

Draft Scientific Committee Agenda

Panama City, Panama, 11 - 23 June 2012

[N] = CHAIR'S ANNOTATIONS

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS [N]

- 1.1 Chair's welcome and opening remarks
- 1.2 Appointment of rapporteurs
- 1.3 Meeting procedures and time schedule [N]
- 1.4 Establishment of sub-committees and working groups [N]
- 1.5 Computing arrangements

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA [N]

3. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

- 3.1 Documents submitted [N]
- 3.2 National Progress Reports on research [N]
- 3.3 Data collection, storage and manipulation
 - 3.3.1 Catch data and other statistical material
 - 3.3.2 Progress of data coding projects
 - 3.3.3 Progress on program verification projects

4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS [N]

4.1 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)

- 4.1.1 Scientific Council
- 4.1.2 Conference of Parties (COP)
- 4.1.3 Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)
- 4.1.4 Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)
- 4.1.5 Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of the Manatees and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macronesia
- 4.1.6 Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region (MoU for Pacific Islands Cetaceans)

4.2 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

4.3 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

4.4 Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP)

4.5 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

4.6 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

4.7 Southern Ocean GLOBEC

4.8 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)

4.9 World Conservation Union (IUCN)

4.10 FAO – Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

4.11 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)

4.12 North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES)

4.13 Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Commission (ECCO)

4.14 Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean

4.15 Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

4.16 Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)

4.17 International Maritime Organization (IMO)

4.18 Conservation in the SE Pacific under the framework of the Lima Convention

4.19 Other

5. REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP) – GENERAL ISSUES

- 5.1 Complete the MSY rates review [N]**
- 5.2 Finalise the approach for evaluating proposed amendments to the *CLA* [N]**
- 5.3 Evaluate the Norwegian proposal for amending the *CLA* [N]**
- 5.4 Modify the ‘CatchLimit’ program to allow variance-covariance matrices**
- 5.5 Update requirements and guidelines for conducting surveys and *Implementations***
- 5.6 Evaluate the optimisation method used when conditioning trials [N]**
- 5.7 List of abundance estimates and their recommended uses [N]**
- 5.8 Work plan**

6. RMP – PREPARATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 6.1 Western North Pacific Bryde’s whales**
 - 6.1.1 Prepare for 2013 Implementation Review*
 - 6.1.2 Recommendations*
- 6.2 North Atlantic fin whales**
 - 6.2.1 Complete Implementation [N]*
 - 6.2.2 Prepare for 2014 Implementation Review*
 - 6.2.3 Recommendations*
- 6.3 North Pacific common minke whales [N]**
 - 6.3.1 Continue Implementation*
 - 6.3.2 Recommendations*
- 6.4 North Atlantic minke whales**
 - 6.4.1 Review new information*
 - 6.4.2 Prepare for 2014 Implementation Review*
 - 6.4.3 Recommendations*
- 6.5 North Atlantic sei whales**
 - 6.5.1 Review proposal for a pre-Implementation Assessment*
 - 6.5.2 Recommendations*
- 6.6 Work plan**

7. ESTIMATION OF BYCATCH AND OTHER HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY (BC)

- 7.1 Collaboration with FAO on collation of relevant fisheries data**
- 7.2 Progress on joining the Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS) [N]**
- 7.3 Estimation of bycatch mortality of large whales**
- 7.4 Estimation of risk and rates of entanglement**
- 7.5 Consider methods and data sources for establishing time series of bycatch [N]**
- 7.6 Review progress on including information in National Progress Reports**
- 7.7 Review methods to estimate mortality from ship strikes [N]**
- 7.8 Continue to develop global database of ship strike incidents [N]**
- 7.9 Other issues**
 - 7.9.1. Continue to consider methods for assessing mortality from acoustic sources*
 - 7.9.2 Continue to consider methods for assessing mortality from marine debris*
 - 7.9.3 Continue to consider methods to estimate mortality rates from strandings*
- 7.10 Work plan**

8. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (AWMP)

- 8.1 Complete *Implementation Review* for eastern North Pacific gray whales [N]**
- 8.2 Complete *Implementation Review* of Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas Bowhead whales**
- 8.3 Continue work on developing *SLAs* for the Greenland fisheries [N]**
- 8.4 Develop data availability guidelines for AWMP *Implementation* and *Implementation Reviews***
- 8.5 Consider new information related to conversion factors for edible products for Greenland fisheries**
- 8.6 Work plan**

9. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT ADVICE [N]

9.1 Eastern Canada and West Greenland bowhead whales (BRG)

9.1.1 Assess stock structure and abundance of Eastern Canada and West Greenland bowhead whales

9.1.2 Review recent catch information

9.1.3 Management advice

9.2 Eastern North Pacific gray whales (BRG)

9.2.1 Provide information to the SWG on AWMP for Implementation Review

9.2.2 Review of recent catch information

9.2.3 Management advice

9.3 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas Bowhead whale (BRG)

9.3.1 New information

9.3.2 Management advice

9.4 Common minke whale stocks off Greenland (AWMP)

9.4.1 New information

9.4.2 Management advice

9.5 Fin whales off West Greenland (AWMP)

9.5.1 New information

9.5.2 Management advice

9.6 Humpback whales off West Greenland (AWMP)

9.6.1 New information

9.6.2 Management advice

9.7 Humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines (AWMP)

9.7.1 New information

9.7.2 Management advice

9.8 Work plan

10. WHALE STOCKS [N]

10.1 Antarctic minke whales (IA)

10.1.1 Produce agreed abundance estimates of Antarctic minke whales using IDCR/SOWER data [N]

10.1.2 Apply statistical catch-at-age models

10.1.3 Continue to examine the difference between abundance estimates from CPII and CPIII [N]

10.1.4 Work plan

10.2 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales (SH) [N]

10.2.1 Begin assessment of Breeding stocks E and F

10.2.2 Review new information on other breeding stocks

10.2.3 Work plan

10.3 Southern Hemisphere blue whales (SH)

10.3.1 Review new information

10.3.2 Work plan

10.4 Western North Pacific gray whales (BRG) [N]

10.4.1 Review new information

10.4.2 Conservation advice

10.4.3 Work plan

10.5 Southern Hemisphere right whales (BRG) [N]

10.5.1 Review new information

10.5.2 Review report from intersessional assessment workshop

10.5.3 Work plan

10.6 Other stocks of right whales and small stock of bowhead whales (BRG) [N]

10.6.1 Review any new information

10.6.2 Work plan

10.7 Arabian Sea humpback whales (SH) [N]

10.7.1 Review intersessional progress

10.7.2 Consideration of the development of a Conservation Management Plan

10.7.3 Work plan

10.8 International Cruises (IA)

10.8.1 IWC-POWER cruises in the North Pacific [N]

10.8.1.1 Review of 2011 IWC-POWER sighting survey

10.8.1.2 Recommendations for 2012 cruise

10.8.1.3 Mid- to long-term plans for the North Pacific Survey Programme

10.8.2 IWC-SOWER cruises

10.8.2.1 Progress on website, publications, analyses

10.8.3 Other cruises

10.9 Other

11. STOCK DEFINITION (SD)

11.1 Guidelines for genetic studies and DNA data quality [N]

11.2 Statistical and genetic issues related to stock definition

11.3 TOSSM [N]

11.4 Terminology and unit-to-convert

11.5 Work plan

12. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (E)

12.1 Receive the State of the Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER [N]

12.2 Pollution [N]

12.3 Review report from CERD working group [N]

12.4 Review report from marine renewable energy development workshop [N]

12.5 Review new information on effects of anthropogenic sounds on cetaceans and approaches to mitigate these effects

12.6 Plan intersessional workshop on anthropogenic impacts to cetaceans in the Arctic [N]

12.7 Review progress on work from Climate Change workshops

12.8 Other habitat related issues

12.9 Work plan

13. ECOSYSTEM MODELLING (EM) [N]

13.1 Review ecosystem modelling efforts undertaken outside the IWC

13.2 Explore how ecosystem models contribute to developing scenarios for simulation testing of the RMP

13.3 Review other issues relevant to ecosystem modelling within the Committee

13.4 Review new information on ecosystem model skill assessment

13.5 Work plan

14. SMALL CETACEANS (SM)

14.1 Review taxonomy, population structure and status of Ziphiidae (beaked and bottlenose whales) in the North Pacific and northern Indian Ocean [N]

