

Annex W

Intersessional Groups

This list contains the intersessional groups identified at SC69B.

1. Steering Groups (SG)

These groups are designed to ensure meetings, workshops or identified pieces of work are completed before SC70. As such, these groups have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Committee within the context of their terms of reference. Numbers are limited and membership agreed at SC69B, but the relevant convenor may request additional expertise at a later stage.

2. Intersessional Correspondence Groups (ICG)

These groups are established to ensure progress on a specific topic within the intersessional period. Membership is more flexible. It is expected that a written report will be submitted to SC70.

3. Advisory Groups (AG)

These are occasional groups established by the Committee to provide scientific and technical advice on specific issues if requested by a Contracting Government.

Agenda item / Subgroup	Type	Group	Terms of reference	Members
19	ICG	Extinction Alert	Consider how to collate and rank candidate species for an Extinction Alert.	Porter (Convenor), Cholewiak, Collier, Heinemann, Goetz, Lundquist, Mallette, Parsons, Schubert, Simmonds, Slooten, Wilson
Secretariat	SG	Strandings Steering Group	(1) Oversee and provide strategic input to the implementation of the Strandings Initiative workplan on the basis of quarterly reports and advice requests by the Expert Panel and Secretariat; (2) Oversee allocation and expenditure of the Strandings Initiative budget; (3) Provide assistance in fundraising for the Strandings Initiative, including through helping to identify sources of funding and assisting with fundraising applications where appropriate; (4) Provide assistance to the Expert Panel and Secretariat, where appropriate, in facilitating emergency response assistant and training in IWC member and other countries; (5) Help to promote the Initiative, including among national and other international stakeholders.	Lunas (Convenor), Brownlow, Collier, DeMaster, Genov, Henderson, Herr, Neave-Webb, Porter, Seakamela, Simmonds, Webster, Zerbini
Secretariat	WG	Stranding Expert Working Group	(1) Assist in the coordination of emergency response when requested at national or regional level(s); (2) provide expertise on operation procedures, diagnostics and response; (3) support capacity building for regional and national networks; (4) support for a centralised data	Brownlow (Convenor), Barreto, Chansue, Deaville, Fernandez, Glover, Gulland, Hall, Hernandez Mora, Ijssedijk, Junchumpoo, Marcondes, Mazzariol, Moore, Neave-Webb, Plon, Porter, Rowles, Sacristan, Scheinin, Siebert, Stimmelmayer, Stockin, Uhart, Vely, West

