
Introduction

This supplement to the Journal contains the Report of the Scientific Committee from its Annual Meeting held from 26 May to 6 June in Berlin, Germany. The meeting was attended by almost 170 participants (including some 39 invited participants); 30 member nations were represented. It also contains the reports of four intersessional meetings: the Report of the Modelling Workshop on Cetacean-Fishery Competition held in June 2002 in La Jolla; the reports of the Second Workshop on North Pacific Common Minke Whale Implementation Simulation Trials, Seattle, USA and the Report of the Workshop to Design Simulation-Based Performance Tests for Evaluating Methods Used to Infer Population Structure from Genetic Data, La Jolla, USA, both held in January 2003; and the Report of the Workshop on the Western Gray Whale: Research and Monitoring Needs held in Ulsan, Korea in October 2002.

Several major topics were discussed in Berlin and a more detailed summary of these is given in the Editorial to Issue 2 of Volume 6 of the Journal.

Discussion of the Revised Management Procedure for baleen whales (RMP) centred on: consideration of general issues related to abundance estimation and stock identity; implementation of the RMP for North Pacific minke whales and North Atlantic common minke whales; pre-implementation work on North Pacific Bryde's whales; and measures to ensure that total anthropogenic removal limits (including ship strikes and the estimation of numbers of bycaught animals) calculated by the RMP are not exceeded. The Committee also considered other management issues (including the tracking of whale products) related to the use of molecular techniques in the context of identifying species, stocks and individuals. In this regard, a research programme was established to develop a simulation framework to assess the performance of genetics methods used to infer population structure.

High priority has been placed on the development of a management procedure for aboriginal subsistence whaling (AWMP). The AWMP will comprise both generic and case-specific components. After completing work on the Bowhead Strike Limit Algorithm, work concentrated on the eastern gray whale.

Current aboriginal subsistence whaling operations are reviewed annually and the review included the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas bowhead whales, the eastern North Pacific stock of gray whales and the humpback whales off St Vincent and The Grenadines. Work to develop a research programme for fin and minke whales off Greenland continued.

Continuing concern was expressed over the status of a number of small populations of large whales, particularly the North Atlantic right whale (*Journal of Cetacean Research and Management (special issue 2) - Right Whales: Worldwide Status*) and the western North Pacific gray whale.

A major review of the abundance estimates of minke whales in the Antarctic began in 2001 so that an accepted estimate of current abundance can be obtained and any trends can be identified should they exist. The last accepted estimates were for the period 1982/83 to 1989/90. This work continued as a high priority item in 2003. Work on the differentiation of blue whale sub-species continued as part of the SOWER programme south of 60°S.

In recent years, the Committee has paid increasing attention to the relationship between cetaceans and their environment and developed two major initiatives, the SOWER 2000 programme and the POLLUTION 2000+ programme (see *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management (special issue 1) - Chemical Pollutants and Cetaceans*). Progress was reviewed at the 2003 meeting. Attention was also paid to the results of the workshop on modelling-related issues related to the issues surrounding cetacean/fishery competition.

At the 2003 meeting, the Committee considered the status of small cetaceans in the Black Sea and reviewed progress on recent recommendations by the Committee on small cetacean species.

G.P. Donovan
Editor

Supplement Contents

This supplement to the Journal contains the Report of the Scientific Committee from its Annual Meeting held from 26 May to 6 June in Berlin, Germany. It also contains the reports of four intersessional meetings: the Report of the Modelling Workshop on Cetacean-Fishery Competition held in June 2002 in La Jolla; the reports of the Second Workshop on North Pacific Common Minke Whale Implementation Simulation Trials, Seattle, USA and the Report of the Workshop to Design Simulation-Based Performance Tests for Evaluating Methods Used to Infer Population Structure from Genetic Data, La Jolla, USA, both held in January 2003; and the Report of the Workshop on the Western Gray Whale: Research and Monitoring Needs held in Ulsan, Korea in October 2002.

PLENARY REPORT*.....	1
Annex A: List of Participants	61
Annex B: Agenda	63
Annex C: List of Documents.....	68
Annex D: Report of the Sub-Committee on the Revised Management Procedure	75
Annex E: Report of the Standing Working Group on the Development of an Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure	185
Annex F: Report of the Sub-Committee on Bowhead, Right and Gray Whales.....	211
Annex G: Report of the Sub-Committee on the Comprehensive Assessment of Whale Stocks – In-Depth Assessments.....	224
Annex H: Report of the Sub-Committee on the Other Southern Hemisphere Whales	246
Annex I: Report of the Working Group on Stock Definition	272
Annex J: Report of the Working Group on Estimation of Bycatch and Other Human-Induced Mortality	281
Annex K: Report of the Standing Working Group on Environmental Concerns.....	290
Annex L: Report of the Sub-Committee on Small Cetaceans	315
Annex M: Report of the Sub-Committee on Whalewatching	335
Annex N: Report of the Working Group on DNA Testing	347
Annex O: Report of the Standing Working Group on Scientific Permit Proposals.....	350
Annex P: Report of the Working Group to Review Sanctuaries and Sanctuary Proposals	367
Annex Q: Progress Reports	375
Annex R: A Proposal to Initiate a Sperm Whale In-Depth Assessment	398
Annex S: Access Policy for IWC/SOWER Biopsy Samples.....	404
Annex T: Report of the Data Availability Working Group	406
Annex U: E-mail Correspondence Groups and Terms of Reference	409
Annex V: Statements on the Agenda	411

*Detailed Contents for the Plenary Section (pp.1-60) are given on following pages.

