

# Annex I

## Working Group on IWC Global Databases and related issues

### 1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Double thanked members for attending the meeting and reminded the Working Group of the terms of reference as stated in Item 2. The working group on IWC Global Databases and Related issues (GDR) aims to assess the utility and support requirements of all IWC databases, relevant to the Scientific Committee's work.

#### 1.1 Appointment of Rapporteur

O'Loughlin was appointed as rapporteur.

#### 1.2 Adoption of agenda

The adopted agenda can be found in Appendix 3.

#### 1.3 Documents available

SC/69B/GDR/WP02, SC/69B/GDR/WP03, SC/69B/GDR/WP04

### 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

This intersessional working group will assess the utility and support requirements of all IWC databases relevant to the work of the Scientific Committee. Specifically, it will:

1. Collate summary information on all IWC databases relevant to the SC;
2. Summarise data use by the SC for each database;
3. Provide recommendations to improve integration, content and workflows;
4. Review technical progress on existing databases or databases under development;
5. Consider needs and specifications for potential new databases, including developing simple technical guidelines on new proposals;
6. Produce a budget and workplan for the development and implementation of existing and new databases.

### 3. PROGRESS WITH EXISTING IWC DATABASES

#### 3.1 Summary of IWC databases and current priorities

The Working Group was reminded that all future SC-related databases and web applications hosted by the Secretariat will be based on paid fully-managed cloud hosting plans and that any existing or proposed databases must be budgeted for using zero-based budgeting to be presented to the Commission for approval. Therefore, it is important to review and prioritise new, existing and proposed databases and identify those which are no longer needed in order to keep these costs low and provide value for money.

The current list of SC-related databases that are in use, in development or planned are listed in the tables

in Appendix 1. These are separated into those from the Scientific Committee that are in use or under development (Table 1), those that have been proposed but have been inactive in 2023-2024 (Table 2), proposals for new databases (Table 3) and those managed by the Secretariat for other IWC Committees (Table 4), or core productivity (Table 5).

The Working Group reviewed and updated the current list of databases developed to support the work of the SC. The Working Group also identified the databases that should be prioritised for development or maintenance in the intersessional period up to SC70 (Table 1).

### 3.2 IWC National Progress Reports

The Working Group again acknowledged the low number of National Progress Reports (NPRs) submitted to SC69B. The Working Group discussed the purpose of the National Progress Reports, data submission challenges and the need to evaluate new methods to gather relevant data for the SC.

The Working Group was also made aware of InforMEA (<https://www.informe.org/>); a platform to find national reports provided through many Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

In discussion, the Working Group acknowledged the utility of the current National Progress Reports for some countries but that other countries would prefer to provide data in other formats. It also noted that some data provided to the IWC were not captured in NPRs, such as catch data.

The Working Group **agreed** to consider NPRs as part of the ICG proposed under Item 4.2. It also **agreed** that greater flexibility around data submission and reporting processes with greater interconnectivity between IWC databases will better capture and improve the utility of all national data submissions.

### 3.3 Review database procedures, evaluate integration and consolidation of existing databases, and define rules for accessing data

Discussion is presented under Item 4.2.

## 4. POTENTIAL FUTURE IWC DATABASES

### 4.1. IWC database proposal pro forma

The Working Group was reminded of the IWC database request proforma developed by GDR previously (IWC, 2022, Annex N). The Working Group discussed the use of the proforma and the potential to develop an online form for improved tracking of requests.

**Attention: S**

*The Working Group **recommends** the Secretariat explore transforming the database request proforma into an online form for SC70.*

### 4.2. New proposals and IWC databases

The Working Group received two proposals for the development and support of new IWC databases (see

Table 3).

Title	Development costs	Hosting costs	Coordination and data entry costs
Cetacean Marine Debris Interactions Database	£25,000	£200/month	£5,000 per year
Global Cetacean Strandings Database	£23,000	£100/month	£10,000 per year

A third proposal was received after the Working Group met which related to data and webpages on cetaceans and pollution hosted by St. Andrews University:

1. Pollution Information for Cetaceans Database<sup>1</sup>
2. IWC Contaminant Explorer<sup>2</sup>

During discussions, managers of regional and national strandings databases offered to share their experiences and examples of their databases to assist in the development of these proposed databases.