			repository; (5) report unusual cetacean events and responses at annual SC meetings and/or provide a summary of unusual cetacean events via the IWC website; (6) identify and, as appropriate, develop best practices for stranding response, including protocols on how to respond effectively while maintaining adequate animal welfare, euthanasia and sampling protocols; (7) develop best practices on how to communicate stranding science and management decisions; (8) assist member states to build strandings response capacity.	
Plenary	ICG	Using satellites to study whales	Coordinate information, data and code among research groups conducting research using satellite images to monitor whales. This group aims to facilitate development of automated methods, avoid duplication of effort and negotiate better tasking opportunities with satellite providers.	Clarke (Convenor), Acebes, Alfaro, Alonso, Amorim, Correa, Andrews-Goff, Archer, Arias, Baird, Baldwin, Bamford, Barreto, Beijder, Bell, Biuw, Borowicz, Brownell, Burkhardt, Carroll, Charry, Cholewiak, Collins, Coscarella, Crespo, Cubaynes, Dalla Rosa, Elwen, Erler, Ferguson, M. Ferguson, S. Fernandez, Fewster, Fretwell, Frias, García-Garin, Garita, Goetz, Green, Groch, Ham, Hines, Hodgins, Hoeschle, Houegnigan, Houliston, Ivanchikova, Jackson, Jenner, Katara, Kapoor, Kelly, Khan, Kot, Krebs, Lauriano, Leaper, Lundquist, Mallette, Mcfarlane, Mizrock, Mustika, Natoli, Neveceralova, Olavarría, Olson, Palacios, Palka, Panigada, Pisano, Plon, Porter, Ritter, Robbins, Rodofili, Rogan, Rowles, Sahri, Schteinberg, Schubert, Sousa-Lima, Stack, Stewart, Stockin, Sucunza, Tissier, Torres-Florez, Tulloch, Urban, Vazquez, Vermeulen, Voss, Watt, Weinrich, Wilkin, Wilson, Zerbini
ASI	SG	Abundance Steering Group	Coordinate intersessional review of abundance estimates. At a 2025 Workshop and 2026 pre-meeting for SC70, both contingent on funding, review abundance estimates and make recommendations to ASI.	Givens (Convenor), New (Co-Convenor), Bell, Brownell, Cholewiak, Donovan, Katara, Kitakado, Palka, Porter, Staniland, Walloe, Zerbini
ASI	SG	Status of Stocks Steering Group	Oversee the SOSI Project, ensuring consistency and communication among the related ICGs. Determine priority order in which species will be added to the website. Review draft material from other ICGs. Solicit review of draft content as needed for consistency, clarity and accessibility to the appropriate audience. Solicit SC approval of final material. Organise creation of draft website.	Givens (Convenor), Staniland (Co-Convenor), Cipriano, Fortuna, Katara, New, Porter, Punt, Tandy, Wilberg, Wilson, Zerbini
ASI	ICG	Status of Stocks Model-based Assessment	Determine specifications for model-based assessments for the SOSI Project. Such assessments are to be based on completed SC assessments, Implementation Reviews and past Committee projects. Run model-based assessments for the appropriate species. Summarise modelling results and provide them to the Status of Stocks Group on Language, Terminology and Content Development. Draft technical explanations of assessment specifications and results for provision to the same group.	Wilberg (Convenor), Allison, Branch, Butterworth, Donovan, Givens, Katara, Palka, Punt
ASI	ICG	Status of Stocks Group on Language,	Draft SOSI web content. Recommend terminology, labels, graphics, statistics, summaries and similar aspects of the	Cipriano (Convenor), Wilson (Co-Convenor), Butterworth, DeMaster,