REPORT OF THE MODELLING WORKSHOP ON CETACEAN-FISHERY COMPETITION (SC/55/Rep1).....	413
REPORT OF THE SECOND WORKSHOP ON NORTH PACIFIC COMMON MINKE WHALE IMPLEMENTATION SIMULATION TRIALS (SC/55/Rep2)	427
REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP TO DESIGN SIMULATION-BASED PERFORMANCE TESTS FOR EVALUATING METHODS USED TO INFER POPULATION STRUCTURE FROM GENETIC DATA (SC/55/Rep3) .	469
REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON THE WESTERN GRAY WHALE: RESEARCH AND MONITORING NEEDS (SC/55/Rep4)	487

PLENARY SECTION: CONTENTS

1-3. Introductory items	1
4. Cooperation with other organisations	3
5. Revised management procedure - general issues (Annex D)	6
5.1 Adjustment of the convergence criteria for the CATCHLIMIT program	6
5.2 Implications of choice of component of population to which MSYR, MSYL and density-dependence apply in RMP trials	6
5.3 Levels of information required for <i>pre-implementation assessments</i> and for proceeding to an <i>Implementation</i>	7
5.4 Spatio-temporal considerations in the RMP	7
5.5 Data availability	7
5.6 Implications of restricting whaling to within 200 miles of a whaling nation's coast (EEZ)	7
5.7 Data required: value of collecting <i>tympanic bullae</i>	8
5.8 Comparison of RMP and AWMP	8
6. RMP - preparation for Implementation	9
6.1 Complete North Pacific common minke whale Implementation	9
6.2 North Atlantic minke whale <i>Implementation Review</i>	12
6.3 Western North Pacific Bryde's whales: work plan for detailed consideration at 2004 meeting	13
6.4 Initial planning for in-depth assessment of North Pacific minke whales	14
7. Estimation of bycatch (Annex J)	14
7.1 Estimation of bycatch based on fisheries data and observer programmes	14
7.2 Estimation of bycatch based on genetic data	14
8. Aboriginal subsistence whaling management procedure (Annex E)	15
8.1 Review intersessional progress	15
8.2 Eastern North Pacific gray whales (see also Annex E, Item 2)	16
8.3 Greenlandic fisheries and the Greenland Research Programme (see Annex E, Item 3)	16
8.4 Scientific aspects of an aboriginal whaling scheme	17
8.5 Dialogue with Commission and hunters	17
9. Aboriginal subsistence whaling stock assessments (Annexes E and F)	17
9.1 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock of bowhead whales (Annex F)	17
9.2 Eastern North Pacific stock of gray whales (Annex F)	18
9.3 Common minke and fin whales off Greenland (Annex E)	19
9.4 Humpback whales off St Vincent and The Grenadines (Annex E)	19
9.5 Catches by non-member nations (Annex F)	19
10. Whale stocks (Annexes F, G and H)	20
10.1 Matters relevant to more than one stock	20
10.2 Antarctic minke whales (Annex G)	20
10.3 Southern Hemisphere blue whales	23
10.4 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales	23
10.5 Other small stocks - bowhead, right and gray whales	24
10.6 Other	26
11. Stock definition (Annex I)	27
11.1 Statistical and genetic issues pertaining to population structure and modelling	27
11.2 Options for units to conserve, including management implications	29
11.3 Review instances of recovery of cetacean sub-stocks/units to conserve after severe depletion	29
11.4 Development of population and harvesting archetypes suitable for consideration in management	29
12. Environmental concerns (Annex K)	29
12.1 Modelling cetacean-fisheries interactions	29
12.2 High latitude climate change effects on cetaceans	30
12.3 Habitat-related issues	32

13. Small cetaceans (Annex L)	34
13.1 Review of status of small cetaceans in the Black Sea	34
13.2 Progress on previous recommendations	35
13.3 Takes of small cetaceans	37
14. Whalewatching (Annex M)	37
14.1 Whalewatching data collection	37
14.2 Whalewatching management workshop	37
14.3 National whalewatching guidelines and regulations	37
14.4 Whale and dolphin 'swim with' programmes.	38
14.5 Other	38
15. DNA testing (Annex N)	38
15.1 Progress on genetic methods for species, stock and individual identification.	38
15.2 Progress on collection and archiving of samples from catches and bycatches	39
15.3 Reference databases and standards for a diagnostic register of DNA profiles	39
16. Scientific permits (Annex O)	39
16.1 Review proposals to facilitate the review process.	39
16.2 Review of results from existing permits	39
16.3 Review of new or revised permits.	39
17. Whale sanctuaries (Annex P)	47
17.1 Review proposals to facilitate the review process.	47
17.2 Preparations for review of Southern Ocean Sanctuary	49
17.3 South Atlantic sanctuary proposal.	50
17.4 South Pacific sanctuary proposal.	50
18. Research proposals and results.	50
18.1 Access to IWC/SOWER cruise biopsy samples	50
18.2 Research proposals	50
19. Committee priorities and initial agenda for the 2003 and 2004 meetings	50
19.1 Committee priorities for SC/55 (2003)	50
19.2 Committee priorities for SC/56 (2004)	51
20. Data processing and computing needs for 2003/2004	52
21. Funding requirements for 2003/2004.	52
22. Working methods of the Committee.	56
22.1 Data availability	56
23. Election of officers.	56
24. Publications.	56
25. Adoption of report	57