14.2 Report on the voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research [N]

14.3 Review progress on previous recommendations [N]

14.4 Review takes of small cetaceans [N]

14.5 Update on proposed joint workshop on monodontids [N]

14.6 Work plan [N]

15. WHALEWATCHING (WW)

15.1 Assess the impact of whalewatching on cetaceans

15.2 Review whalewatching off Central America

15.3 Review reports of intersessional working groups [N]

15.4 Review scientific aspects of report from the Commission's intersessional whale watching workshop

15.5 Other issues

15.5.1 Consider information from platforms of opportunity of potential value to the Scientific Committee

15.5.2 Review of whalewatching guidelines and regulations

15.5.3 Review risks to cetaceans from collisions with whalewatching vessels

15.6 Work plan

16. DNA TESTING (DNA) [N]

- 16.1 Review genetic methods for species, stock and individual identification**
- 16.2 Review results of the ‘amendments’ of sequences deposited in GenBank**
- 16.3 Collection and archiving of tissue samples from catches and bycatches**
- 16.4 Reference databases and standards for diagnostic DNA registries**
- 16.5 Work plan**

17. SCIENTIFIC PERMITS (SP) [N]

17.1 Review of results from existing permits [N]

17.1.1 JARPN II

17.1.2 JARPA II

17.1.3 Planning for a final review of results from Iceland – North Atlantic common minke whales [N]

17.1.4 Planning for a periodic review of results from JARPA II beginning September 2013 [N]

17.2 Review of new or continuing proposals [N]

17.2.1 JARPA II

17.2.2 JARPN II

17.3 Work plan

18. WHALE SANCTUARIES (S) [N]

19. SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP [N]

20. RESEARCH AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AND RESULTS

20.1 Review results from previously funded research proposals

20.2 Review proposals for 2012/13 [N]

21. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR THE 2013 MEETING [N]

22. DATA PROCESSING AND COMPUTING NEEDS FOR 2011/12 [N]

23. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2012/13 [N]

24. WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE [N]

25. ELECTION OF OFFICERS [N]

26. PUBLICATIONS

27. OTHER BUSINESS

28. ADOPTION OF REPORT [N]

CHAIR'S ANNOTATIONS [N]

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The Scientific Committee (SC64) will meet in Panama City, Panama, from Monday 11th June to Saturday 23th June 2012. It will be preceded on Saturday and Sunday, 9th and 10th June by a pre-meeting workshop on Marine Renewable Energy Developments and Cetaceans (part of the EC Standing Working-group).

General information can be found at:

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/meetings/meeting2012.htm>

The list of the work agreed to be attempted during the 2011/2012 intersessional period is being updated and will be on the website at:

http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/sctasks.htm

and the list of intersessional correspondence groups and terms of reference (Annex R) is at:

http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/screport.htm

I have referred to some, but not all of these intersessional groups in the notes to the Agenda.

Item 1.3: Meeting procedures and time schedule

At the Scientific Committee meeting in 2011 we had 105 sessions available for sub-committee deliberations over a seven-day period, based on three concurrent sub-committee meetings for each of five work sessions per day, starting at approximately 08:30 and ending typically at 18:00. This schedule allowed for several *ad hoc* working groups to meet in the evening, typically from 18:15 to approximately 21:00, and for occasional longer sessions of sub-committees beyond the scheduled 18:00 finish time.

The Special Permit (SP) working group will meet during two evening sessions early in the sub-committee week to complete its agenda. The Sanctuaries working group (SAN) will only be established if there is a new formal proposal for sanctuaries submitted according to the guidelines for review by the Committee. As was done previously, one evening session may be used to 'communicate' a key theme of the Committees work: the 'Comprehensive Assessment' and 'the AWMP' are candidate themes.

Last year's schedule proved efficient as it allowed for rapporteurs and *ad hoc* working groups to work during the evening. The Scientific Committee agreed to continue this schedule at the 2012 Annual Meeting (SC64).