		Terminology and Content Development	SOSI website. Draft text for assessment pages, ensuring consistent format and language, in consultation with species experts to be solicited by this group as necessary.	Donovan, Givens, Katara, Lang, Minton, Porter, Staniland, Tandy, Wade, Zerbini
ASI	ICG	Mark-recapture abundance estimation	Review a paper with guidelines for mark-recapture abundance estimation, including survey design, data processing and matching, analysis, diagnostics and interpretation, also noting issues associated with data over long timeframes or from very heterogeneous sources. Present the paper to SC70 so that it can be endorsed for including in the updates SC Handbook that will be uploaded to the IWC website.	Wade (Convenor), Butterworth, Fewster, Kelly
ASI	SG	IWC-POWER/SOWER	Provide advice on the 2024-26 IWC-POWER cruises (including holding a Technical Advisory Group Meeting and Planning Meetings), on data analyses, storage and requests for data/sample use of IWC-POWER/SOWER cruises.	Matsuoka (Convenor), An, Bizikov, Brownell, Clapham, Crance, Donovan, Goetz, Gushchero, Isoda, Kato, Kelly, Katsumata, Kitakado, Staniland, Miyashita, Murase, Palka, Wade, Zerbini
ASI	SG	IWC-ATLAFCO collaboration	Identify how to: (1) facilitate ATLAFCO participation in the SC; (2) build capacity and training for scientists and early-career researchers	Staniland (Convenor), Cerchio, Collins, Diallo, Freitas, Laamrich, Panigada, Plon, Ridoux, Tiedemann, Genov, Zerbini
ASI	SG	Indian Ocean Sanctuary Cetacean Monitoring Initiative	Convene to review scope and terms of reference. Report progress to SC70.	Katara (Convenor), Anderson, Atkins, Braulik, Calderon, Cerchio, Collins, Dulau, Kelly, Kitakado, Minton, Natoli, Nelson, New, Palka, Passadore, Seakamela, Seyboth, Sutaria, Tiwari, Wilson, Zerbini
ASI	SG	Consolidation and refinement of ASI/ASG processes	Consolidate and refine a description of ASI/ASG processes, as evolved since 2017, to be reviewed and endorsed at a subsequent SC meeting	Givens (Convenor), New, Butterworth
ASI	SG	Correction factors	Create a bibliography of documents containing information about correction factors for abundance estimation and consider the development of a corresponding IWC database. Report progress to SC70.	Canadas, Freitas, Katara, Kelly, Palka
ASI	ICG	IUCN/IWC Coordination Group	(1) Develop a process to enhance coordination among IUCN, IWC SC and other parties involved in conservation actions for cetaceans; (2) facilitate coordination between those responsible for managing the IUCN Red List assessments for cetaceans and developers of the IWC Status of Stocks Initiative; (a) providing input to the Status of Stocks SG regarding prioritisation of cases to consider; (b) assisting the Status of Stocks Group on Language, Terminology and Content Development to draft SOSI website text related to the IUCN Red List; (c) advise all groups working on SOSI, as necessary, to help avoid duplication of effort, the appearance of conflicting results and public confusion about whale statuses.	Braulik (Convenor), Porter (Co-Convenor), Abel, Allison, Andriolo, Cipriano, Cooke, Donovan, Fortuna, Givens, Minton, Panigada, Punt, Reeves, Sigurðsson, Staniland, Taylor, Trujillo, Zerbini
ASI	ICG	Spatial modelling	Facilitate conversation with other Committee subgroups to determine how best to integrate the spatial models into the SC's work and how ASI can contribute	Kitakado (Convenor), Cholewiak, Donovan, Biuw, Herr, Kelly, Miller, Palka, Skaug, Walloe, Weller
ASI	ICG	Acoustic estimation of franciscana abundance	Further development of the estimator for acoustic abundance estimation of franciscana	New (Convenor), Harris (Co-Convenor), Andriolo, Chan, Cook, Frias, Marques, Mura, Širović, Skaug, Sucunza, Zerbini

