

Annex M

Intersessional E-mail Groups

This list contains the intersessional groups identified at SC68D (as at March 2023). It has been divided into the following group types:

- (1) **Steering Groups (SG):** these are groups that have been set up to ensure that particular meetings, workshops or identified pieces of work are completed by SC69A. They have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Committee within the context of their terms of reference (e.g. meeting budget spends, participants, agreements on parameters for analyses). Numbers are limited and members agreed at the meeting although the Convenor may request additional members or respond to late requests to be members. The expected outcomes will be either a workshop/meeting report or an analytical paper.
- (2) **Intersessional Correspondence Groups (ICG):** these are groups that have been set up to ensure progress on particular topics within the intersessional period. Membership is more flexible and open. It is expected that a written report on progress will be submitted to the Committee at SC69A.
- (3) **Advisory Groups (AG):** these are occasional groups established by the Committee to provide scientific and technical issues on specific issues if requested by a Contracting Government.

SC Agenda Item/Sub-Committee	Type	Group (short name)	Terms of Reference	Members
Item 8.1.1 IA	SG	North Pacific humpback whales	Further the preparations for the North Pacific humpback whale Comprehensive Assessment, including organizing an intersessional meeting.	Cheeseman (Convenor), Baker, Calambokidis, Clapham, Donovan, Herr, Katara, Katsumata, Kitakado, Ivashchenko, Matsuoka, Mizroch, Palka, Palacios, Privitera-Johnson, Punt, Steel, Zerbini, Urbán and Wade. Email: nphumpack@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.1.2 IA	SG	North Pacific sei whales	Finalise the North Pacific sei whale Comprehensive Assessment and summary document.	Palka (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, Cooke, Herr, Katara, Kitakado, Mizroch, Punt, Takahashi and Yoshida. Email: npsei@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.1.3 IA	SG	WNP common minke whales	Further the preparations for the western North Pacific common minke whales In-depth Assessment, including organizing an intersessional meeting.	Donovan (Convenor), Allison, Baker, Butterworth, de Moor, Hakamada, Herr, Hoelzel, Katara, Kitakado, Palka, Punt, Tiedemann, Wade, Wilberg and Yoshida. Email: wnpminke@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.1.3 IA	ICG	WNP common minke abundance	(1) Review the applicability of the accepted $g(0)$ estimate from one cruise to other cruises. (2) Investigate the possibility of estimation of additional variance. (3) Try to develop robust estimates for use in the in- depth assessments and/or to provide management advice and/or to provide broader estimates for the public.	Kitakado (Convenor), Butterworth, Donovan, Miyashita, Palka and Takahashi. Email: wnpcommminkeabun@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.2.4 NH	ICG	NP blue whales	Locate and/or analyse data on abundance, catches and stock structure to prepare for a future assessment.	Branch (Convenor), Brownell, Clapham, Ivashchenko, Matsuoka, Mizroch, Monnahan, Olson, Palacios, Širović and Sremba. Email: npbwa@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.2.5 NH	ICG	NA sei whales	Continue to identify and evaluate data on distribution, abundance, stock structure and catches, with a particular focus on the western North Atlantic.	Cholewiak (Convenor), Breiwick, Brownell, Mallette, Mizroch, Palka, Robbins, Rosenbaum and Weinrich. Email: nasei@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.2.7 NH	ICG	NA humpback whales	Identify and evaluate data available for a potential future assessment of North Atlantic humpback whales.	Robbins (Convenor), Allen, Allison, Cholewiak, Chosson, Clapham, Donovan, Jones, Katara, Lang, Mallette, Mattila, Øien, Palka, Palsbøll, Punt, Rosenbaum, Tiedemann, Vély, Weinrich, Wilberg and Witting. Email: nahumpback@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.2.7 NH	SG	NA humpback whales SG	Plan for an in-person intersessional meeting in 2022 or 2023 to advance the in-depth assessment of North Atlantic humpback whales.	Robbins, Donovan (co-Convenors) and ICG-4 members.

