

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

69TH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

Monday 23 September - Friday 27 September 2024
Los Delfines Hotel, Lima, Peru

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Welcome Address
- 1.2. Opening Statements
- 1.3. Meeting Arrangements
- 1.4. Executive Secretary's Report on Credentials and Voting Rights
- 1.5. Meeting Provisions
- 1.6. Review of Documents

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. QUORUM

4. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT ON SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

5. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC) PRESENTATION

- 5.1. Introduction and presentation of Main Recommendations
- 5.2. Presentation of Future Work Plan

6. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (CC) PRESENTATION

- 6.1. Introduction and presentation of Main Recommendations
- 6.2. Presentation of Future Work Plan

7. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING (ASW)

- 7.1. Report of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-Committee
- 7.2. Extension of the ASW Strike - Catch Limits at IWC69
- 7.3. Discussion of the ASW Sub-Committee report
- 7.4. Adoption of the ASW Sub-Committee report
- 7.5. Any other matters

8. PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE

- 8.1 Proposal of a Schedule Amendment to create a South Atlantic whale sanctuary

9. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

- 9.1 Resolution on Food Security
- 9.2 Resolution for the Implementation of a Conservation and Management Program for Whale Stocks aimed towards the lifting of the moratorium and orderly Development of the Whaling Industry
- 9.3 Resolution on Co-operation with CCAMLR in Antarctica

- 9.4 Resolution on Synergies between the IWC, the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the BBNJ Agreement
- 9.5 Resolution on International Legal Obligations in Commercial Whaling

10. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (F&A)

- 10.1. Report of the Finance and Administration Committee
- 10.2. Biennial budget
- 10.3. Report of the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness
- 10.4. Rules of Procedure
- 10.5. Discussion
- 10.6. Adoption of the F&A report
- 10.7. Any other matters

11. WHALE KILLING METHODS AND WELFARE ISSUES (WKM&WI)

- 11.1. Report of the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues
- 11.2. Discussion of the WKM&WI WG report
- 11.3. Adoption of the WKM&WI WG report
- 11.4. Any other matters

12. MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND INFRACTIONS SUB COMMITTEE (INF)

- 12.1. Report of the Infractions Sub-Committee
- 12.2. Discussion of the Infractions Sub-Committee report
- 12.3. Adoption of the Infractions Sub-Committee report
- 12.4. Catches by non-member nations
- 12.5. Any other matters

13. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (CC)

- 13.1. Discussion of the CC report/presentation
- 13.2. Adoption of the CC report and Work Plan
- 13.3. Any other matters

14. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC)

- 14.1. Discussion of the SC reports/presentation
- 14.2. Adoption of the SC report and Work Plan
- 14.3. Any other matters

15. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

16. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 16.1. Election of Chair
- 16.2. Election of Vice-Chair

17. BUREAU MEMBERSHIP

18. FUTURE IWC MEETINGS

- 18.1. Confirmed Events
- 18.2. Call for hosts

19. OTHER MATTERS

20. ADOPTION OF DAILY REPORTS OF MAIN OUTCOMES, DECISIONS AND REQUIRED ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE 69th MEETING

ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 Welcome Address

The 69th Meeting will open formally at 10:00 am on Monday 23 September 2024. Opening remarks will be provided by Peruvian hosts, Ministers, and the IWC's Executive Secretary.

1.2 Opening Statements

The Commission's practice is to accept opening statements from Commissioners and Observers in writing only. However, as usual, the Chair will invite any new Contracting Governments to make a short opening statement during this part of the Plenary session. In line with the last IWC meeting, short statements will be allowed for Ministers present. Written opening statements from Contracting Governments and observer organisations should be submitted to the Secretariat at the latest by 5 pm on the first day of Plenary. The documents will be available for download via the document link from the IWC69 webpage (<https://iwc.int/iwc69>).

1.3 Meeting Arrangements

IWC69 will have new meeting arrangements. The dates for the holding of virtual Committee, Sub-Committee and Working Group meetings (28 August – 5 September 2024) were agreed by the Bureau and circulated to the Commission. The Infractions Sub-Committee will meet by correspondence. The Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Committee will meet in person on 22 September. The Plenary will consider the reports of these meetings as part of its agenda.

1.4 Secretary's Report on Credentials and Voting Rights

The Executive Secretary will report on the status of Credentials as requested under Rule of Procedure D.1.(d). The Secretary will also report on any current suspensions of voting rights under Rule of Procedure E.2.(a) and (b).