CMP	ICG	Latin American CMP workshop	Develop a workshop in Latin America to progress with agenda items related to the CMP for species that occur in Latin America.	Barros (Convenor), Andriolo, Brownell, Cassani, Iniguez, Bessega, Mallette, Ridoux, Sucunza, Trejos, Zerbini & convenors of relevant subcommittees
CMP	ICG	4 th CAHWP workshop	Assess threats and mitigation of the CAHW population for the further development of a CMP.	Brownell (Convenor), Trejos, Jaramillio, Mallette, Rojas-Bracho, Urbán
CMP	ICG	ASHW workshop	Develop a workshop in Oman to progress with the development of a CMP proposal for ASHW.	Wilson (Convenor), Aamari, Collins, Minton, Moiz, Iniguez Bessega
CMP	ICG	CMP on riverine populations of Irrawaddy dolphins	Track progress on acquiring the necessary documentation representing formal agreement by the range-state governments to sign on to the CMP before IWC69.	Porter (Convenor), Brownell, Lang, Weller, Zerbini
E	ICG	Pollution 2025	Planning activities and work priorities for Pollution 2025.	Genov (Convenor), Holm, Barreto, Eisfield-Pierantonio, Frey, Plön, Rowles, Simmonds, Staniland, Uhart
E	ICG	Cetacean Diseases of Concern	Continue work.	Stimmelmayer (Convenor), Cholewiak, Colegrove, Davison, Delaney, Fernandez, Groch, Gulland, Hernandez, Holm, Lee, Marcondes, Mazzariol, Noren, Rowles, Siera, Simmonds, Tashima, Uhart
E	ICG	Marine Debris	Identify hotspots of cetacean exposure to plastic debris; prepare a synthesis of information related to the impacts of marine plastics on cetaceans; prepare a summary of approaches that the SC should consider in developing global and regional risk assessments related to cetacean exposure to plastic debris.	Simmonds (Convenor), Campbell, Cholewiak, Dolman, Fossi, Frey, Frisch-Nwakanma, Genov, Gulland, Holm, Kumar, Long, Malatji, Marcondes, Mallette, Mankeshwari, Mattila, Neave-Webb, Nelms, Nunny, Panti, Perry, Pieranontio, Porter, Rowles, Sutaria, Svoboda, Warrie, Webster
E	ICG	Anthropogenic Noise	Continue work.	Cholewiak (Convenor), Borsani, Burkhardt, Campbell, Cosentino, Frisch-Nwakanma, Genov, Kinneging, Leaper, Lundquist, Miller, Plön, Rosenbaum, Renell, Reyes, Simmonds, Širović, Sousa-Lima, Vrooman, Webster, Williams
E	ICG	Deep Sea Mining	Review the topic and report back to SC70 with a further assessment of the likely consequences of deep-sea mining for cetaceans; seek to establish contact with others who are investigating this matter; encourage further submissions on this topic to the SC.	Rose (Convenor), Barreto, Parsons, Simmonds, C. Smith, Thaler, Thompson, Walloe, Williams
E	ICG	Climate change	Consider the latest information on how cetacean populations are affected by climate change; provide clear advice on tools to mitigate the negative impact of climate change and build resilience; seek to develop an IWC climate change response programme.	Simmonds (Convenor), Barreto, Campbell, Frey, Frisch-Nwakanma, Genov, Gulland, Holm, Kelly, Mallette, Marcondes, Miketa, Noren, Nunny, Palka, Renell, Rowles, Simmons, Vrooman, Sousa-Lima, Staniland, Stimmelmayer, Tulloch, Webster, Zerbini
E	WG	SOCER	Atlantic Ocean focus and five-year compendium.	Rose, Parsons (Editors)
EM	ICG	Ecosystem modelling research prioritisation	Develop prioritised list of research needs to address knowledge gaps in our understanding of the role of cetaceans in ecosystem functioning.	Schubert (Convenor), Biuw, Butterworth, Freitas, Gilbert, Hunter, Kelly, Kitakado, Li, Ransijn, Tulloch
EM	ICG	Cetacean science advice for CCAMLR krill management	Provide advice on cetacean science to CCAMLR's revised krill management approach, CEMP, and ecosystem modelling.	Kelly (Convenor), Bell, Biuw, Butterworth, CCAMLR scientists, Dalla Rosa, Double, Fisher, Harris, Herr, Johnson, Kitakado, Langerock, Robson, Seyboth, Staniland, Vermeulen
GDR	ICG	IWC Database management strategy and National Progress Reports	Further develop the data management strategy, including consideration of all data submission processes and related IWC databases; consider ongoing maintenance, resourcing, capacity needs for SC-related databases; review the information received from the National Progress Report questionnaire	Staniland (Convenor), Allison, Bell, Branch, Barreto, Charlton, Double, Fortuna, Katara, Ki Sow, S. Reeves, Sigurðsson, O'Loughlin, Tandy, Wilkin, Zerbini