SC Agenda Item/Sub-Committee	Type	Group (short name)	Terms of Reference	Members
Item 8.3.2 NH	ICG	UMEs and assessments	Review information on Unusual Mortality Events (Item 14.3.2) for relevance to potential future assessments of Northern Hemisphere populations.	Cholewiak (Convenor), Mallette, Mattila, Palka, Rowles, Robbins and Weinrich. Email: umes@groups.iwc.int
Item 9.2.1 SH	ICG	Humpback whales in the northern Indian Ocean including the Arabian Sea	Engage a group composed of Arabian Sea humpback whale experts, veterinarians/cetacean health experts, and satellite tagging practitioners, to advise on best practices for a proposed renewed tagging effort, aimed at informing species distribution modelling and associated ship strike and bycatch risk assessment.	Willson (Convenor), Baldwin, Brownell, Cerchio, Collins, Gulland, Minton, Palacios, Robbins, Van Bresse, Weller and Zerbini. Email: niohumpbacks@groups.iwc.int
Item 9.2.1 SH	ICG	Advise on construction and analysis of southeast Pacific, southeast Indian Ocean and southwest Pacific mark recapture datasets	Advise on construction and analysis of southeast Pacific, southeast Indian Ocean and southwest Pacific mark recapture datasets, including timespan, regions to include, and modelling framework.	Jackson (lead), Barlow, Butterworth, Cooke, Double, Findlay, Fewster, Galletti, Gill, Herr, Jenner, Matsuoka, Möller, Olson, Salgado-Kent, Torres, Torres-Florez, Weinrich and Zerbini. Email: admrd@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.2.2.1 SH	ICG	Antarctic blue whale song	Low- and mid-latitude analysis of Antarctic blue whale song to establish any differences between wintering grounds.	Shabangu (Convenor), Buchan, Barlow, Branch, Cerchio, McCauley, Miller, Samaran, Širović, Sousa-Lima, Stafford and Torres. Email: antbluesong@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.2.3 SH	ICG	Antarctic blue whale population structure hypotheses	Consideration of options for proposing alternative population structure hypotheses.	Jackson (lead), Herr, Lang, Olson, Branch, Sremba and Torres-Florez. Email: antbluepop@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.2.3.3 SH	ICG	Southern right whale body condition	Finalise a global, standardised southern right whale body condition and visual health assessment protocol for IWC endorsement.	Vermeulen, Charlton (co-Convenors), Christiansen, Findlay, Gregory, Hörbst, Kent, Leslie, Minton and Moore. Email: srightcond@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.2.3.5 SH	ICG	Using satellites to study whales	Coordination of information, data, and code-sharing among research groups conducting active research using satellite images to monitor whales. This group aims to facilitate development of automated methods, avoid duplication of effort, and negotiate better tasking opportunities with satellite providers.	Clarke (Convenor), Alfaro, Alpizar, Archer, Arias, Baird, Baldwin, Bamford, Bell, Bejder, Borowicz, Burkhardt, Carroll, Castro, Charry, Cholewiak, Collins, Coscarella, Crespo, Cubaynes, Dalla Rosa, di Sciarra, Domit, Double, Elwen, Ferguson, Fernández, Fewster, Fretwell, Frias, García-Garin, Garita, Goetz, Green, Ham, Hines, Hodgins, Höeschle, Houliston, Houegnigan, Ivanchikova, Jackson, Jenner, Katara, Khan, Lauriano, Leaper, Lundquist, Mallette, Mizroch, Natoli, Neveceralova, Olavarría, Olson, Palacios, Palka, Panigada, Pisano, Plön, Porter, Ritter, Robbins, Rodofili, Rogan, Rowles, Schteinberg, Schubert, Sousa-Lima, Stack, Stewart, Stockin, Sucunza, Tissier, Torres-Florez, Tulloch, Urbán, Vermeulen, Viera, Voss, Watt, Weinrich, Wilkin and Zerbini. Email: satwhales@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.2.3.6 SH	ICG	Southern right whale calls	Assess what southern right whale call data exists offshore and at high latitudes (including IMOS and SOHN data), and consider appropriate analysis framework for using these data to assess southern right whale offshore distribution.	Vermeulen (Convenor), Burkhardt, Calderan, Carroll, Charlton, Findlay, Friedlander, Leaper, McCauley, Miller, Reyes Reyes, Shabangu, Širović, Ward and Webster. Email: srightcalls@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.2.3.6 SH	ICG	Southern right whale catch data	Compile new SRW catch series and update regional catch estimates.	Findlay (Convenor), Allison, Andrews-Goff, Azizeh, Bell, Carroll, Charlton, Chatwin, Double, Jackson, Katara, Kemper, Paton, Reeves, Richards, Smith, Tryniw, Vermeulen and Zerbini. Email: srightdata@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.2.3.6 SH	ICG	Southern right whale stock structure hypotheses	Review of the available historical and contemporary evidence for southern hemisphere stock structuring, develop stock structure hypotheses for review and ranking, based on available evidence; and identify data gaps where further work is required to discriminate Hypotheses.	Jackson (Convenor) Agrelo, Azizeh, Baker, Carroll, Charlton, Evans, Findlay, Galletti-Vernazzani, Groch, Matsuoka, Richards, Rosenbaum, Sironi, Tiedemann, Torre-Florez, Valenzuela, Vermeulen, Weinrich and Zerbini. Email: srightssh@groups.iwc.int