Time schedule at SC64		
Date	Items	Comments
Saturday 9 th June to Sunday 10 th June 09:00	Pre-meeting workshop on interactions between marine renewable developments and cetaceans	Item 12.4
Monday 11 th June 09:00	Plenary session, then read documents	Items 1-4
Tuesday 12 th June 09:00	Initial meetings of sub-committees and working groups (about 15 minutes each)	To elect chairs and adopt agenda, identify documents, etc
Wednesday 13 th June to Tuesday 19 th June	Predominantly sub-committees (possibly some short plenary meetings)	To complete agenda and agree report
Wednesday 20 th June	<i>Tentative</i> rest day	Subject to cancellation if insufficient progress is made....
Thursday 21 st to Saturday 23 th June	Plenary sessions. Intention to finish no later than 5pm on Saturday 23 th June	To complete agenda and agree report, including work plan and draft initial agenda for 2013
Sunday 24 th June	09:00-12:00 Convenors to complete editorial work on sub-committee and plenary reports; 12:00 Convenors meeting to, if necessary, consider refinements of the draft initial agenda, priorities, and changes in organisational structure implied by the draft initial agenda or by discussions during the meeting.	

Item 1.4: Establishment of sub-committees and working groups

The following groups were identified by the Convenors immediately after SC63 (see table below). The convenors and co-convenors for each sub-committee are listed in the table below. Although each group has a tentative annex number, some reports may be incorporated directly into the Scientific Committee's report. PLEASE NOTE: you are asked to sign up for sub-committees and working groups in advance. Details can be found in circular IWC.SC.165. It is important that you consult the registration and document submission details that can be found on the website:

http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/2012categories.htm

We intend to establish 14 sub-committees (including standing Working Groups and *ad hoc* Working Groups). This year we again have seven days available for sub-committees, and the number of sessions for sub-committees is again scheduled to be 105 based on three concurrent sub-committee meetings for each of five work sessions per day, starting at approximately 08:30 and ending typically at 18:00. Because of the inability to schedule certain sub-committees opposite other sub-committees, we will, if necessary, convene some evening sessions. However, if possible, I will avoid evening sessions to allow: (1) rapporteurs to draft reports and (2) more time for small break out groups (e.g. to do simulation runs and testing) during the annual meeting.

The draft Agenda developed by the Scientific Committee and finalized by the Convenors at last year's meeting (IWC/63/Rep1, Item 21) identified priority items for each sub-committee and items that would only be discussed if time is available. Chairs will adhere closely to this. I have included items in the latter category as sub-items under the heading 'Other issues' where appropriate, to emphasise this.

Sub-committees, standing and <i>ad hoc</i> working groups at SC64			
Title	Convenor	Co-convenor	Annex
Revised Management Procedure, RMP	Bannister		D
<i>Pre-Implementation Assessment</i> of western North Pacific common minke whales, NPM	Hammond		D1
Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure, AWMP	Donovan		E
Bowhead, Right and Gray Whales, BRG	Kitakado		F
In-depth Assessment, IA	Walløe		G
Southern Hemisphere whale stocks other than Antarctic minke and right whales, SH	Robbins		H
Stock Definition, SD	Jackson		I
Estimation of bycatch and other human-induced mortality, BC	Leaper		J
Environmental Concerns, E	Moore	Rowles	K
Ecosystem Modelling, EM	Ferguson/ Palacios*		K1
Small Cetaceans, SM	Fortuna		L
Whalewatching, WW	Urban- Rámirez	Carlson	M
DNA, DNA	Pastene		N
Special Permits, SP	Bjørge		P

* Ferguson was the convenor after the close of SC63, then for availability reasons, Palacios took over.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The order of the Agenda is based on that of last year, but amended *inter alia* to take account of our work plan and Commission mandates. The Commission accepted our priorities and initial Agenda, and adopted the budget as given under Items 21 and 23 of the last year's report.

I again recognise that some Contracting Governments do not believe that certain topics should be on the Commission and/or Scientific Committee Agendas. The appropriate forum to discuss such views is in the Commission. It is not within my mandate as Chair to exclude items specifically requested for inclusion by the Commission (e.g. by Resolution). To facilitate plenary and sub-committee discussions, I will follow the practice of past years and **strongly request** that any objections to specific items or particular topics on the Agenda be raised briefly under this Agenda Item and then provided in writing to the rapporteur for inclusion in our report. It is not acceptable for these objections to be repeated during discussions of the items themselves in the plenary sessions or during sub-committee meetings. A written reference in the relevant reports to the statements made here under Item 2 will be sufficient.

ITEM 3: REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

Item 3.1: Documents submitted

PLEASE NOTE: the system we used the last couple years will again be used this year for document distribution, in order to save both paper and energy. The details can be found on the IWC website:

http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/2012categories.htm

and in circular IWC.SC.15.165.

