the UME

6.2.2 Other hunts

6.3 Progress on previous recommendations

6.4 Biennial and long-term 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 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas bowhead whales

7.1.3 North Pacific gray whales

7.1.4 Common minke whale stocks off East Greenland

7.1.5 Common minke whale stocks off West Greenland

7.1.6 Fin whales off West Greenland

7.1.7 Humpback whales off West Greenland (see Item 8.2.7)

7.1.8 Humpback whales off St. Vincent and the Grenadines (see Item 8.2.7)

7.2 Biennial workplan

8. WHALE STOCKS NOT SUBJECT TO DIRECTED TAKES BY CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS

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 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 (including NIO populations) (SH)

8.2.2 Antarctic blue whales (SH)

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

8.2.4 North Pacific blue whales (NH)

8.2.5 North Atlantic sei whales (NH)

8.2.6 North Atlantic right whales (NH)

8.2.7 North Atlantic humpback whales (and see Items 7.1.7 and 7.1.8) (NH)

8.2.8 Rice's whales (NH)

8.2.9 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)

8.3.3 East Greenland-Svalbard-Barents Sea (Spitsbergen) bowhead whales (NH)

8.3.4 North Pacific right whales (NH)

8.3.5 Unusual mortality events affecting northern stocks (NH; also see Item 14.3.2)

8.3.6 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 abundance of breeding stock D)

8.4.2 Southern Hemisphere fin whales (SH)

8.4.3 Biennial workplan

8.5 Progress on previous recommendations

8.6 Biennial Workplan

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)

9.1.5 South American river dolphins (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

9.3 Progress on previous recommendations

9.4 Biennial workplan

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

10.1 Provide advice to other sub-groups on population structure for requested stocks

10.1.1 North Pacific gray whales

10.1.2 Franciscana

10.1.3 Sotalia guianensis

10.2 DNA data quality

10.3 DNA guidelines checklist

10.4 Recommendations on the avoidance of sample depletion

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

10.6 New genetic approaches (if submitted) for use by the Scientific Committee in addition to stock structure issues

10.7 Progress on previous recommendations

10.8 Biennial workplan

11. CETACEAN ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES AND STOCK STATUS (ASI)

11.1 Review of abundance estimates

11.2 Update and review abundance table maintained by the IWC, and abundance estimates on the IWC website

11.3 Methodological issues

11.3.1 Mark Recapture abundance estimation

11.3.2 Consider diagnostic methods for mark-recapture models

11.3.3 Progress on simulation software to evaluate methods for abundance estimates

11.4 Provide advice to the Commission on the status of stocks

11.4.1 Report from Steering Group

11.4.2 Progress with Modelling

11.4.3 Language, terminology and content development

11.4.4 Future work

11.5 Progress on previous recommendations

11.6 Biennial workplan

12. BYCATCH AND ENTANGLEMENTS (HIM)

12.1 IWC's Bycatch Mitigation Initiative

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

12.3 Review new methods and estimates of bycatch and entanglement rates, risks and mortality

12.4 Reporting of bycatch and entanglements (both small and large cetaceans) including National Progress Reports

12.5 Review mitigation measures for preventing bycatch and entanglement

12.6 Review of topics related to Hector's and Māui dolphins in New Zealand (with SM)

12.7 Review progress on definition of rmax for small cetaceans for use by the Scientific Committee

12.8 Review proposals for best practice protocols for releasing free-swimming, entangled small cetaceans

12.9 Progress on previous recommendations

12.10 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 Progress on previous recommendations

13.5 Workplan

14. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (E)