Lysenko mentioned the Dominican Republic developed a Decision Support System, which required the development of a database at the national level. They noted the challenges of working with multiple sources of information and numerous topics and that one objective of the IWC information management system must be to serve as a database for decision-making.

While the Working Group considered the costings for development, hosting and maintenance in the two proposals were reasonable it recognised the ever-increasing overall costs to the Secretariat and Research Funds to host, maintain and update SC-related IWC databases. It questioned whether the two databases needed to be 'stand-alone' or if savings could be made by constructing a single database and interface that could address the stated objectives. The Working Group also suggested there may be efficiencies and advantages in increasing the interconnectivity with current IWC data holdings such as the ship-strike, catch and progress report databases.

**Attention: SC**

*The Working Group **recommends** an ICG review all SC-related data holdings and develop a strategy to allow greater interconnectivity between databases and reduced maintenance and hosting costs.*

The Working Group received an update from SC/69B/REP/05 on the Southern Right Whale (SRW) Catch Series Workshop. The workshop suggested the establishment of an Intersession Correspondence Group (ICG) to proceed with the work on the revision of the catch series. It was noted the ICG will work on creating a catch histories database to be used for assessment of Southern Right Whale.

**Attention: SC, S**

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.smru.st-andrews.ac.uk/IWC\\_PCB\\_Cet\\_Pop\\_Model/](https://www.smru.st-andrews.ac.uk/IWC_PCB_Cet_Pop_Model/)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.smru.st-andrews.ac.uk/IWC\\_Contaminant\\_Explorer/](https://www.smru.st-andrews.ac.uk/IWC_Contaminant_Explorer/)

*The Working Group **recommends** the SRW Catch Series ICG develop a schema as similar as possible to the existing IWC catch scheme and consult with the Secretariat and GDR Working Group during the development process.*

## 6. BIENNIAL WORKPLAN

The intersessional correspondence group (ICG) was re-established and will report to SC70.

Title	Terms of Reference	Members
SC Database management strategy and National Progress Report	(1) Further develop data management strategy, including consideration of all data submission processes and related IWC databases (see Table 1); (2) Consider ongoing maintenance, resourcing, capacity needs for SC-related IWC databases; (3) Review the information received from the National Progress Report questionnaire and continue to assess ways to improve the submission rates, data quality and value of these reports.	Allison, E. Bell, Branch, Barreto, Charlton, Double, Fortuna, Katara, Ki Sow, S. Reeves, Sigurðsson, Staniland (convenor), O'Loughlin, Tandy, Wilkin, Zerbini.

### REFERENCES

International Whaling Commission (2022). Report of the Scientific Committee. Annex N. Data proforma. *J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* (Suppl.) 24.

**Appendix 1. Table 1 – Secretariat-managed Scientific Committee Databases**

Database/Application	Status	Work Required	SC priority for development	Development progress	SC priority for maintenance	SC Sub Committee/Group
Review of IWC data holdings	Starting 2024	Develop and implement strategy for integrated data management. New database structures will deliver fewer stand-alone databases and allow greater opportunity to integrate data flows and analyses	High	Starting 2024	NA	ALL
Catch Summary Database	Live	see SC69A_GDR02	High	Ongoing	High	IST/IA/ASI
Discovery Marking Data	Live	Currently includes all species in the N. Atlantic and Antarctic waters. For the N. Pacific, Sei and Bryde's whales are included and the addition of other species is currently stalled.	NA	Completed	Medium	ASI/IST/IA
Individual Catch Database	Live	see SC69A_GDR02, integration of historical data from multiple sources	High	Ongoing	High	IST/IA/ASI
Journal <a href="https://journal.iwc.int/">https://journal.iwc.int/</a>	Live	We have improved access to the JCRM archive by moving all volumes to OJS. We are now in the process of improving access to the JCRM Supplements (SC Reports) by moving these to OJS.	NA	Completed	High	JCRM Editorial Board
National Progress Reports <a href="https://portal.iwc.int/">https://portal.iwc.int/</a>	Live	Replace aging software. Consider under of Review of data holdings.	High	Ongoing	Low for current system	ALL
Research & Data Requests <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/wEmk6Py8U5">https://forms.office.com/r/wEmk6Py8U5</a>	Live	None required.	Medium	Completed	High	ALL
SH Blue Whale Catalogue <a href="https://www.bluewhalecatalogue.org/">https://www.bluewhalecatalogue.org/</a>	Live	Migrated to IWC server - development ongoing	None required	Ongoing	High	SH/CMP/PH/IA
Ship Strikes <a href="https://portal.iwc.int/">https://portal.iwc.int/</a>	Live	Bulk import tool (CSV) - Not done, but potential dataset arriving summer 2024 to develop this on.  Allow data to be submitted via API directly from country databases - Not done, low priority.  Update records found to have errors - Mostly done. Vessel and species finished, encoding errors almost finished, updating NW Mediterranean data partially done.	Medium	Ongoing	Medium	HIM/IA/IST
IWC photographic cruise database and archive	Live	Updates only on utility of database such as such as integrated sightings, photo-ID, database (in progress).	Medium	Ongoing	High	PH/ASI/NH/IA/IST
Small Cetaceans Catches (Bycatch & Direct)	Under Development	Checks and documentation to be completed when intern time is available.	Medium	Ongoing	Medium	SM