1.5 Meeting Provisions

Delegates will be informed by the Chair, the Secretariat, and the local hosts of any practicalities or other meeting arrangements.

1.6 Review of Documents

Documents will be available via the document link from the IWC69 webpage: (<https://iwc.int/iwc69>).

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The draft agenda was prepared by the Chair with support of the Secretariat and under guidance from the Bureau. It was circulated to Commissioners and Contracting Governments on 14 June 2024 (100 days prior to the opening of the meeting) with a request for comments and additions. The agenda was modified to reflect proposed Resolutions and a proposed Schedule Amendment that were submitted prior to the 60-day deadline.

This agenda item will also provide an opportunity for the Chair to advise on the time schedule for the meeting.

3. QUORUM

The Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (WG-OE) was tasked at IWC68 to develop a proposal that addresses quorum, Rule of Procedure B.1, to be discussed as the first item of business at IWC69, before any other decisions are adopted. The WG-OE met virtually intersessionally and developed options for proposed changes in the Rules of Procedure for consideration at IWC69. Other issues addressed by the WG-OE will be addressed under agenda item 10.3.

4. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT ON SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

This agenda item will allow the Executive Secretary to briefly present the report of the Secretariat's main activities since IWC68. The Secretariat prepared this report after consulting with the Bureau, to increase transparency and visibility of its work.

5. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC) PRESENTATION

This agenda item will allow the Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC) to provide a summary of the Committee's progress and main recommendations arising from its intersessional work and from its meetings in 2023 and 2024. The discussion of the SC's future work plan will be addressed under this agenda item and as part of the budget discussion at agenda item 10.2 (Biennial budget). The Chair and other members of the SC also provide input on specific agenda items throughout the Plenary meeting, which will be raised as appropriate under agenda item 14.

5.1 Introduction and presentation of Main Recommendations

The SC presentation will cover two years of Scientific Committee meetings and highlight the main recommendations.

5.2 Presentation of Future Work Plan

The presentation of the SC's future work plan will be addressed under this agenda item and as part of the budget discussion at agenda item 10.2 (Biennial budget).

6. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (CC) PRESENTATION

This agenda item will allow the Chair of the Conservation Committee (CC) to provide a summary of the Committee's intersessional progress. The Chair and other members of the CC will also provide input on specific agenda items throughout the Plenary meeting.

Discussion of the CC's future work plan will be addressed under this agenda item and as part of the budget discussion at agenda item 10.2 (Biennial budget). The Chair and other members of the CC also provide input on specific agenda items throughout the Plenary meeting, which will be raised as appropriate under agenda item 13.

6.1 Introduction and presentation of Main Recommendations

The CC presentation will review topics of particular concern to the Commission and highlight the main recommendations from its 2024 meeting. It will also provide a report from the meetings of the Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group in 2023 and 2024.

6.2 Presentation of Future Work Plan

The presentation of the CC's future work plan will be addressed under this agenda item.

7. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING (ASW)

The Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (ASW) Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference are to 'consider relevant information and documentation from the Scientific Committee, and to consider nutritional, subsistence and cultural needs relating to aboriginal subsistence whaling and the use of whales taken for such purposes, and to provide advice on the dependence of aboriginal communities on specific

whale stocks to the Commission for its consideration and determination of appropriate management measures’.

7.1 Report of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-Committee

The ASW Sub-Committee will meet on Sunday 22 September and its report will be available prior to the Plenary meeting. The ASW Sub-Committee Chair will present a summary of the report to the Plenary.

7.2 Extension of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Strike-Catch Limits at IWC69

This agenda item will allow consideration for the extension of the ASW Strike-Catch limits under paragraph 13(a)(6) of the Schedule. If all the conditions have been met the Commission can extend the strike/catch limits in paragraph 13(b).

7.3 Discussion of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-Committee report

Any comments in regard to the ASW Sub-Committee report can be raised under this agenda item.

7.5 Adoption of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-Committee report

The Commission will consider adoption of the ASW Sub-Committee report.

7.6 Any other matters

Other issues relevant to the ASW Sub-Committee can be raised under this agenda item.

8. PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE

The following proposal to amend the Schedule was received before the deadline for submissions:

8.1 Proposal of a Schedule Amendment to create a South Atlantic whale sanctuary

This item will address the proposal of a Schedule Amendment to create a South Atlantic whale sanctuary, presented by the Governments of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.

9. PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

The following proposed Resolutions were received by the Secretariat. They are listed in the order of submission. The Chair will inform in which order they will be considered at the meeting.

9.1 Resolution on Food Security

This item will address a proposal submitted by the Republic of Guinea, Cambodia, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Congo, Senegal and St. Kitts and Nevis.

9.2 Resolution for the Implementation of a Conservation and Management Program for Whale Stocks aimed towards the lifting of the moratorium and orderly Development of the Whaling Industry

This item will address a proposal submitted by Antigua and Barbuda and St. Lucia.

9.3 Resolution on Co-operation with CCAMLR in Antarctica

This item will address a proposal by Hungary on behalf of EU Countries which are members of the Commission.

9.4 Resolution on Synergies between the IWC, the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the BBNJ Agreement

This item will address a proposal by Hungary on behalf of EU Countries which are members of the Commission.

9.5 Resolution on International Legal Obligations in Commercial Whaling

This item will address a proposal by Hungary on behalf of EU Countries which are members of the Commission.

10. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

This agenda item allows the Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee Chair to provide an update on the work of its Sub-Committee, including on the current financial situation of the IWC, associated budgetary issues, and proposed budget for the biennial period 2025/26, as well as on the work of the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness.

10.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The F&A Committee will meet on Friday 30 August and its report will be available prior to the Plenary meeting. Note that the F&A Committee report will reflect the outcomes of the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (WG-OE) and the Budgetary Sub-Committee (BSC) meetings held on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 August respectively.

Final position for the 2022 and 2023 financial years and the forecast position for 2024 financial year will be reported. The Chair of the F&A Committee will make a report to the Commission including a recommendation regarding acceptance of the audited financial statements.

In addition to the biennial budget, other issues discussed at the August F&A Committee meeting are summarised in the F&A Committee report to the Commission, including any recommendations. These include updates on voluntary funds, the Headquarters building, and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with external organisations.

10.2 Biennial budget

The Commission agreed at IWC68 to follow the principles outlined in the Budget Reform Strategy, which means budgets must be balanced and developed using a zero-based budgeting approach.

The F&A Committee will present a two-year budget for 2025/26 along with an additional provisional two-year budget for 2027/28, developed by the Budgetary Sub-Committee, for Commission approval. This item will also include an opportunity to review the Scientific Committee's proposed work plan for 2025/26

10.3 Report of the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness

The Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (WG-OE) will meet on Wednesday 28 August. The WG-OE was tasked with making recommendations to the Commission to implement reforms that would improve the institutional and governance arrangement of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

This agenda item allows the WG-OE Co-Chairs to summarise the recommendations for decision at IWC69.

The WG-OE addresses challenges around the definitions of 'quorum' and 'exceptional circumstances', and how they should be defined in the Rules of Procedure; considerations for aligning suspension of voting rights with the biennial meeting schedule; and options for potential payment plans. Recommendations on quorum will be considered under agenda item 3.

10.4 Rules of Procedure

Along with the potential changes mentioned in the WG-OE report, the F&A Committee has another potential change to bring to the Commission. This is with reference to the leadership of the Scientific Committee, those involved and the years of tenure.

11. WHALE KILLING METHODS AND WELFARE ISSUES (WKM&WI)

This item will allow the Chair of the Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues (WKM&WI) Working Group to present a summary of the Working Group's progress and the main recommendations arising from its intersessional work and 2024 meeting.

11.1 Report of the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues

The Chair of the WKM&WI Working Group will report to Plenary under this agenda item. Issues addressed in the WKM&WI Working Group include review of data on whales killed and time to death, improving the humaneness of whale killing, strandings and whale entanglement response.

11.2 Discussion of the WKM&WI Working Group report

Any comments in regard to the WKM&WI Working Group report can be raised under this agenda item.

11.3 Adoption of the WKM&WI Working Group report

The Commission will consider adoption of the WKM&WI Working Group report.

11.4 Any other matters

Other issues relevant to the WKM&WI Working Group can be raised under this agenda item.

12. MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND INFRACTIONS (INF)

The Infractions (INF) Sub Committee met by correspondence and the Chair of the INF Sub-Committee will report to the Plenary. The INF Sub-Committee considers data received from Contracting Governments to fulfil reporting obligations under Article IX.4 of the Convention. A review of national laws and regulations is also part of this Sub-Committee's mandate.