Item 3.2: National Progress Reports on research

Progress report data is to be uploaded online at the IWC data collection portal at: (this site is currently being finalised and is due for launch on the 2nd of April - Instructions for use are included on the webpage)

<http://data.iwcoffice.org/progressreport>

Under this Item we will also discuss progress made and difficulties encountered with respect to online data entry of progress reports as raised last year (Items 3.2, 7.4 and 14.3).

ITEM 4: COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Most of the organisations on this list are ones that have met since our last meeting and with which we have a formal exchange of observers. Observers' reports should therefore be available. **Observers, please, send your reports to the Secretariat no later than 18th May.** I would like to be able to discuss these on Day 1. To save time, there will be no presentation of observer's reports. Any directly relevant scientific matters will be dealt with under appropriate Agenda Items on our Agenda. I will assume that Committee members have read these, and I will ask members whether there are any questions that should be addressed under this Agenda Item.

ITEMS: 5-17

These items have been prepared in consultation with the Convenors to take specifically into account relevant Commission resolutions and Agenda Items. Note that the Committee Agenda here does not repeat the detailed sub-committee Agenda Items, but only highlights the major areas of discussion. Sub-items can more appropriately be added later (as is our usual practice).

ITEM 5: REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP) – GENERAL ISSUES

Item 5.1: Review MSY rates

Complete the review of the range of MSYR values for use in the RMP *Implementation Simulation Trials* based on the preparatory work of a steering group (Annex R1).

Item 5.2: Finalise the approach for evaluating proposed amendments to the CLA [N]

When it last discussed this issue (IWC, 2007b), the Committee agreed that two steps still had to be completed: (1) finalisation of the MSYR review (see above); and (2) specification of additional trials for testing amendments to the CLA. The latter related to modelling the effects of possible environmental degradation in addition to, or possibly replacing, the trials in which *K*, perhaps with MSYR, varies over time. The Committee re-established a working group under Allison to develop and run such trials for consideration at next year's meeting (Annex R2).

Item 5.3: Evaluate the Norwegian proposal for amending the CLA

The Committee was unable to complete its evaluation of the Norwegian proposal. It will complete the task once the MSYR review is complete and any additional trials (see Item 5.2) have been specified and run.

Item 5.6: Evaluate the optimisation method used when conditioning trials

During SC63 the Committee requested the examination of: (1) whether and when the optimisation method used when conditioning trials fails to find the actual minimum of the objective function; and (2) the implications, if any, of this for previous results of *Implementation Simulation Trials*. The implications may also be discussed under the specific *Implementations* within Item 6.

Item 5.7 List of abundance estimates and their recommended uses

During SC64 the Committee recommended a single list of all abundance estimates for stocks for which management advice is needed be compiled and that list annotates how they can be used (conditioning *Implementation Simulation Trials*, applying to the RMP, etc.).

ITEM 6: RMP – PREPARATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Item 6.2 North Atlantic fin whales

6.2.1 Complete Implementation

To complete this *Implementation* a revised research proposal for the ‘variant with research’ will be reviewed to determine whether the plausibility of this variant should re-assigned.

Item 6.3: North Pacific common minke whales

In 2009, the Commission agreed that for the western North Pacific common minke whales, the Scientific Committee should follow the option in the Scientific Committee report (Item 20.2.2 (2) – pages 93-4 of the version on the website) that specifies completing a full *Implementation Review* as soon as possible, ideally by the 2012 Annual Meeting. To accomplish this, a *pre-Implementation Assessment* was completed during SC62. This started the normal schedule for an *Implementation* and during SC63 the work assigned to the “First Annual Meeting” was initiated, in accordance with our guidelines. Unfortunately, this work was not completed last year. To ensure that this work could be completed this year, two intersessional groups were formed (Annex R4 and R5) and an intersessional meeting was convened. During this year’s annual meeting the results of the intersessional meeting will be reviewed and the work assigned to the “First Annual Meeting” will be completed. These sessions will be dealt with under the NMP sub-committee.

ITEM 7: ESTIMATION OF BYCATCH AND OTHER HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY

Item 7.2: Progress on joining the Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS)

In 2005, the Committee recommended that the collaboration with FAO be formalised and that IWC should join the Fishery Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS). It was noted that the information flow should be a two-way process, with bycatch records held by the IWC being provided to the FAO, and FAO should provide detailed information on the nature and scale of fisheries in areas where large whale bycatch might be an issue of concern. We will review progress of this collaboration.