14.1 Chemical pollution

14.1.1 Review intersessional work on Pollution 2025 (Report on workshop on cumulative effects)

14.1.2 New information on pollution

14.2 Diseases of concern

14.2.1 Review progress in intersessional work on emerging diseases

14.2.2 Special primer on coronavirus surveillance in aquatic wildlife

14.2.3. Review new information on Diseases of Concern

14.3 Strandings and mortality events

14.3.1 Review progress of steering committee for IWC Strandings Initiative

14.3.2 New information on unusual mortality events

14.3.3 Other information

14.4 Climate change

14.4.1 Review report from intersessional workshop on climate change

14.4.2 Review new information

14.5 Underwater noise

14.5.1 Review progress from intersessional work on impacts to cetaceans from underwater noise

14.5.2 Review new information

14.6 Marine debris

14.6.1 Develop program to address Commission Resolution on Plastics

14.6.2 Review progress on recommendations on marine debris

14.6.2 Review new information

14.7 Habitat alteration as anthropogenic impact on cetaceans

14.8 SOCER report (Polar regions)

14.9 Review strategy to better integrate E workplan with other Committee sub-groups

14.10 Review strategy on developing and using a “One Health” approach

14.11 Progress on previous recommendations

14.12 Biennial workplan

15. ECOSYSTEM MODELLING

15.1 Review progress on estimating pre-exploitation and current abundance of large whale populations

15.2 Workshop on the Role of Cetaceans in Ecosystem Functioning: Gap Analysis

15.2.1 Discuss plans for upcoming workshop scheduled for November 2023

15.2.2 Review outcomes and recommendations

- 15.3 Review results of ecosystem modelling in the Antarctic Ocean and northeast Atlantic Ocean**
- 15.4 Review progress on estimating pre-exploitation and current abundance of large whale populations**
- 15.5 Progress on multi-species distribution models (MSDMs)**
- 15.6 Progress with development of individual-based energetic models (IBEMs)**
- 15.7 Modelling of competition among whales and relationships between whales and prey**
- 15.8 Standing topics**
 - 15.8.1 Progress on considering effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations*
 - 15.8.2 Review progress on evaluation of krill distribution and abundance*
- 15.9 Progress on previous recommendations**
- 15.10 Biennial workplan**

- 16. SMALL CETACEANS**
 - 16.1 Small Cetacean Use as Aquatic Wildmeat**
 - 16.1.1 Review new information*
 - 16.1.2 Develop four-year workplan*
 - 16.2 Recommendation Review**
 - 16.2.1 Review of topics related to Hector's and Māui dolphins in New Zealand (with HIM)*
 - 16.2.2 Other*
 - 16.3 South Pacific Island Small Cetaceans**
 - 16.4 Progress Previous Recommendations**
 - 16.4.1 Franciscana (with CMP)*
 - 16.4.2 Lahille's dolphin*
 - 16.4.3 Sotalia*
 - 16.4.4 Vaquita*
 - 16.4.5 Other*
 - 16.5 Review direct takes and live captures of small cetaceans**
 - 16.5.1 Direct takes*
 - 16.5.2 Live captures*
 - 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*
 - 17.1.2 Review responses to MAWI questionnaire*

17.2 Progress with regional reviews of whale watching

17.2.1 Sri Lanka

17.2.2 Latin America

17.2.3 Timor-Leste

17.2.4 Southern Ocean Sanctuary

17.2.5 Other priority regions

17.3 Collaborative work within the IWC

17.3.1 Update on IWC's Whale Watching Handbook

17.3.2 Communication with Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Whale Watching

17.3.3 Collaboration with other SC sub-groups on platforms of opportunity and citizen science

17.4 Progress on previous recommendations

17.5 Biennial workplan

18. WHALE SANCTUARIES (SAN)

18.1 Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SOS)

18.1.1 Finalise SOS reviewers

18.1.2 Discuss the SOS Review process

18.1.3 Receive documents on the SOS

18.1.4 Joint work with ASI to review SOS whale stocks and abundance

18.1.5 Joint work with the WW Sub-committee to review whale watching in the SOS

18.1.6 Other SOS review matters

18.2 New information for Indian Ocean Sanctuary

18.3 Progress on previous recommendations

18.4 Biennial workplan

19. EXTINCTION INITIATIVE

20. IWC LIST OF RECOGNISED SPECIES

21. IWC DATABASES AND CATALOGUES (PH AND GDR)

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

21.2 Progress with existing or proposed new catalogues (PH)

21.2.1 Right whale photo catalogues

21.2.2 Happywhale database

21.2.3 Flukebook

21.2.4 Southern Hemisphere Blue Whale Catalogue (SHBWC)

21.2.5 Antarctic Blue Whale Catalogue (ABWC)

21.2.6 Fin whale photo catalogues

21.2.7 Humpback whale photo catalogues

21.2.8 Other photo-identification catalogues

21.3 Progress with existing IWC databases (GDR, Secretariat)

21.3.1 Summary of IWC databases and current priorities

21.3.2 IWC National Progress Reports

21.3.3 Review database procedures, evaluate integration and consolidation of existing databases, and define rules for accessing data

21.4 Potential future IWC databases (GDR)

21.4.1 IWC database proposal pro forma

21.4.2 New proposals for IWC databases

21.5 Biennial workplan

22. MULTINATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AND NATIONAL SURVEYS (ASI)

22.1 Surveys that include IWC funding and/or support, including IWC-POWER and IWC-SORP

22.2 Surveys that seek IWC funding and/or request IWC oversight

22.3 Surveys that seek advice from the Committee regarding survey or analysis methods

22.4 Surveys seeking Committee endorsement

22.5 Other survey reports and plans

22.6 Biennial workplan

23. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE BUDGET

23.1 Report from the Budgetary Steering Group

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

23.3 Fund reallocations and contingencies for the Research Fund, Voluntary Fund for Small Cetaceans and SORP Voluntary Fund

23.4 Proposed budget for 2023-2024 developed under the Committee's guidelines

24. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES FOR THE BIENNIUM 2023-24 AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR 2024

25. WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE

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

25.2 Communications Initiative and matters related to reporting to the Commission

25.3 Capacity building and succession plan for the Scientific Committee

25.4 Update on data availability requests and consideration of potential updates/clarifications

25.5 Governance review update following IWC68

25.6 Joint Conservation Committee-Scientific Committee Working Group

25.7 Any other matters

26. PUBLICATIONS

27. ADOPTION OF REPORT