Item 8.2.3 SH	ICG	Southern right whale modelling	Progress towards the application of a common modelling framework on long-term sighting history datasets from southern right whale calving grounds to assess common: (1) population dynamics patterns; and (2) environmental drivers.	Charlton, Vermeulen (co-Convenors), Agrelo, Brandão, Butterworth, Carroll, Cooke, Double, Groch, Leaper, Rayment, Ross-Gillespie, Rowntree, Seyboth, Sironi and Watson. Email: sright@groups.iwc.int

SC Agenda Item/Sub-Committee	Type	Group (short name)	Terms of Reference	Members
Item 8.4.2 SH	ICG	Population structure	Conduct inter-regional comparisons of SH fin whale songs, similar to Širović <i>et al.</i> (2018) for blue whales.	Širović (Convenor), Aulich, Harris, Miller, Samaran, Shabangu and Van Opzeeland. Email: popst@groups.iwc.int
Item 11.1 ASI	SG	Abundance Steering Group (ASG)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate the intersessional review of abundance estimates by the ASI SWG. 2. At a pre-meeting for the next meeting, review abundance estimates, make recommendations to ASI, and consider progress on the Status of Stocks Website project. 	Givens, New (co-Convenors), Brownell, Donovan, Jackson, Katara, Kitakado, Palka, Porter, Robbins, Staniland, Walløe and Zerbini. Email: reviewofae@groups.iwc.int
Item 11.3 ASI	ICG	Abundance Review Process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop supplementary wording that explains how estimates in categories 1A, 1B, 2 and 3 might be used, and examples of the reasoning for choosing one category over another. 2. Consider changes to streamline the ASG review process for abundance estimates received regularly using consistent survey and analysis methods, e.g. as for ENP gray whales. 	Givens (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, Donovan, Jackson, New and Zerbini. Email: arp@groups.iwc.int
Item 11.1.13 ASI/SM	ICG	Franciscana abundance review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate the intersessional review and revision of franciscana abundance estimates. 2. Produce a report for presentation next year. 3. Provide estimates for which SM or CMP might request ASI review. 	Zerbini (Convenor), Andriolo, Cañadas, Cremer, Crespo, Danilewicz, Domit, Doniol-Valcroze, Donovan, Ferguson, Fortuna, Givens, Herr, Miller, Palka and Sucunza. Email: Franciscanaarg@groups.iwc.int
Item 11.5 ASI	SG	Status of Stocks Steering Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oversee the Status of Stocks Website Project, ensuring consistency and communication among the related ICGs. - Determine priority order in which species will be added to the website. - Receive draft material from other ICGs. Solicit review of draft content as needed for consistency, clarity, and accessibility to the appropriate audience. - Solicit SC approval of final material. - Organise creation of draft website. 	Givens, Staniland (co-Convenors), Cipriano, Fortuna, New, Punt, Tandy, Wilson and Zerbini. Email: sos-sg@groups.iwc.int
Item 11.5 ASI	ICG	Status of Stocks Model-based Assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine specifications for model-based assessments for the Status of Stocks Website project. Such assessments are to be based on completed SC assessments, <i>Implementation Reviews</i>, and past projects. 2. Run model-based assessments for the appropriate species. 3. Summarise modelling results and provide them to the Status of Stocks Group on Language, Terminology, and Content Development. 4. Draft technical explanation of assessment specifications and results, for provision to the same group. 	Givens (Convenor), Allison, Branch, Butterworth, Donovan, Katara, Palka, Punt and Wilberg. Email: sos-assessments@groups.iwc.int
Item 11.5 ASI	ICG	Status of Stocks group on language, terminology and content development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Status of Stocks Website text for explanation of concepts such as population dynamics, carrying capacity, definition of stocks/population, and scientific uncertainty. 2. Draft website text for comparison of IUCN Red List and IWC Status of Stocks assessments (item 4.12). 3. Finalise choices for terminology, labels, nature of statements about recovery, and similar aspects of the draft website. 4. Draft text for summary pages, ensuring consistent format and language, in consultation with species experts to be solicited by this group as necessary. 	Cipriano, Wilson (co-Convenors), Butterworth, DeMaster, Donovan, Givens, Katara, Lang, Staniland, Tandy, Wade and Zerbini. Email: sos-ltcd@groups.iwc.int