Item 7.5 Consider methods and data sources for establishing time series of bycatch

Since the Implementation Simulation Trials need time series of bycatch, it was suggested that the methods (including factors used to adjust reported catch) and data sources be discussed and perhaps guidelines could be developed.

Item 7.7 Review methods to estimate mortality from ship strikes

An intersessional working group was established to plan for a workshop of cetacean and shipping experts to agree on appropriate analytical and modelling techniques (Annex R6) and another group was established to explore the development of quantitative risk models for NA fin whales and ship strikes (Annex R7).

Item 7.8: Continue to develop global database of ship strike incidents

I draw your attention to the activity of the Conservation Committee and its intersessional working group (SSWG/CC). The SC established an intersessional group (Annex R8) to further develop a process by which data provided from a range of sources could be stored in a database. We will review progress made by this group.

ITEM 8: ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

Item 8.1 Complete Implementation Review for eastern North Pacific gray whales and

Item 8.3: Continue work on developing SLAs for the Greenlandic fisheries

The Committee will review progress of intersessional groups (Annex R9, R10, R11) and Workshop as the basis for its further work.

ITEM 9: ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT ADVICE

In 2007 the Commission adopted new catch limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling that in several cases requires annual review, *inter alia* common minke whales and bowhead whales off West Greenland. An intersessional group (Annex R3) was formed to advise Icelandic scientists as needed whilst the Icelandic research program is being developed.

ITEM 10: WHALE STOCKS

The title of this item now corresponds to that in the Commission's draft Agenda. Individual items will be dealt with by appropriate sub-committees, as indicated in the Draft Agenda.

Item 10.1: Antarctic minke whales

Item 10.1.1: Produce agreed abundance estimates of Antarctic minke whales using SOWER data

An intersessional working group (Annex R12) has been set up to resolve the reasons for the differences between estimates of abundance of Antarctic minke whales between the OK and SPLINTR models. The Committee will review their progress so that an abundance estimate can be agreed upon.

Item 10.1.3: Continue to examine the differences between abundance estimates from CPII and CPIII

Reasons for the observed differences in abundance estimated from CPII and CPIII are not yet fully understood. The intersessional groups working towards the completion of this long standing task addressed: the relationship between the abundance of Antarctic minke whales and variables related to sea ice (Annex R14); Catch-at-age analyses, including examining growth rates and age-at-maturity possible changes by Areas (Annex R13); and continuation of the methodological aspects of abundance (Annex R12). The Committee will review intersessional progress as basis for its continued work.

Item 10.2: Southern Hemisphere humpback whales

During SC63 the assessment of breeding stock B was completed, so the assessment of breeding stocks E and F will begin this year using results of the intersessional working group (Annex R15).

Item 10.4: Western North Pacific gray whales

The Commission is particularly concerned about the status of the endangered western North Pacific gray whale, whose feeding grounds coincide with oil and gas operations off Sakhalin Island, Russian Federation. The population numbers only about 120 animals and although there is evidence that it has been increasing at perhaps 3% per year over the last decade, any additional deaths, for example in fishing gear as has recently occurred, put the survival of the population in doubt. The Commission agreed to work together to try to mitigate anthropogenic threats to this endangered population. The Committee will review new information, e.g. on bycatch mortality, tagging experiments, and any mitigation measures to reduce risk of bycatches.

Item 10.5: Southern Hemisphere right whales

The Committee will review the report from the intersessional workshop on the assessment of Southern Hemisphere right whale populations (Annex R17) and then decide on further steps.

Item 10.6: Other stocks of right whales and small stock of bowhead whales

In SC62 it was suggested to include separate agenda items for the Northeast Pacific right whales and Northwest Pacific right whales.

Item 10.7: Arabian Sea humpback whales

Last year the Committee agreed that sufficient data exist on Arabian Sea humpback whales and possible anthropogenic threats to begin the process for the development of a Conservation Management Plan. Following the model for western gray whales, the Committee agreed that progress would best be achieved through engagement of scientists, marine stakeholders and range states at a dedicated intersessional workshop between to be held prior to next year's meeting. During this year's meeting, results from intersessional progress (Annex R16) will be reviewed and future steps developed.