12.1 Report of the Infractions Sub-Committee

The INF Sub-Committee Chair will report on data received from Contracting Governments to fulfil reporting obligations under the Convention. A review of national laws and regulations is also part of this Sub Committee's mandate.

12.2 Discussion of the Infractions Sub-Committee report

Contracting parties will be invited to raise questions or issues concerning the INF Sub-Committee report and supporting documents.

12.3 Adoption of the Infractions Sub-Committee report

The Commission will consider the adoption of the INF Sub-Committee report.

12.4 Catches by non-member nations

This agenda item allows discussion of catches by non-member nations as reported to IWC69.

12.5 Any other matters

Other issues relevant to the INF Sub-Committee can be raised under this Item.

13. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (CC)

This agenda item allows the Commission to consider the report of the Conservation Committee (CC) and raise any remaining questions or concerns, focusing only on specific CC issues that arose during the present meeting.

13.1 Discussion of the Conservation Committee report/presentation

The CC Chair will note specific CC topics arising during discussions at the meeting and provide additional detail on the work of the CC on those topics.

13.2 Adoption of the Conservation Committee report and Work Plan

The Commission will consider adoption of the CC report.

13.3 Any other matters

Other issues relevant to the CC can be raised under this Item.

14. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (SC)

This agenda item allows the Commission to consider the Scientific Committee (SC) meeting reports from 2023 and 2024 (SC69A and SC69B) focusing only on specific SC issues that arose during the present meeting.

14.1 Discussion of the Scientific Committee reports/presentation

The SC Chair will note specific SC topics arising during discussions during the meeting and provide additional detail on the work of the Committee on those topics.

14.2 Adoption of the Scientific Committee reports and Work Plan

Following discussion, the Commission will consider adoption of these SC reports.

14.3 Any other matters

Other issues relevant to the SC can be raised under this Item.

15. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

This agenda item allows the Secretariat to report on collaborative work with other organisations. There has been considerable progress in collaboration with the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related conventions (BLG) and its members, such as CBD and CMS and its daughter agreements (ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS). The Secretariat has also been working closely with the FAO, its Committee on Fisheries and its Regional Secretariats' Network, as well as with the Regional Fishery Management Organisations to address improved monitoring and mitigation of bycatch. Other collaborations are underway with IMO, Pelagos Agreement, ATLAFCO, ICES, PICES, NAMMCO, SPREP and others.

16. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The current Chair and Vice-Chair have served for two years.

Rule of Procedure F.1 notes that the Chair is not eligible for re-election until two years have passed. The Commission will be asked to consider nominations for the Chair and Vice-Chair and other officer positions.

16.1 Election of Chair

The Commission will elect a new Chair.

16.2 Election of Vice-Chair

The Commission will elect a new Vice-Chair.

17. BUREAU MEMBERSHIP

The Commission constituted the Bureau through Rule of Procedure M.9 for administrative support during the intersessional period. Changes in Bureau membership will be reported under this agenda item. The Bureau is comprised of the Chair of the Commission (Republic of Guinea), the Vice Chair of the Commission (Australia), the Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee (USA), and four Commissioners representing a range of views and interests. Argentina, Belgium, Ghana and St. Lucia were appointed at IWC68 and have served during the intersessional period. Commissioners shall be appointed to the Bureau for a period of two years at Biennial Commission Meetings.

18. FUTURE IWC MEETINGS

The Biennial schedule of the Commission means its next meeting is due in September/October 2026. Rule of Procedure B.1. encourages any Contracting Government desiring to extend an invitation to provide notice at least 2 years in advance.

18.1 Confirmed Events

The Scientific Committee SC70 will next meet provisionally in April/May 2026.

18.2 Call for hosts

Any Contracting Government interested in hosting IWC70 or SC70 should contact the Secretariat as soon as possible so that a provisional estimate of the budget required can be made and presented to the Budgetary Sub-Committee for discussion at IWC69 should the hosting application go ahead. The Secretariat is able to provide detailed information to any Contracting Government considering an offer to host either a Commission or Scientific Committee Meeting.

19. OTHER MATTERS

20. ADOPTION OF DAILY REPORTS OF MAIN OUTCOMES, DECISIONS AND REQUIRED ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE 69th MEETING

The Bureau has agreed a new process for handling the Main Outcomes and key decisions more transparently and efficiently at IWC69. The Main Outcomes document will be updated as decisions are being taken during the meeting and circulated to Contracting Governments and observers on a daily basis. Comments are welcome and the complete document will be presented for final adoption at the end of the meeting.