Survey Database (SOWER and POWER)	Under Development	see SC69A_GDR02.	Low	Ongoing	NA	ASI
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**Table 2 - SC Databases under consideration or without progress in biennium**

Database/Application	Status	Work Required	SC priority for development	Progress	SC Sub Committee/Group
Blue Whale Song Library	Stalled since 2018	Develop database (£4000 available) - no further instructions received	None	None	SH
Cetacean Diseases of Concern Intranet	Stalled since 2017	Develop database/intranet - no further instructions received	Medium	None	E

**Table 3 –Databases proposed at SC69B**

Database/Application	Status	Work Required	Progress	SC Sub Committee/Group
Cetacean Marine Debris Interactions Database	Under Consideration	For IWC Resolution 2022-1 on Marine Plastic Pollution. Design schema, develop database structure and data access platform, implement data management framework, populate data, encourage use of database by relevant users. Present database to SC70.	Proposal submitted to GDR	E
Global Cetacean Strandings Database	Under Consideration	Design schema, develop database structure and data access platform, implement data management framework, populate data, encourage use of database by relevant users. Present database to SC70.	Proposal submitted to GDR	E/HIM
Pollution Information for Cetaceans Database	Under Consideration	Pollution Initiative evaluate improving the data management and mapping of pollution data during ICG and report suggested next steps to SC70.	Proposal submitted to GDR	E

**Table 4 - Other IWC Committee Databases**

Database/Application

Status

Work Required

Progress



Conservation Reporting Database <a href="https://crm.iwc.int/data/conservation-database">https://crm.iwc.int/data/conservation-database</a>	Live	Recommendation: Add to IWC CRM <a href="https://crm.iwc.int/data/conservation-database">https://crm.iwc.int/data/conservation-database</a> Small trial group to test data entry and access - Ongoing Continue adding country data - Ongoing	Ongoing
Database of Recommendations <a href="https://recommendations.iwc.int">https://recommendations.iwc.int</a>	Live	Minor bug fixes, but stable	Done
InforMEA project database <a href="https://crm.iwc.int/">https://crm.iwc.int/</a> <a href="https://elearning.informea.org/">https://elearning.informea.org/</a>	Live	Deployed. Data population and back-dating underway As a member of inforMEA, IWC can add web-based training courses for free	Ongoing
IWC on InforMEA <a href="https://www.informea.org/en/treaties/international-whaling-comission">https://www.informea.org/en/treaties/international-whaling-comission</a>	Live	Meetings, National focal points, Country Members, Resolutions (ongoing)	Ongoing
WW Handbook <a href="https://wwhandbook.iwc.int/en/">https://wwhandbook.iwc.int/en/</a>	Live	Update to CraftCMS v5	None
National Legislation Database	Under Development	Built on Confluence, population complete. Biennial updates required (in partnership with Monash University)	Ongoing

**Table 5 - Core IWC Secretariat productivity databases**

Database/Application	Status	Work Required	Progress
Bibliographic reference database (EndNote)	Live	Import Commission papers and communication circulars	None
Meeting Registration and document upload	Live	For SC69B Microsoft tools were used for registration and automatic addition of users to our office 365 SC groups and document submission, approval and production	Done
Document Web Archive <a href="https://archive.iwc.int">https://archive.iwc.int</a>	Live	General maintenance and updates. Back-dating of paper archives	Done

## Appendix 2

### Cetacean Marine Debris Interactions Database Request Proforma

This proforma is to be used for new database requests, and major alterations to existing databases.