Item 11.1.6 ASI	ICG	North Pacific Sei Whale Review	Review the abundance estimates of Hakamada <i>et al.</i> (2009) and Hakamada and Matsuoka (2016) to better understand how the data were analysed, recommend at which level the estimates should be endorsed (and for which Categories), and assess how best to combine estimates across space and time to include estimates in the IWC Table of Accepted Abundance Estimates.	Punt (Convenor), Butterworth, Ferguson, Mizroch and Palka. Email: npseirev@groups.iwc.int

SC Agenda Item/Sub-Committee	Type	Group (short name)	Terms of Reference	Members
Item 11.4.3 ASI	ICG	Mark-recapture Abundance Estimation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider diagnostic methods for mark-recapture models. 2. Clarify the appropriate interpretation, endorsement, and use of estimates derived from data over long timeframes. 3. Advise on appropriate methods for mark-recapture abundance estimation from studies with very heterogeneous sources of data. 	Wade (Convenor), Butterworth, Fewster and Kelly. Email: markrecapae@groups.iwc.int
Item 11.2.2 ASI	ICG	IWC table text on spatial extent for mark-recapture and line transect estimates	Draft brief supplemental text for IWC Table of Accepted Abundance Estimates.	Butterworth (Convenor), Donovan and Wade. Email: spatex@groups.iwc.int
Item 11.2.1 ASI	ICG	Update IWC abundance webpage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update the IWC webpage on abundance estimates to incorporate selected abundance estimates endorsed at SC68D. 2. Delete abundance estimates from this webpage if necessary to ensure a consistent approach. 3. Consider amended explanation of a 'confidence interval' on this webpage. 	Givens (Convenor), Allison, Donovan, Katara and New. Email: abunweb@groups.iwc.int
Item 22.1 ASI	SG	IWC-POWER/SOWER	To provide advice on the 2022-2023 IWC-POWER cruises (including holding the Workshop and Planning Meetings), on data analyses, storage and requests for data/sample use of IWC-POWER/SOWER cruises.	Matsuoka (Convenor), An, Azeyanagi, Bizikov, Brownell, Clapham, Crance, Donovan, Fukui, Goetz, Gushcherov, Iida, Isoda, Kadota, Kato, Kelly, Katsumata, Kitakado, Miyashita, Murase, Palka, Pastene, Staniland, Taguchi, Wade, and Zerbini. Email: iwcpowersower@groups.iwc.int
Item 22.3 ASI	SG	IWC-ATLAFCO collaboration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule the workshops into modules (annual or biennial). 2. Identify potential SC scientists to invite to design and lead these workshops. 3. Prepare a proposal to this regard for presentation at the next meeting. 	Staniland (Convenor), Cerchio, Collins, Diallo, Freitas, Laamrich, Minton, Miyashita, Panigada, Pastene, Ploen, Ridoux, Tiedemann, Walløe, Yoshida and Zerbini. Email: comhafatisg@groups.iwc.int
ASI	SG	Indian Ocean pan-regional initiative	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compile additional sources of information (surveys, data sets etc) to that presented in SC/68D/ASI16, and further assess existing data for applicability to abundance estimation and ecological research. 2. Explore the design and development of the initiative, including the scale and scope, partnerships, roles governance structure and collaborations, and funding. 3. Convene virtual workshops or meetings with relevant experts, organisations and stakeholders across the region to create a network of interested collaborators and collect feedback on the proposed concept. 4. Identify potential external funding sources and develop proposals where appropriate. 5. Explore opportunities to engage with existing platforms of opportunity. 6. Prepare a detailed proposal on the pan-regional initiative for presentation at the next meeting. 	Katara (Convenor), Braulik, Cerchio, Collins, Dulau, Kelly, Kitakado, Palka, Seakamela, Willson and Zerbini. Email: iopriccs@groups.iwc.int
Item 10.1.2.1 SD&DNA	ICG	Gray whale population structure	To clarify the terminology used to describe the gray whale stock structure hypotheses; and to re-evaluate the plausibility of the hypotheses, including consideration of adding new variants if needed, to inform the Range-wide Review of the Status and Population Structure of gray whales.	Lang (Convenor), Bickham, Donovan, Hoelzel, Goto, Nakamura, Pampoulie, Punt, Scordino, Tiedemann and Weller. Email: graypopstruct@groups.iwc.int
Item 10.1.2.3 SD&DNA/ SM	ICG	Franciscana population structure	Summarise the data available from other (i.e., non-genetic) lines of evidence that could be used to infer population structure; evaluate the level of support for each of the proposed subdivisions based on this combined data and provide advice on future work (additional analyses, sample collection efforts) to address remaining questions.	Lang and Ott (co-Convenors), Andriolo, Archer, Buss, Cipriano, Cunha, Domit, Farro, Gariboldi, Hoelzel, Mendez, Pampoulie, Oliveira, Passadore, Secchi, Tiedemann, Torres-Florez and Zerbini. Email: franciscanapopstruct@groups.iwc.int