			and continue to assess ways to improve the submission rates, data quality and value of these reports.	
HIM	ICG	Bycatch mitigation	Provide advice on: (1) design of additional data to be collected by observers and crew when whale entanglements occur, including development of training materials/instructions (in time for joint WG-FSA/WG-IMAF-24 meeting, 30 September – 11 October 2024); (2) methods to monitor the frequency and behaviour of whales around krill fishing vessels; (3) the development of technology to study how whales are interacting with krill trawling nets; (4) the design of effective cetacean exclusion devices, considering a convex shape to the exclusion mesh to deflect whales (and seals) away from the net mouth; (5) the potential to devise move-on rules, smaller-scale spatial management in the form of krill fishing exclusion zones, and other mitigation tools.	Biuw, Double, Favero, Forster, Heinemann, Hines, Johnson, Kelly, Landry, Leaper, Long, Mattila, Meyer, Parker, Passaore, Reeves, Robson, Soffker, Stimmelmayer, Walker, Weinrich
HIM	ICG	Harbour porpoise bycatch	Provide advice on: (1) information relevant to a separate assessment of the Iberian porpoise for the IUCN Red List; (2) information on the genetic status of this population; (3) information on the limits of the distribution, noting that movements of these animals into the Celtic Sea and Western Mediterranean have been recorded; (4) mechanisms to increase the information available on the bycatch of Iberian porpoise, especially in small-scale fisheries; (5) how to improve the use of stranding data to estimate bycatch mortality; (6) information that becomes available on the life history and ecology of this species; (7) information on the closely related African porpoise population; (8) information on the health status and causes of mortality of the Iberian porpoise, including anthropogenic mortality not directly caused by fishing; (9) current and available approaches to reduce Iberian porpoise bycatch and potential future actions; (10) how to enhance the coordination of research on and conservation of Iberian porpoise between different organisations and projects.	Cisternino, Dolman, Fernandez-Maldonado, Freitas, Leaper, Sequiera, Van Waerebeek, Zerbini
HIM	ICG	Franciscana bycatch estimates	Plan the review of franciscana bycatch estimates to be conducted during a CMP workshop and select invited experts for the review.	Sucunza (Convenor), Cremer, Domit, Iñiguez, Leaper, Minton, Palka, Passadore, Porter, Trujillo, Zerbini
IA	SC	North Pacific humpback whales	Reconfirm the finalised North Pacific humpback whale Comprehensive Assessment; develop summary document; send code to Secretariat for validation.	Palka (Convenor), Baker, Calambokidis, Cheeseman, Donovan, Katara, Katsumata, Kitakado, Matsuoka, Mizroch, Palacios, Privitera-Johnson, Punt, Scordino, Steel, Urbán, Wade, Weinrich, Zerbini
IA	SG	North Pacific sei whales	Finalise the North Pacific sei whale Comprehensive Assessment summary document.	Palka (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, Cooke, Herr, Katara, Kitakado, Mizroch, Tiedemann, Punt, Takahashi
IA	SG	WNP common minke whales	Further the preparations for the western North Pacific common minke whale In-depth Assessment, including organising intersessional meeting(s).	Donovan (Convenor), Allison, Baker, Butterworth, de Moor, Herr, Hoelzel, Katara, Kitakado, Miyashita, Palka, Punt, Takahashi, Tiedemann, Wade, Wilber