Date: 25 April 2024	Request type: new database	Relevant subgroup: E
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#### 1. Database title

Cetacean Marine Debris Interactions Database

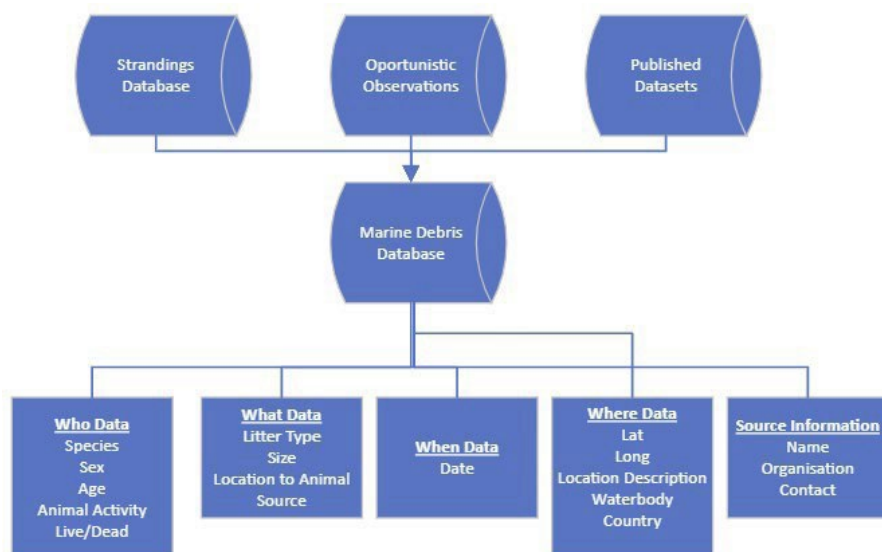
#### 2. Brief overview of the database or alteration

The database will collate global incidents of cetacean interactions with marine debris to identify hotspots and support further work by the IWC on marine debris.

#### 3. Identified scope and usage within the IWC and its committees

The purpose of this database is to fulfill the call to action in IWC Resolution 2022-1 on Marine Plastic Pollution. The Commission's request to the Scientific Committee to 'develop an approach to be considered by the IWC that would assess the current knowledge of the impact of marine plastic pollution on cetaceans and would provide a global risk assessment that identifies "hotspots" of cetacean exposure to plastic debris'. It is envisioned that data will be collated from strandings response, opportunistic sightings of cetacean interactions with marine debris and published datasets from a variety of sources. The data will have a spatial component to visualise hotspots and data gaps. The information from the database will be used by the Subcommittee on Environmental Concerns to provide support to IWC Resolution 2022-1 on Marine Plastic Pollution.

#### 4. Proposed database schema or architecture



#### 5. Interaction with other databases

The best practice will be for this database to interact with the proposed global cetacean strandings database because many incidents of cetacean interactions with marine debris come from strandings records.

Type	Description	Cost (GBP)
Planning costs (e.g. travel/subsistence)	Virtual planning	£0
Development costs (e.g. salaries, contractors, software)	Server setup and hosting, database development, data access platform, implementation of data management processes	£25,000
Ongoing costs (e.g. servers, back-ups, maintenance)	Storage, database administration, data access platform, schema updates.	£200/month
Equipment costs	Everything will be cloud based.	£0
Expected ongoing data co-ordinator costs	DBA cost DM cost	£5,000/year

## 6. How will the data be populated?

Initially, data will be aggregated by scientists and IWC Secretariat staff to populate the database. After, a web-based frontend application will be used by data providers with an account to enter data. Data will be in a quarantine space for review before being finalised in the database and available for use.