Item 10.1.2.3 SD&DNA/ SM	ICG	<i>Sotalia guianensis</i> population structure	Review genetic and other evidence relating to population structure in <i>Sotalia guianensis</i> ; provide advice on the proposed management unit delineations.	Lang and Caballero (co-Convenors), Archer, Baker, Briceño, Buss, Cipriano, Cunha, Domit, Fruet, Lunardi, Natoli, Sousa-Lima, Tiedemann, Torres-Florez, Zerbini. Email: sotaliapopstruct@groups.iwc.int

SC Agenda Item/Sub-Committee	Type	Group (short name)	Terms of Reference	Members
Item 10.2.1 SD&DNA	ICG	DNA quality	Review recent revisions in sections of the DNA quality guidelines that pertain to data produced using NGS approaches. Identify approaches to increase the visibility and use of the guidelines.	Tiedemann (Convenor), Archer, Baird, Baker, Bickham, Carroll, DeWoody, Hoelzel, Goto, Jackson, Lang, Palsbøll, Pampoulie, Sremba, Taguchi, Torres-Florez and Waples. Email: dnaquality@groups.iwc.int
Item 10.2.2 SD&DNA		Genetic data analysis	Generate a checklist of key aspects of the genetic data analysis guidelines and identify aspects of the guidelines that may need updating, particularly in the context of genomic methodologies and analysis. Identify approaches to increase the visibility and use of the guidelines.	Tiedemann (Convenor), Bickham, Buss, DeWoody, Hoelzel, Lang, Pampoulie, Sremba, Torres Florez and Waples. Email: gendata@groups.iwc.int
Item 10.3 SD&DNA	ICG	Sample depletion	Discuss and provide recommendation on genomic approaches to maximise the utility of tissue samples, particularly those in danger of depletion.	Lang (Convenor), Archer, Baker, Bickham, Buss, Carroll, Harmon, Hoelzel, Goto, Jackson, Natoli, Palsbøll, Robertson, Sremba, Taguchi, Tiedemann and Torres-Florez. Email: sampledepletion@groups.iwc.int
Item 10.4 SD&DNA	ICG	Terminology	Revisit the definitions that were previously put forward for stock-related terms at IWC 2014, particularly those related to large whale assessments, and revise them where necessary.	Tiedemann (Convenor), Baird, Bickham, Carroll, Cipriano, Hoelzel, Lang and Scordino. Email: terminology@groups.iwc.int
Item 15.1 E	SG	Pollution	Planning activities and work priorities for Pollution 2025 (SC 68C).	Holm (Convenor), Avila, Barreto, Brownlow, Cholewiak, Domit, Eisfeld-Pierantonio, Fernandez, Frey, Genov, Gulland, Kershaw, Nash, Pierce, Plön, Rowles, Simmonds, Schwaeye, Staniland, Stimmelmeyer, Stockin, Uhart, Vermuelen, Webster and Walløe. Email: pollution@groups.iwc.int
Item 15.4 E	ICG	Noise	Advance underwater noise topics of interest, including collaboration with the Conservation Committee and consideration of IMO MEPC outcomes on noise.	Borsani, Burkhardt, Cerchio, Cholewiak, Cosentino, Frisch-Nwakanma, Genov, Holm, Kinneging, Leaper, Lundquist, Miller, B., Plön, Renell, Reyes, Ritter, Rosenbaum, Simmonds, Širović, Sousa-Lima, Sutaria, Torres, Vrooman, Webster and Williams. Email: noiseicg@groups.iwc.int
E	ICG	Diseases of concern	Continue work.	Cholewiak, Colegrove, Davidson, Delaney, Fernandez, Gulland, Groch, Hernandez, Holm, IP, Lee, Marcondes, Mazzariol, Noren, Rowles, Simmonds, Sierra, Stimmelmayer, Tashima and Uhart. Email: diseasesofconcern@groups.iwc.int
E	ICG	Climate change	Continue work.	Barreto, Frey, Genov, Gulland, Holm, Frisch-Nwakanma, Mallette, Marcondes, Noren, Nunny, Palka, Simmonds, Sousa-Lima, Staniland, Stimmelmayer, Renell, Rowles, Tulloch and Vrooman. Email: climatechange@groups.iwc.int
E	ICG	Marine debris	Continue work.	Simmonds (Convenor), Baulch, Cholewiak, Dolman, Eisfeld-Pierantonio, Frey, Fossi, Frisch-Nwakanma, Genov, Gulland, Holm, Long, Malatji, Mallette, Marcondes, Mattila, Nunny, Pant, Perry, Pierantonio, Rowles, Sutaria, Svoboda, Warrie and Williams. Email: marinedebris@groups.iwc.int
15.5.1 E	ICG	One Health	TBD	Fisher, Gulland, Holm, Lee, Mallette, Marcondes, Noren, Plön, Renell, Rowles, Simmonds, Staniland, Stimmelmayer, Sucunza and Uhart. Email: onehealth@groups.iwc.int
SM	ICG	Straits of Gibraltar, killer whale	The ICG will continue to compile information on the novel behaviour of the Strait of Gibraltar killer whale subpopulation and when required, will seek input from other marine mammal behaviour experts and suggest appropriate management actions.	Esteban (Convenor), Bolaños-Jiménez, Carvalho, Consentino, García-Bellido, Genov, Jourdain, Nunny, Pitman, Porter, Rose, Samarra, Sequeira, Simmonds, Smith, Staniland, Ritter, Tixier and Towers. Email: sogkw@groups.iwc.int

SC Agenda Item/Sub-Committee	Type	Group (short name)	Terms of Reference	Members
