

Annex A

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H = Head of Delegation; AH = Alternate Head of Delegation; V = Presenting virtually

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Annex B

Agenda

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
 - 4.1 Summary of Secretariat co-operation with other organisations
 - 4.2 African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO)
 - 4.3 Arctic Council
 - 4.4 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - 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)
 - 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 (SPA) of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean
 - 4.16 Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP)
 - 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 (CMPs)
 - 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 North Atlantic humpback whales
 - 10.1.3 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort bowhead whales
 - 10.1.4 Franciscana
 - 10.1.5 *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 r_{max} 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 Other information
- 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 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
 - 14.6.3 Review new information
- 14.7 Habitat alteration as anthropogenic impact on cetaceans
- 14.8 SOCER report (Indian Ocean)
- 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
 - 15.3 Review results of ecosystem modelling in the Antarctic Ocean and northeast Atlantic Ocean
 - 15.4 Progress on multi-species distribution models (MSDMs)
 - 15.5 Progress with development of individual-based energetic models (IBEMs)
 - 15.6 Modelling of competition among whales and relationships between whales and prey
 - 15.7 Standing topics
 - 15.7.1 Progress on considering effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations
 - 15.7.2 Review progress on evaluation of krill distribution and abundance
 - 15.8 Progress on previous recommendations
 - 15.9 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

Annex C

List of Documents

SC/69A/ASI/

01. OLSON, P.A., KINZEY, D., DOUBLE, M.C., MATSUOKA, K. AND FINDLAY, K. Capture-recapture estimates of abundance of Antarctic blue whales. 13pp.
- 01rev1. OLSON, P.A., KINZEY, D., DOUBLE, M.C., MATSUOKA, K. AND FINDLAY, K. Capture-recapture estimates of abundance of Antarctic blue whales. 18pp.
02. CRESPO, E.A., ARIAS, M., SUEYRO, N., GRANDI, M.F. AND COSCARELLA, M.A. Abundance estimation of franciscana dolphins by means of aerial surveys in Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, with comments on mortality rates. 12pp.
03. HANSEN, R.G. Abundance of bowhead whales (*Balaena mysticetus*) in West Greenland, 2022. 11pp.
- 03rev1. HANSEN, R.G. Abundance of bowhead whales (*Balaena mysticetus*) in West Greenland, 2022. 18pp.
- 03rev2. HANSEN, R.G. Abundance of bowhead whales (*Balaena mysticetus*) in West Greenland, 2022. 18pp.
04. DIALLO, S.T., FOFANA, M., MAOMOU, H., WAGUE, A., GUEYE, A., BARAI, E.A. AND MOSES, K. Cruise report of the COMHAFAT cetacean sighting survey in the coastal waters of northwestern Africa (Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone). 25pp.
05. DIALLO, S.T. Research plan for the 2023 COMHAFAT cetacean sighting survey in the coastal waters of western North Africa. 7pp.
06. CIPRIANO, F., WILSON, K. AND GIVENS, G.H. Overview of the Status of Stocks Initiative, and intersessional progress of the group on language, terminology, and website content development. 44pp.
07. GIVENS, G.H. AND STANILAND, I. Report of the Status of Stocks Initiative Steering Group for the 2022-2023 Intersessional Period. 3pp.
08. LEAPER, R., COLLINS, M.A., CALDERAN, S.V., IRVINE, R., LISZKA, C., OLSON, P. AND JACKSON, J. Cruise report from winter surveys (May-September 2022) around South Georgia (Islas Georgias del Sur). 11pp.
09. MORSE, L., CRANCE, J., YOSHIMURA, I., KATSUMATA, T. AND KASAI, H. Cruise report of the 2022 IWC-Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research (IWC-POWER). 48pp.
10. KATSUMATA, T., KIM, Y., KAWABE, S., YAMAZAKI, M., IRIE, A., KAWAJIRI, K., ISODA, T., MAKI, K., SASAKI, Y. AND MATSUOKA, K. Results of the Japanese dedicated cetacean sighting survey in the North Pacific in the 2022 summer season. 14pp.
- 10rev1. KATSUMATA, T., KIM, Y., KAWABE, S., YAMAZAKI, M., IRIE, A., KAWAJIRI, K., ISODA, T., MAKI, K., SASAKI, Y. AND MATSUOKA, K. Results of the Japanese dedicated cetacean sighting survey in the North Pacific in the 2022 summer season. 14pp.
11. PARK, K.J., YOO, J.T., LEE, K.L., LEE, M.K., KU, J.E., HAN, I.W. AND CHOI, S.G. Plan for the Korean sighting survey in Korean waters in 2024. 5pp.
12. HAKAMADA, T., TAKAHASHI, M., KATSUMATA, T., ISODA, T. AND MATSUOKA, K. Research plan for Japan's dedicated cetacean sighting surveys in the North Pacific Ocean in summer 2023. 10pp.
13. ISODA, T., KATSUMATA, T., KIM, Y., OMUKAI, C., TERUYA, S., MIYAGI, M., NAGATA, R., KASAI, H., ABE, N. AND MATSUOKA, K. Results of the Japanese Abundance and Stock structure Survey in the Antarctic (JASS-A) during the 2022/2023 austral summer season. 32pp.
14. ISODA, T., KATSUMATA, T., KIM, Y., HAKAMADA, T. AND MATSUOKA, K. An outline of the research plan for the 2023/2024 JASS-A survey in Antarctic Area IV-West. 10pp.
15. SUCUNZA, F., DANILEWICZ, D. AND ZERBINI, A.N. Addressing recommendations by the IWC Scientific Committee to improve estimates of abundance of the franciscana dolphin. 19pp.
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REPORTS OF INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS

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01. Report of the Workshop to Finalize the Review of the Franciscana, 4-5 June 2022, Curitiba, Brazil. 36pp.
02. Report of the Abundance Steering Group, 21-23 April 2023, Bled, Slovenia. 25pp.
03. A. Report of Technical Advisory Workshop on Planning for the Medium-Long Term IWC-POWER Programme, 6-10 September 2022, Tokyo, Japan. 35pp.
03. B. International Whaling Commission. Report of the IWC-POWER Planning Meeting, 6-10 September 2022, Tokyo, Japan. 15pp.
04. Report of the Workshop on Hector's and Maui dolphins in New Zealand: consideration of spatial risk assessment of threats. April 22-23 2023, Bled, Slovenia. 79pp.
05. Report of the Workshop on the Conservation Management Plan for the Southern Right Whale Southwest Atlantic Population. June 1-2 2022, Curitiba, Brazil. 39pp.

PAPERS FOR INFORMATION

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01. EGUCHI, T., LANG, A.R. AND WELLER, D.W. 2022. Abundance and migratory phenology of Eastern North Pacific gray whales 2021/2022. *NOAA Tech. Mem. NMFS NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-668*. 13pp. [Available at: <https://doi.org/10.25923/x88y-8p07>].
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20. ANON. 2023. Bycatch mitigation for the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise. What to do if pingers are not an option? March 2023. 18pp.
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