## 7. Other similar databases

The intention is for this database to operate similarly to the IWC Global Ship Strikes Database.

## 8. Timetable for key planning activities

Activity to be undertaken	Key person(s)	Start (mm/yy)	Finish (mm/yy)
Design database schema and front-end platform	IWC ICG on Marine Debris, IWC SEC	When funding arrives	Two months after funding arrives
Develop database, data management framework, and front-end platform	IWC SEC	Three months after funding arrives	Five months after funding arrives
Collate data and populate database	IWC ICG on Marine Debris, IWC SEC	Four months after funding arrives	One year after funding arrives

## 9. Proposed completion dates

Expected outputs	Completion data (mm/yy)
A developed database populated with who, what, when, where data.	SC70

## 10. Associated people

Name	Affiliation	Role within database
Emma Neave-Webb	IWC Secretariat	Data collator
Lydia O'Loughlin	IWC Secretariat	Data manager
Moussa Ki Sow	IWC Secretariat	Database administrator and front-end manager
TBC	IWC ICG on Marine Debris	Leading data use and analysis

### 11. Data ownership and sharing

Data sharing agreements will be in place for data providers adding data to the database. High level data will be accessible to the public and data ownership stays with the entity that generated the marine debris data point. Referencing information and metadata will be provided to data users to ensure proper credit is given to the data generators.

### 12. Total costs

Expected ongoing and one-off data entry costs	Maintenance	£5,300
Other costs	Development	£20,000
Total		£25,300

### 13. Funds and contributions

Type	Description	Cost (GBP)
Existing funds		£0
Potential contributions	From grant funding or member nation funding	£25,300
Total		£25,300

### 14. Have you read and agree to the IWC Database Guidelines? (please tick)

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Global Cetacean Strandings Database Request Proforma

This proforma is to be used for new database requests, and major alterations to existing databases.

Date: 25 April 2024	Request type: new database	Relevant subgroup: E
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### 1. Database title

Global Cetacean Strandings Database

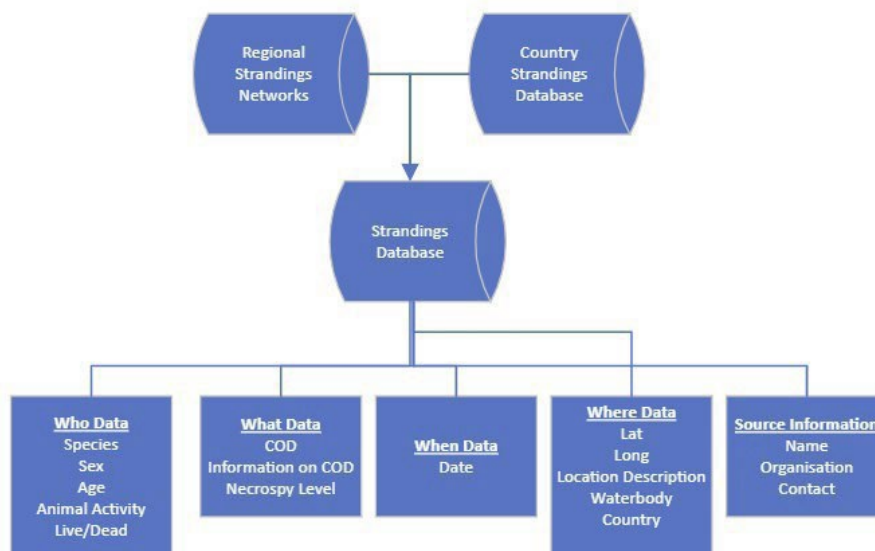
### 2. Brief overview of the database or alteration

The database will collate global incidents of cetacean strandings to identify emerging threats and areas of concern across regions and species.

### 3. Identified scope and usage within the IWC and its committees

Since emerging threats and areas of concern are not limited by country borders, the purpose of this database is to be the source of standardised global strandings data collated from country databases and regional strandings networks. The data will have a spatial component to visualise hotspots for emerging threats and data gaps. The information from the database will be used by the Sub-committee on Environmental Concerns.