SM/E	ICG	Beaked whales	The ICG will consider: i. harmonised response protocols for beaked whale strandings to ensure that the necessary datasets (e.g. pathology, meteorology prior to the stranding, oceanography, acoustic monitoring, and any information on use of high intensity sound sources) can be rapidly assembled to assist with the identification of the time, location and cause of the mortality event. Identifying which data are required for such an investigation will also highlight data collection gaps which could be prioritised to ensure such data are available when needed; and ii. improved data sharing between countries to better identify and investigate mortality events: and progress further work on beaked whales.	Simmonds (Convenor), Baird, Cholewiak, Fonesca, Iñiguez, Plon, Stimmelmayer, Trujillo and Zerbini. Email: beakedwhales@groups.iwc.int
EM	ICG	Best practices for species distribution modelling (SDMs) and multi-species distribution modelling (MSDM)	(1) to finalise the guidelines for single species distribution models (SDMs); (2) to develop guidelines for multi-species distribution models (MSDMs); (3) to continue to conduct a literature review of SDMs and MSDMs; and (4) to develop possible simulation platforms to evaluate SDMs and MSDMs.	Ferguson, Kitakado, Palacios (co-Convenors), Biuw, Burkhardt, Friedlaender, Genov, Herr, Kelly, McKinlay, Miller, New, Palka and Solvang. Email: msdm@groups.iwc.int
EM/ASI/SH/NH	ICG	Preparation of estimates of pre-exploitation and current abundance of large whale populations	Provide plausible sets of pre-exploitation and current abundance of populations of relevant large whale species in the Southern Ocean and the North Atlantic from literature and conduct additional analyses if needed.	Kitakado, Givens (co-Convenors), Allison, Biuw, Butterworth, Donovan, Ferguson, Haug, Jackson, Palka, Punt, Robbins, Solvang, Tulloch, Zerbini + CCAMLR and NAMMCO scientists. Email: pepecalpw@groups.iwc.int
Item 15.7.1 EM	ICG	Cetacean and ecosystem functioning: a gap analysis workshop	Prepare the 2nd Workshop under a Steering Group.	Kitakado (Convenor), Biuw, Butterworth, Cavanagh, Donovan, Freitas, Frisch-Nwakanma, Galletti, Haug, Porter, Punt, Ritter, Roman, Staniland, Suydam, Virtue and Zerbini + others. Email: cefgapanawmsp@groups.iwc.int
Item 17.1.2 WW	SG	Modelling and Assessment of Whale Watching Impacts (MAWI) Steering Group	Planning for and distributing the questionnaire, analysing the results.	New (Convenor), Baldwin, Cooke, Cosentino, Currie, Forestell, Frey, Jiménez-Assmus, Leaper, Minton, Noren, Parsons, Reyes, Robbins, Rose, C. Smith, Suydam, Vermeulen, Weinrich, Urbán and Webster. Email: modassmawi@groups.iwc.int
Item 17.1 WW	ICG	Human-induced behavioural changes of concern	Continue to monitor the relevant literature on, e.g. solitary sociable cetaceans, out of habitat cetaceans; seek to produce a new review of information for the Committee across the whole range of interactions with humans; review appropriate terminology (e.g. 'habituation'); and continue to consider the relevance of this topic to the work of the sub-committee, including how this topic might best be studied in future.	Simmonds (Convenor), Cosentino, Currie, Fonseca, Forestell, Minton, Nunny, Parsons, C. Smith, Suydam, Vail, Wells and Urbán. Email: hibcc@groups.iwc.int
Item 17.1 WW	AG	Communication with the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Advisory Group	Help provide advice to IORA when appropriate; facilitate communication between IORA and the sub-committee; and consider ways to promote appropriate training workshops.	Robinson, (Convenor), Baldwin, Iñiguez, New, Parsons, Seakamela, Simmonds, Smith, C., Suydam, Weinrich and Urbán. Email: commiara@groups.iwc.int
Item 17.3 WW	ICG	Timor-Leste whale watching	Address the outcomes of the scheduled meeting in 2021 between the Government of Timor-Leste and Committee members and to draft comments on the Timor-Leste draft guidelines for whale watching.	New, Porter (co-Convenors), Noren, Parsons, Rose, Ritter, Suydam and Urbán. Email: timorlesteww@groups.iwc.int

SC Agenda Item/Sub-Committee	Type	Group (short name)	Terms of Reference	Members
Item 17.3.2 WW	ICG	River dolphin interactions	Monitor, assess and report on commercial interactions, including watching, provisioning and swimming, with river dolphins, in the Amazon and elsewhere.	Trujillo (Convenor), Luna, Marmontel, Parsons, Porter, Rojas-Bracho, Suydam, Urbán and Webster. Email: riverdolphnint@groups.iwc.int
Item 17.4.2 WW	ICG	Communication between the CC's SWG WW and WW	Discuss development of better methods for disseminating Committee recommendations and advice on whale watching to the CC (joint with CC); discuss and identify <i>ex officio</i> members of the SWG.	Iñíguez (Convenor), Parsons, Rojas-Bracho, Simmonds, Slooten, Suydam and Urbán. Email: cccomm@groups.iwc.int
