

Report of the Joint CC-SC small group to design a process for identifying conservation priorities IWC Secretariat

Introduction

During the 2021 meeting of the joint CC-SC WG a small group was tasked with designing a process to 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.

The group consisted of Cosentino, Bell, Kimm, Porter, Staniland (Secretariat) with Webster (Secretariat) replacing Tarzia after her departure. In the absence of a convener Staniland co-ordinated the group's activities.

Progress

A paper was presented at the 2022 Joint CC-SC working group. The meeting identified three potential criteria for "scoring" the importance of different topics.

- Issues that affect species that are most threatened
- Issues that are related to ASW activities
- The likelihood of success and/or impact of IWC action

It was agreed that a better approach than scoring the criteria would be to use general categories such as low, medium and high. To highlight the status of the individual species a link to the IUCN status was suggested. It was also agreed that the table should reflect the Database of Recommendations but with some measure of clustering entries to be simple and concise.

The resulting table could then be filled out in discussions during Joint CC-SC meetings and the Commission could decide which criteria they wished to place most emphasis on.

Next steps

The draft table design needs to be tested with examples, and modified as necessary to ensure the final design is suitable for its intended use. Once the Joint CC-SC working group are happy to proceed a final version will be presented to Commission for their consideration.