### 4. Proposed database schema or architecture



### 5. Interaction with other databases

The best practice will be for this database to flow data to the proposed marine debris database because many incidents of cetacean interactions with marine debris come from strandings data. Additionally, this database will flow data into the IWC Global Ship Strikes Database for any strandings data that can definitively identify the animal was struck by a vessel.

Type	Description	Cost (GBP)
Planning costs (e.g. travel/subsistence)	Virtual planning	£0

Development costs (e.g., salaries, contractors, software)	Server setup and hosting, database development, data access platform, implementation of data management	£23,000
Ongoing costs (e.g., servers, backups, maintenance)	Storage, database administration, data access platform, scheme update	£100/month
Equipment costs	Everything will be cloud based	£0
Expected ongoing data coordinator costs	DBA Salary DM Salary	£10,000/year

## 6. How will the data be populated?

Initially, data will be aggregated by scientists and IWC Secretariat staff to populate the database. After, a web-based frontend application will be used by data providers with an account to enter data. Data will be in a quarantine space for review before being finalised in the database and available for use.

## 7. Other similar databases

The intention is for this database to operate similarly to the IWC Global Ship Strikes Database.

## 8. Timetable for key planning activities

Activity to be undertaken	Key person(s)	Start (mm/yy)	Finish (mm/yy)
Design database schema and front-end platform	IWC SEP Chair, IWC SEC, ASCOBANS, ICES	When funding arrives	Two months after funding arrives
Develop database, data management framework, and front-end platform	ICES	Three months after funding arrives	Five months after funding arrives
Collate data and populate database	IWC SEP Chair, IWC SEC, ASCOBANS	Four months after funding arrives	One year after funding arrives

## 9. Proposed completion dates

Expected outputs	Completion data (mm/yy)
A developed database populated with who, what, when, where data.	By SC70

## 10. Associated people

Name	Affiliation	Role within database
Emma Neave-Webb	IWC Secretariat	Data collator
Lydia O'Loughlin	IWC Secretariat	Data manager
Andrew Brownlow	IWC Strandings Expert Panel Chair and ASCOBANS	Data collator and user experience designer
To be determined	ICES	Database administrator, web designer

## 11. Data ownership and sharing

Data sharing agreements will be in place for data providers adding data to the database. High level data will be accessible to the public and data ownership stays with the stranding data generator. Referencing information and metadata will be provided to data users to ensure proper credit is given

to the data generators.

### 12. Total costs

Expected ongoing and one-off data entry costs	Maintenance	£11,200/year
Other costs	Development	£23,000
Total		£34,200

### 13. Funds and contributions

Type	Description	Cost (GBP)
Existing funds		£0
Potential contributions	From grant funding or member nation funding	£34,200
Total		

### 14. Have you read and agree to the IWC Database Guidelines? (please tick)

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Pollution Initiative Database Request Proforma

This proforma is to be used for new database requests, and major alterations to existing databases.

Datw: 26 April 2024	Request type: alteration/adoptions	Relevant subgroup: E
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### 1. Database title

Pollution Initiative Evaluation of Data Management and Mapping of Pollution Information for Cetaceans

### 2. Brief overview of the database or alteration

Improvement of the existing archival and data management of contaminant and associated effects data collected through the Pollution Initiative, for the continued development of a broad toolbox to study the effects of chemical pollutants and other stressors, and to help understand the potential effects of single or multiple pollutants and cumulative impacts on individual cetaceans and populations. Specifically for this effort we are requesting participation of the Secretariat in the discussions of:

- continuation, modifications and improvement of the online contaminant mapping tool;
- development of the data management system to ingest data from relevant spreadsheets (SOCER), country progress reports, and other databases;
- connection with other cetacean pollutant databases;
- long term archive of data;
- mechanism for connectivity to other IWC databases (e.g., strandings, disease)

### 3. Identified scope and usage within the IWC and its committees

The pollution focus was developed in Environmental Concerns subcommittee, at the request of the Commission in the 1980s. More recent Commission Resolutions on the topic include: Res 2009-2: 'Directs the Scientific Committee to continue its work on studies of climate change and the impacts of other environmental changes on cetaceans, as appropriate' (2009); Res 2003-3: 'Requests the Scientific Committee to provide to the Commission, after the completion of the IDCR/SOWER abundance estimates, all plausible hypotheses to explain any decline in abundance estimates that may emerge, and in doing so to consider fully: (i) the possible negative impact of the take of minke whales under Japan's Research Program in the Antarctic, including struck and lost data, on the decline in minke whales population estimates; as well as (ii) the impact of environmental change factors' (2003); The goal is to provide information on contaminants in cetaceans relevant to most other Subcommittees (e.g., NH, SH, SM) and member countries in a format that will be useful for their work.