IA	SG	Antarctic blue whales	Advise the model developers on technical issues to ensure completion of assessment by SC70.	Rand (Convenor), Branch, Butterworth, Katara, Kitakado, Matsuoka, Palka, Punt, Tiedemann, Wade, Wilber
IA	SG	North Atlantic humpback whales	Initiate the In-depth Assessment of North Atlantic humpback whales, incorporating the needs of IST, including preparing data and analyses, and holding a workshop.	Palka (Convenor), Donovan (Co-Convenor), Biuw, Cholewiak, Katara, Oien, Punt, Robbins, Wilberg
NH	ICG	North Atlantic sei whales	Continue to identify and evaluate data on distribution, abundance, stock structure and catches, with a particular focus on the western North Atlantic.	Cholewiak (Convenor), Breiwick, Brownell, Mallette, Mizroch, Palka, Robbins, Sigurðsson, Weinrich
NH	ICG	North Atlantic humpback whales	Continue to identify and evaluate data available for planned assessment.	Robbins (Convenor), Allen, Allison, Bolanos, Cerchio, Cholewiak, Chosson, Clapham, Donovan, Han, Jones, Lank, K. Lee, M. Lee, Mallette, Mattila, Oien, Palka, Palsboll, Park, Punt, Rosenbaum, Sigurðsson, Tiedemann, Vély, Weinrich, Wilber, Weinberg, Witting
NH	ICG	North Atlantic Humpback Assessment	Initiate In-depth Assessment of North Atlantic humpback whales, incorporating the needs of IST	Palka (Convenor), Donovan (Co-Convenor), Biuw, Cholewiak, Katara, Oien, Punt, Robbins, Wilber
NH	ICG	North Pacific sperm whales	Identify and evaluate data available for potential future assessment.	Mesnick (Convenor), Butterworth, Cooke, Cholewiak, Han, K. Lee, M. Lee, Mizroch, Palka, Park
PH	ICG	User guides to AI platforms	Develop (1) a user-friendly guide to using Flukebook and Happywhale; and (2) an updated cross-reference document.	Olson (Convenor), Minton (Co-Convenor), Cheeseman, Natoli, Vermeulen
PH	ICG	Outreach to facilitate photo contributions	Develop ways to expand reach to citizen scientists to encourage photo contributions.	Olson (Convenor), Bell, Brownell, Buss, Collins, Double, Herr, Weinrich, Weller
SH	ICG	Southern right whale body condition	Finalise a global standardised southern right whale body condition and visual health assessment protocol for IWC endorsement.	Charlton (Convenor), Vermeulen (Co-Convenor), Arias, Bell, Christiansen, Dawson, Gregory, Hamilton, Horbst, Kent, Mitton, Moore, New, Olson, Rowles, Rowntree, Salgado, Kent, Sironi, Uhart, Weir
SH	ICG	Southern right whale calls	Assess what southern right whale call data exists offshore and at high latitudes (including IMOS and SOHN data) and consider appropriate analysis framework for using these data to assess southern right whale offshore distribution.	Schall (Convenor), Shabangu (Co-Convenor), Andrews-Goff, Bell, Buchan, Burkhardt, Calderan, Carroll, Galletti, McCauley, McPherson, Miller, Salgado, Kent, Ward, Weinrich, Charlton, Friedlander, Leaper, Širović, Webster
SH	ICG	Southern right whale catch data	Compile new SRW catch series and update regional catch estimates.	Vermeulen (Convenor), Findlay (Co-Convenor), Aguilar, Allison, Azizeh, Bell, Brito, Chatwin, Carroll, Double, Galletti, Katara, Mizroch, Morais, Romero, Ruiz-Sagales, Seyboth, Smith, Vieira, Weinrich, Zerbini
SH	ICG	Southern right whale modelling	Progress towards the application of a common modelling framework on long-term sighting history datasets from southern right whale calving groups to assess common (1) population dynamic patterns; and (2) environmental drivers.	Charlton (Convenor), Vermeulen (Co-Convenor), Agrelo, Brandão, Butterworth, Carroll, Cooke, Dalla Rosa, Double, Groch, Leaper, Rayment, Ross-Gillespie, Rowntree, Sironi, Staniland, Watson
SH	ICG	Fin whale population structure	Conduct inter-regional comparisons of SH fin whale songs, similar to Širović <i>et al.</i> (2018) for blue whales.	Širović (Convenor), Aulich, Biuw, Buchen, Dréo, Harris, Isoda, Miller, Samaran, Shabangu, Van Opzeeland
SH	ICG	Opportunistic sighting data protocol	Review protocol for opportunistic sighting data collection.	Herr (Convenor), Babey, Biuw, Burkhardt, Buss, Cheeseman, Dalla Rosa, Hevia, Iñiguez, Mizroch, Secchi, Torres-Florez, Viquerat, Waluda, Weinrich
SH	ICG	Summary of fin whale information	Provide a summary of fin whale data, data gaps and data need for a future In-depth Assessment.	Herr (Convenor), Biuw, Harris, Miller, Mizroch
SM	ICG	Beaked whales	Review new information on the status of beaked whales globally.	Simmonds (Convenor), Baird (Co-Convenor), Andriolo, Babey, Bolaños-Jimenez, Brownlow, Cholewiak, Collins,