Item 17 WW	SG	Communications plan for outputs of WW and CC SWG	Develop a comprehensive communications plan and budget, to present to the Committee, Conservation Committee and Secretariat at SC/69A.	Rose (Convenor), Parsons, C. Smith and Urbán. Email: commwwandccswg@groups.iwc.int
Item 17 WW	ICG	Future of WW	Discuss future work of WW, including, <i>inter alia</i> , how to identify key regions or target species for review each year, who to invite as IPs, where and how to solicit primary papers.	Simmonds (Convenor), Parsons, Rojas-Bracho, Rose, Suydam, Truda-Palazzo and Urbán. Email: futureww@groups.iwc.int
Item 11.3 ASI	SG	Amendment of RMP Guidelines	Develop a set of specific instructions for the amendment of the RMP guidelines to consider model-based abundance estimates.	Staniland (Convenor), Butterworth, Cooke, Donovan, Herr, Kelly, Kitakado, Miller, New, Palka, Punt and Zerbini. Email: rmpguidelines@groups.iwc.int
Item 11.4 ASI	SG	Advice on Status of Stocks	Use the existing guidelines for the provision of advice to the Commission on status of stocks to develop a draft report for review by the Committee at SC68D for the species/regions identified.	Givens (Convenor), Allison, Branch, Brownell, Butterworth, Cooke, Donovan, Jackson, Katara, New, Palka, Porter, Punt, Staniland, Trujillo, Víkingsson, Walløe, Wilson and Zerbini. Email: status@groups.iwc.int
Item 11.6 ASI	ICG	NP minke abundance	(1) Review the applicability of the accepted <i>g(0)</i> estimate to other cruises. (2) Try to develop robust estimates for use in the in-depth assessments and/or to provide management advice and/or to provide broader estimates for the public.	Kitakado (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, Donovan, Hakamada, Katara, Kelly, Matsuoka, Miyashita, New, Palka and Punt. Email: npminkeabun@groups.iwc.int
SM	ICG	Franciscana review	Co-ordinate outcomes of CMP across sub-committees.	Porter and Trujillo (co-Convenors). Email: franciscana@groups.iwc.int
SM	ICG	Poorly documented takes of small cetaceans	Continue development of framework for SM work on Aquatic Wildmeat.	Porter (Convenor), Avila, Fisher, Hodgins, Ingram, Katara and Vrooman. Email: pdtsc@groups.iwc.int
SM	AG	Small Cetacean Task Team	Provide ongoing advice and support to established Task Teams and consider any new proposals.	Simmonds (Convenor), Donovan, Genov, Parsons, Porter, Reeves, Rojas-Bracho, Staniland, Thomas and Trujillo. Email: smallcetaceantaskteam@groups.iwc.int
SM	ICG	<i>Sotalia guianensis</i>	Continue review of the Guiana dolphin (<i>Sotalia guianensis</i>)	Domit (Convenor), Caballero, Florez-Torres, Porter, Sousa-Lima, Trujillo and Zerbini. Email: sotaliaworkshop@groups.iwc.int
SM	ICG	SM Review of Recommendations	Make progress on a review framework and propose a mechanism to establish regional and species assessment teams.	Trujillo (Convenor), Couto di Tullio, Fortuna, Hines, Iñíguez, Jimenez, Natoli, Porter, Scheidat, Slooten, Vrooman, Webster and Zerbini. Email: smrevrec@groups.iwc.int
SM	ICG	Lahille's Dolphin Task Team	Develop research priorities for the next 5 years and identify funding opportunities.	Vermeulen, Fruet (co-Convenors), Berninsone, Coscarella, Daura-Jorge, Iñíguez, Laporta, Smith and Von Fersen. Email: lahilles@groups.iwc.int
SM	ICG	Direct takes	Make progress on the analyses of the direct take data of small cetaceans compiled by the SC since 1977.	Porter (Convenor), Fisher, Fortuna, Hodgins and Katara. Email: directtakes@groups.iwc.int
SM	ICG	<i>Tursiops</i> taxonomy	Develop <i>Tursiops</i> taxonomy database and monitor new publications related to this issue.	Cipriano (Convenor), Natoli and Rosel. Email: turtax@groups.iwc.int
SM	AG	Management of the Solitary Sociable Dolphin in Northwest Spain (AG)	The AG will continue to assess information pertaining to the dolphin and its' interactions, providing advice to the Government of Spain, if requested and through established communication plan, address any significant developments as quickly and efficiently as possible.	Simmonds (Convenor), Capdevila, Eisfeld-Pierantonio, Fernandez, García-Bellido, García-Párraga, Nunny, O'Callaghan, Porter, Staniland and Torres. Email: mssdns@groups.iwc.int

SC Agenda Item/Sub-Committee	Type	Group (short name)	Terms of Reference	Members
SM	ICG	The South Pacific Island SM Group	To come.	Porter (Convenor), Amepou, Beasley, Baird, K., Baird, R., Baker, Bell, Childerhouse, Constantine, Fisher, Garrigue, Hines, Katara, Lawrence, Lundquist, Oremus, Poole, Stockin, Slooten and Trujillo. Email: spisland@groups.iwc.int
