

Terms of Reference for the Ship Strikes Expert Panel

The Expert Panel will assist in the delivery of the IWC's Ship Strikes Strategic Plan by providing scientific and technical advice to the Data Manager and Working Group on Ship Strikes (WG-SS) in support of implementation of the Ship Strikes workplan including through:

- Supporting the development and use of the ship strikes database, including through providing advice on data use requirements and data access platforms
- Collate information on high-risk populations and areas and on monitoring of impacts of mitigation measures taken including supporting reviews by the Scientific Committee
- Input of technical expertise to support development and application of mitigation evaluation/assessment measures and the review of technological approaches
- Work with the Data Manager, Scientific Committee (SC) and others to develop tailored advice specific to different shipping sectors and related training/capacity development programmes
- Work through the Scientific Committee to provide advice and support to states bringing forward mitigation proposals on stakeholder engagement, design considerations or routing or other measures, and the requirements for proposals made to IMO, considering place-based conservation activities, such as the identification of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs).

Membership

Required expertise

The Expert Panel should include a range of expertise including in:

- Coastal and offshore shipping including an understanding of the operational requirements and constraints of different shipping sectors including cargo, passenger, and offshore support vessels
- Cetacean distribution patterns and ship strike risk assessments
- Cetacean health/injury assessment (strandings/bycatch and entanglement/strikes)
- Communication of information on cetaceans to relevant stakeholders
- Ship strikes mitigation, monitoring and assessment approaches (cetacean and other taxa e.g., turtles)
- Marine economics and social science/community engagement
- Policy development/influencing expertise (i.e., in achieving effective change of shipping/cruising etc and other relevant policies)
- Direct experience in working with shipping industry, IMO and industry bodies

To ensure a diversity of views it could be desirable to have more than one panel member with each type of expertise. However, some experts may have multiple skills. Expertise should be complemented by a regional and gender balance if possible.

The membership of the Expert Panel shall select (by vote if necessary) a Chairperson from among the membership to serve a two-year term of office following which the Chair may be reappointed or replaced.

Selection process

IWC Contracting Governments, members of the Scientific Committee and accredited observers, as well as other IGOs relevant for ship strike issues (e.g., IMO, CMS etc.) will be invited to nominate

individuals with relevant expertise to the Expert Panel. Such individuals can be experts currently involved in the IWC and its Committees, or external candidates.

It is envisaged that the Expert Panel will be composed of a maximum of 20-25 experts. The panel should be of a manageable size whilst securing a sufficient level of representation of expertise. The process for agreeing the membership of the Panel is outlined in Annex 1 and the process for re-nomination is outlined in Annex 2.

Term of service

The term of service will be four years, following which members may be reappointed according to the process set out in Annex 2. An evaluation of membership will be undertaken by the Secretariat and Chair of the WG-SS before the end of the four-year appointment period based on the availability and participation of members, and action taken to address any vacancies or gaps in expertise.

Annex 1: Process for appointment of the membership of the Expert Panel

Nominations will be sought through a Circular that will go out to Commissioners and Contracting Governments, Members of the Scientific Committee and the Conservation Committee and Accredited Observers. The circular will identify the specific gaps in areas of expertise and geography which would be a priority for the Expert Panel membership.

The Secretariat will send formal letters to other IGOs and follow this up with informal contacts and online mailing lists relevant to cetacean conservation and research.

Before making a nomination, people will be asked to discuss with the nominee that they are willing and able to commit to serving on the Panel. Panel members will be asked to commit to active engagement in Expert Panel discussions.

Nominations should be accompanied by a short supporting statement by the nominee (max. 500 words) and a CV setting out the prospective member's expertise, abilities and willingness to serve on the Expert Panel.

A sift of nominations will be undertaken by a smaller group, chaired by the Chair of the Working Group on Ship Strikes and also consisting of the Convenor of Non-deliberate Human Induced Mortality (HIM); Chair of the Conservation Committee (or a nominee); Chair of the Scientific Committee (or a nominee), Chair of the Data Review Group, Data Manager and Secretariat. Proposals will then be presented to the WG-SS for comments and endorsement.

Annex 2: Process for re-appointment of members of the Expert Panel

Prior to the end of the four-year appointment period for Expert Panel members, the Data Manager and Chair of the WG-SS will approach Expert Panel members to discuss their willingness, interest and availability to remain on the Expert Panel for another four-year term. Panel members who wish to re-nominate themselves shall provide a brief cover letter indicating that they wish to be nominated and outlining their commitment. Re-nominations will be discussed and agreed by the smaller group described in Annex 1.