				Dolman, Hartny-Mills, Iñiguez Besega, Li, Lomax, Natoli, Plön, Porter, Rodríguez-Fonseca, Stimmelmayer, Thompson, Trujillo, Vermeulen, Vrooman, Zerbini
SM	ICG	Direct takes	Continue progressing the databasing and analyses of the direct takes of small cetaceans currently held by and submitted to the Secretariat.	Katara (Convenor), Allison, Fisher, Hines, Porter
SM	ICG	Poorly documented take of small cetaceans	Continue to develop framework for SM work on Aquatic Wildmeat.	Porter (Convenor), Avila, Hodgins, Ingram
SM	ICG	Recommendations review	Continue with the review framework established at SC69B and progress with recommendation review.	Trujillo (Convenor), Couto di Tullio, Frias, Hielscher, Hodgins, Jimenez, Lundquist, Porter, Slooten, Vrooman
SM	AG	Small cetacean task team steering committee	Provide ongoing advice and support to established Task Teams and consider any new proposals.	Simmonds (Convenor), Donovan, Genov, Minton, Parsons, Porter, Reeves, Rojas-Bracho, Staniland, Thomas, Trujillo
SM	SG	Small cetaceans of the South Pacific Islands (Steering Groups)	Develop and organise a second workshop on documenting data availability and identifying opportunities for collaboration.	Porter (Convenor), Trujillo, Cipriano, Brannan, Constantine, Carroll, Childerhouse, McKechnie, Wichman
SM	ICG	Small Cetaceans of the South Pacific Islands (ICG)	Continue to develop and implement the workplan for the assessment of the Small Cetaceans of the South Pacific Islands.	Porter (Convenor), Albertson, Amenou, Baird, K. Baird, R. Baker, Beasley, Brannan, Carroll, Childerhouse, Cipriano, Constantine, Cook, Derville, Elliott, Garrigue, Gilman, Heinemann, Katara, Kiszka, Komoru, Lang, Mallette, Masere, Meyer, Oremus, Passadore, Poole, Read, Soehnen, Stockin, Tixier, Trujillo, Ward
SM	ICG	Strait of Gibraltar killer whale	Continue to compile information on the behaviour of the Strait of Gibraltar killer whale subpopulation and, if possible, organise a workshop comprising experts, including marine mammal behaviouralists, to determine best approaches to this escalating issue.	Esteban (Convenor), Barrett, Lennart, Bolaños, Carvalho, Fernández Maldonado, Fritas, Garia-Bellido, Genov, Guinet, Jimenez, Jourdain, Nunny, Pitman, Porter, Rose, Samarra, Sequeria, Simmonds, C. Smith, Staniland, Tixier, Towers, Trujillo
SM	ICG	Tursiops taxonomy	Monitor new publications related to this issue and update the Tursiops taxonomy database.	Natoli (Convenor), Cipriano, Rosel
SDDNA	ICG	Gray whale population structure	Clarify the terminology used to describe the gray whale stock structure hypotheses; re-evaluate plausibility of the hypotheses, including consideration of adding new variants if needed to inform the Range-wide Review of the Status and Population Structure of Gray Whales.	Lang (Convenor), Bickham, Donovan, Hoelzel, Goto, Nakamura, Pampoulie, Punt, Scordino, Tiedemann, Weller
SDDNA	ICG	North Atlantic fin whale population structure	Review existing stock structure hypotheses and identify additional analyses that may be used to assess plausibility of existing hypotheses and to inform mixing parameters.	Pampoulie (Convenor), Tiedemann (Co-Convenor), Buss, Lang, Mizroch, Palsboll, Witting
SDDNA	ICG	<i>Sotalia guianensis</i> population structure	Review genetic and other evidence relating to population structure in <i>Sotalia guianensis</i> ; provide advice on the proposed management unit declarations.	Lang (Convenor), Caballero (Co-Convenor), Archer, Baker, Briceño, Buss, Cipriano, Cunha, Domit, Fruet, Hoelzel, Lunardi, Natoli, Sousa Lima, Tiedemann, Torres-Florez, Zerbini
SDDNA	ICG	DNA quality	Review recent revisions to sections of the DNA quality guidelines which relate to data produced using NGS approaches; identify approaches to increase the visibility and use of the guidelines.	Tiedemann (Convenor), Archer, Baird, Baker, Bickham, Carroll, DeWoody, Hoelzel, Goto, Jackson, Lang, Palsboll, Pampoulie, Sremba, Taguchi, Torres-Florez, Waples
SDDNA	ICG	Genetic data analysis	Generate a checklist of key aspects of the genetic data analysis guidelines and identify aspects of the guidelines that may need updating, particularly in the context of genomic methodologies and analysis; identify approaches to increase the visibility and use of these guidelines.	Tiedemann (Convenor), Bickham, Buss, DeWoody, Hoelzel, Lang, Pampoulie, Sremba, Torres-Florez, Waples