### 4. Proposed database schema or architecture

This is an already developed database and mapper tool, developed by Ailsa Hall at the University of St. Andrews and currently maintained by Joanne Kershaw at the University of St. Andrews. This proposal is to work with GDR, the Secretariat, and the IWC Pollution Initiative Intersessional Working Group to focus on the information management system supporting the continued development of a broad toolbox to study the effects of chemical and other stressors, and to help understand the potential effects of single or multiple pollutants and cumulative impacts on individual cetaceans and populations. The intersessional group will evaluate the most effective steps to gather, manage, archive, and display information on chemical pollutants in cetacean populations (including levels, trends, species, geographic areas, environmental drivers of changes), impacts on cetacean individual and populations using new and emerging tools, and identification of high risk areas or species. The



most important outcome will be the identification of the most effective manner to make the data useful for the Committee, member governments, and the research community. If significant modifications or reworking of the database architecture are identified, funding proposals would be submitted in future for that work.

### 5. Interaction with other databases

It is envisioned that it would work with the IWC stranding and diseases databases and SOCER; it may eventually need to interface with other systems.

### 6. How will the data be populated?

Data on contaminants and effects has been shared with the IWC Pollution Initiative Intersessional Working Group through workshops (virtual and in person) and data calls and found in peer-review papers and those submitted to the IWC SC. This information has been ingested into the existing system.

### 7. Other similar databases

This is an existing system.

### 8. Timetable for key planning activities

Activity to be undertaken	Key person(s)	Start (mm/yy)	Finish (mm/yy)
Consultation with GDR and IWC Secretariat	O'Loughlin	TBD based on the work of Pollution ICG	

### 9. Proposed completion dates

Expected outputs	Completion data (mm/yy)
Roadmap for future development, needs, interface with other systems.	IWC SC70

### 10. Associated people

Name	Affiliation	Role within database
Pollution ICG	E subcommittee	Input on design; data providers and users.
Secretariat		

### 11. Data ownership and sharing

All data has been willingly shared and is public information. For future data sources, a data sharing agreement will be developed.

### 12. Total costs

Planning costs (e.g. travel/subsistence)	Salary for Secretariat	2000 GBP
Development costs (e.g. salaries, contractors, software)		0
Ongoing costs (e.g. servers, backups, maintenance)		0

Equipment costs		0
Expected ongoing data co-ordinator costs		0
Expected ongoing and one-off data entry costs		0
Other costs		0
Total		2000 GBP

**13. Funds and contributions**

Type	Description	Cost (GBP)
Existing funds	IWC currently funds maintenance and development at University of St. Andrews	
Potential contributions		
Total		

**14. Have you read and agree to the IWC Database Guidelines? (please tick)**

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

## **Appendix 3**

### **AGENDA**

#### **1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

- 1.1. Appointment of Rapporteurs
- 1.2. Adoption of agenda
- 1.3. Documents available

#### **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

This ad hoc intersessional working group will conduct an assessment of the utility and support requirements of all IWC databases relevant to the work of the Scientific Committee. Specifically, it will:

- Collate summary information on all IWC databases relevant to the SC;
- Summarise data use by the SC for each database;
- Provide recommendations to improve integration, content and workflows;
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#### **3. PROGRESS WITH EXISTING IWC DATABASES**

- 3.1. Summary of IWC databases and current priorities
- 3.2. IWC National Progress Reports
- 3.3. Review database procedures, evaluate integration and consolidation of existing databases, and define rules for accessing data

#### **4. POTENTIAL FUTURE IWC DATABASES**

- 4.1. IWC database proposal pro forma
- 4.2. New proposals and IWC databases

#### **5. REVIEW PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1. Intersessional workplan