

Annotated Agenda

Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group

Online, 9 May 2024 (13:30-15:30 BST)

1. Welcome and aims of the meeting

- i. Appointment of Co-chairs [Jack Collier and Alex Zerbini are proposed]
- ii. Appointment of Rapporteur [The Secretariat will offer to act as rapporteur]
- iii. Terms of Reference and aims of the meeting (Annex 1)
- iv. Review of documents available to the meeting

IWC Resolution 2014-4 agreed to establish a Working Group between the Conservation Committee and the Scientific Committee in order to propose a procedure to facilitate the implementation and follow-up of conservation recommendations. At its first meeting, on 4 June 2015, the Joint CC-SC WG adopted Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference were reviewed and revised during the 2021 joint meeting and subsequently adopted at IWC68. These are given in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Future work plan of the Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group

This agenda item will allow for an update from the small group on the development of a process for determining conservation priorities and the workplan of the Joint CC-SC WG, and related recommendations to the Commission. A paper from the small group will inform this discussion.

- i. Update from the small group on the process for determining conservation priorities including use of the Database of Recommendations (DoR) by the Joint WG and IWC cooperation with other organisations.
- ii. Matters arising from IWC68
 - a. Timing of CC/SC meetings once SC moves to biennial
- iii. Matters arising from SC69B
 - a. An additional document with relevant Recommendations from SC69B will be available to review and assist discussion of priorities and actions

4. Topics of mutual interest between the CC and SC

A highlights paper will provide a brief list of issues requiring attention by the Joint WG (CCSC_MAY24_xx). Full details can be found in the progress reports to SC. This paper will be briefly introduced, followed by discussion on the specific topics below.

- i. Bycatch Mitigation Initiative (BMI)
- ii. Conservation Management Plans
- iii. Ship Strikes
- iv. Whale watching
- v. Anthropogenic Underwater Noise
- vi. Marine debris and the Plastics Resolution
- vii. Ecosystem modelling/Ecosystem functioning
- viii. Chemical pollution

- ix. Climate change
- x. Species of urgent and emerging concern
- xi. Whale Sanctuaries
- xii. Small cetaceans and Task Teams

5. IWC database of recommendations

At IWC66 in October 2016 the Commission approved a recommendation from the Conservation Committee to establish a web-accessible database of recommendations. Following a generous voluntary contribution from the UK, the database was developed, and population of the database undertaken by the Secretariat.

This agenda item will provide an opportunity for an update on the status of the database and its use by the Scientific and Conservation Committees.

- i. Update on database status and use

6. Matters to transmit to the CCPG and next SC meeting

This item will allow for agreement on issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Conservation Committee Planning Group at the planned 22 May 2024 meeting.

The next Scientific Committee meeting will be 2026

7. Any other business

Annex 1. Terms of Reference for the Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group (endorsed IWC68)

The Joint Conservation Committee/Scientific Committee working group (CC-SC WG) is tasked with facilitating communication between the two Committees on matters related to the IWC's conservation priorities. The main benefit of the WG is to jointly discuss recommendations addressing those priority issues, and efforts to implement and track their progress by the Commission, relevant subsidiary bodies, Contracting Governments, intergovernmental organisations, accredited observers and other relevant organizations.

The CC-SC WG shall develop and promote a clear strategy and mechanism for:

- a) 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;
- b) the effective transmission of identified priority recommendations to the appropriate entities and stakeholders likely to implement the recommendations (e.g., Commission, its subsidiary bodies, Contracting Governments, and Intergovernmental organisations);
- c) review and report progress to the Commission, through the CC and SC committees, including use of the database of recommendations.

An important component of the CC-SC WG is the facilitation of communication between the Committees on proposed work required by each to address priority conservation issues, including the direct communication and collaboration between convenors and standing group chairs and topic leads, the identification of the need for further technical work and/or more clear advice on the practical implementation of priority recommendations (e.g. identifying resources required, key actors and any socio-economic implications and if needed, identify the obstacles to achieve these recommendations).

The CC-SC WG will comprise at least the Chairs and Vice-chairs of the Scientific and Conservation committees, with encouragement of SC convenors and leads of the CC SWGs to attend. Additional expertise (or requests for participation by specified Contracting Governments) may be included as appropriate at the discretion of the Chairs of the SC and CC. Temporary working groups may be established to address topics requiring consideration at a more detailed or focused level. The group will be supported by the Secretariat.