GDR	ICG	GDR workshop planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review data collection procedures across the IWC identifying need, use and overlap with external data holdings. In particular seek ways that processes can be simplified, and streamlined, to increase submission rates and minimise duplication of effort. [with a focus on National Progress Reporting]. - Scope areas of potential integration and consolidation of current IWC databases and report on their status. - Define rules/expectations surrounding data accessibility for databases with different levels of IWC support. - Review any new database requests from SC68D. 	Andrews-Goff, Fortuna, Hielscher, Iñiguez, Katara, Ki Sow, Lauriano, Mattila, O'Loughlin, Øien, Reeves, Staniland and Tandy. Email: gdrplan@groups.iwc.int
Item 13 HIM	ICG	Ship Strikes Data Review Group	To continue to assist the Ship Strike Coordinators in reviewing cases submitted to the IWC global database and to provide advice on how to reduce the backlog of cases.	Leaper (Convenor), Brownell, Cañadas, Double, Fortuna, Herr, Hines, Holm, Livermore, Mattila, O'Loughlin, Panigada, Ritter, Rowles and Weinrich. Email: ssdatareview@groups.iwc.int
Item 13 HIM	ICG	Ships Routeing Group	Consider how best to respond to requests for advice on routeing measures.	Leaper (Convenor), Bjørge, Donovan, George, Mattila, Panigada, Rojas-Bracho and Webster. Email: shipsrouteing@groups.iwc.int
12.9 HIM	ICG	Pinger interference advice group	Collaboration with Baltic range states and European Commission on technical issues associated with acoustic interference of military activities by pingers.	Carlen (Convenor), Bell, Berggren, Bjørge, Cosentino, Dolman, Leaper, Parsons, Plön Ritter, Simmonds and Staniland. Email: pinger@groups.iwc.int
12.8 HIM/IST	ICG	R _{max} Group	Develop a list of potential methods for estimating/setting R _{max} and an evaluation of the data requirements, strengths, and weaknesses of each approach.	Wilberg (Convenor), Butterworth, Cipriano, DeMaster, Donovan, Jackson, Lang, Mizroch, Punt, Slooten, Wade and Zerbini. Email: rmax@groups.iwc.int
HIM/SM	ICG	Small cetacean disentanglement	Develop best practice protocols for releasing free-swimming, entangled small cetaceans.	Minton (Convenor), Aranha, Baird, Genov, Kolesnikovas, Marmontel, Mattila, Porter, Renell, Rojas-Bracho, Simmonds, Trujillo and Wells. Email: smerng@groups.iwc.int
HIM	ICG	Krill fishery bycatch	Collaboration with CCAMLR on bycatch in Southern Ocean krill fishery.	Leaper (Convenor), Biuw, Favero, Johnson, Heinemann, Hines, Landry, Mattila, Meyer, Parker, Reeves, Söffker, Stimmelmayer and Walker. Email: krill@groups.iwc.int
HIM/SM	ICG	Steering group for Hector's and Māui dolphins spatial risk assessment	Organise reviews of topics related to spatial risk assessment for Hector's and Māui dolphins in New Zealand, including pre-meeting.	Staniland (Convenor), Cholewiak, DeMaster, Genov, Leaper, Minton, Porter, Suydam, Trujillo and Zerbini. Email: hecmaui@groups.iwc.int
ALL	SG	Group to assist the SC to transition to new budget and meeting schedules	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist the Committee in planning for a new reduced budget scenario and a revised meeting structure once the Commission agrees on a new budget for the IWC. 2. Provide advice to the Commission with respect to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the existing SC meeting format and possible changes to optimise a new meeting schedule, - the use of the SC Research budget to support virtual meetings and in-person meetings, - the alignment of SC and Commission; and - meetings should the SC meeting schedule change. 	Zerbini, Porter, Bartmeier, Bjørge, Choi, Double, Fortuna, Iñiguez, Nelson, Palka, Seakamela, Sigurðsson, Stachowitsch, Staniland and Tandy. Email: scbudget@groups.iwc.int

SC Agenda Item/Sub-Committee	Type	Group (short name)	Terms of Reference	Members
4.12	SG	IUCN/IWC Coordination Group	<p>(1) Develop a process to enhance coordination among IUCN, the IWC SC, and other relevant parties involved in conservation actions for cetaceans.</p> <p>(2) Facilitate coordination between those responsible for managing IUCN Red List assessments for cetaceans and developers of the IWC Status of Stocks Initiative, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) providing input to the Status of Stocks Steering Group regarding prioritisation of cases to consider; (b) assisting the Status of Stocks Group on Language, terminology, and content development in drafting website text for comparison of IUCN Red List and IWC Status of Stocks assessments; and (c) advising all groups working on this project, as necessary, to help avoid duplication of effort, the appearance of conflicting results and public confusion about whale statuses. 	<p>Braulik, Porter (co-Convenors), Abel, Allison, Andriolo, Cipriano, Cooke, Donovan, Fortuna, Givens, New, Panigada, Punt, Reeves, Sigurðsson, Staniland, Taylor, Trujillo, and Zerbini.</p> <p>Email: iucniwc@groups.iwc.int</p>