SDDNA	ICG	Sample depletion	Discuss and provide recommendation on genomic approaches to maximise the utility of tissue samples, particularly those in danger of depletion.	Lang (Convenor), Archer, Baker, Bickham, Buss, Carroll, Harmon, Hoelzel, Goto, Jackson, Natoli, Palsboll, Robertson, Sremba, Taguchi, Tiedemann, Torrez-Florez
SDDNA	ICG	Terminology	Revisit the definitions previously put forward for stock-related terms at IWC 2014, particularly those related to large whale assessments, and revise them where necessary.	Tiedemann (Convenor), Baird, Bickham, Carroll, Cipriano, Hoelzel, Lang, Scordino
WW	ICG	Modelling and Assessment of Whale Watching Impacts (MAWI) steering group	Planning for and distributing the questionnaire; analyse the results; preparing a proposal for a workshop at the 2025 ECS Conference.	New (Convenor), Suydam (Co-Convenor), Baldwin, Cooke, Cosentino, Currie, Forestell, Frey, Jiménez-Assmus, Leaper, Miiiketa, Minton, Noren, Parsons, Reyes, Robbins, Rose, C. Smith, Vermeulen, Weinrich, Urbán, Webster
WW	ICG	Human-induced behavioural changes of concern	Continue to monitor and report on the relevant science, including, but not limited to that which relates to solitary sociable cetaceans, out of habitat cetaceans and provisioned cetaceans (e.g., in Pará, Brazil, where tourists feed <i>Inia araguaiaensis</i>); consider the terminology applies to the full range of human-cetacean interactions; suggest guidelines to avoid damaging interactions.	Simmonds (Convenor), Aranha, Cosentino, Currie, Fonseca, Forestell, Miketa, Minton, Nunny, Parsons, Ryeng, C. Smith, Suydam, Vail, Wells, Weinrich, Urbán
WW	ICG	Timor-Leste whale watching	Continue communication with Timor-Leste on development of guidelines and regulations to facilitate communication between the Committee and the Government of Timor-Leste and the ATM-TL.	Porter (Convenor), Bell (Co-Convenor), Edviane Höschle, Noren, Parsons, Rose, Ritter, Suydam, Urbán
WW	ICG	Carole Carlson Memorial Fund	Invite and facilitate the submission of proposals to the Fund.	Suydam (Convenor)
WW	ICG	Workshop on Caribbean whale watching	Develop a workshop proposal for an updated assessment of whale watching in the Wider Caribbean Region to be held at the 2026 Biennial Conference for Marine Mammal Biology in Puerto Rico, USA.	Parsons (Convenor)
WW	ICG	Communication between the CC's SWG on whale watching and WW	Continue and enhance methods for disseminating information and advice between the SWG and WW.	Iñiguez (Convenor), Parsons, Rojas-Bracho, Simmonds, Slooten, Suydam, Urbán
WW	ICG	Workshop at European Cetacean Society 2025 conference in the Azores	Develop a workshop proposal for integrating social science into the work of WW.	Parsons (Convenor)