10.8 Cruises

10.8.1 North Pacific cruises

The Committee will review results from the IWC-POWER Technical Advisory intersessional working group (Annex R19) and IWC-POWER surveying planning working group (Annex R18), in addition to the report from the intersessional meeting.

ITEM 11: STOCK DEFINITION

Item 11.1 Guidelines for genetic studies and DNA data quality

The Committee will review the results of the genetic data and analyses guidelines intersessional working group (Annex R21) and the outcome of the intersessional meeting.

Item 11.3: TOSSM

The main aim is to develop simulation tools that can be used to examine the performance of current and future genetic population structure techniques. However, it was also noted this tool could be used to investigate certain observed genetic phenomena, such as features identified in Pacific gray whales (Annex R22). At this meeting, results of this investigation will be reviewed and a list of stock-related issues where similar TOSSM-based exercises could be useful will be developed.

ITEM 12: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Item 12.1: Receive the State of Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER

Committee members are encouraged to make submissions to the co-Convenors of the intersessional working group (Annex Q21). Use the standardised form for data entry, which can be downloaded from:

http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/socer.htm

Item 12.2: Pollution

This item includes updates on the POLLUTION 2000+ Phase II project (Annex R26), work needed related to oil spill response and assessments (Annex R23), evaluating risk to cetaceans from marine plastics (Annex R24) and other relevant updates on for example oil spills. The Committee will review their progress and decide on further steps.

Item 12.3: Review report from CERD working group

The Committee will review progress made by the intersessional working group (Appendix R27).

Item 12.4 Review report from marine renewable energy development workshop

This workshop will be a pre-meeting held in Panama City, Panama during June 9-10, 2012 (Annex R29).

Item 12.6 Plan intersessional workshop on anthropogenic impacts to cetaceans in the Arctic

At IWC 62, the Commission agreed that the IWC SC should convene a workshop that discusses the anthropogenic impacts to cetaceans in the Arctic. It was suggested this workshop be convened in the 2012/13 intersessional period, which is being planned by an intersessional steering group (Annex R28).

Item 12.7 Review progress on work from Climate Change workshops

Among the recommendations from these workshops includes the work of the small cetacean restricted habitats intersessional working group (Annex R25), which will be reviewed.

ITEM 13: ECOSYSTEM MODELLING

Ecosystem modelling has been subject to discussion in several of the sub-committees in recent years. To further this topic, we have established a separate working group under E as a forum for this discussion. At SC63 the working group will *inter alia* consider models that are relevant to the Committee's evaluation of special permit whaling, as well as other relevant ecosystem models; and discuss other issues relevant to ecosystem modelling.

ITEM 14: SMALL CETACEANS

Item 14.1: Review taxonomy, population structure and status of Ziphiidae (beaked and bottlenose whales) in the North Pacific and northern Indian Ocean

During SC63, last year, the small cetacean sub-committee reviewed the systematics, population structure and status of Atlantic Ziphiidae (beaked and bottlenose whales). This year the focus is on the Ziphiidae in North Pacific and northern Indian Ocean.

Item 14.2 Report on the voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research

Australia recently contributed funds to support high priority research that demonstrably links to improving conservation outcomes for small cetaceans globally, particularly those that are threatened or especially vulnerable to human activities. During SC62 and SC63 several projects were funded. During SC64, progress reports from these projects will be reviewed.

Item 14.3: Review progress on previous recommendations

IWC Resolution 2001-13 urges contracting governments to respond to Scientific Committee requests for information and recommendations for action regarding conservation of small cetaceans. This resolution also instructs the Committee to continue to review progress on previous recommendations on a regular basis.

Item 14.4: Review takes of small cetaceans

As in previous years, I request Heads of Delegation to arrange for such information to be included in the National Progress Reports (re. Annotations to Item 3.2).

Item 14.5: Update on proposed joint workshop on monodontids

Receive update on the proposed joint workshop with NAMMCO Scientific Committee, the Canada-Greenland Joint commission on Narwhal and Beluga, Alaska North Slope Borough and others. Workshop is proposed to be held autumn 2013 (Annex R30).

Item 14.6: Work plan

This includes reviewing progress made by an intersessional correspondence group to consider whether the issue of the consumption of cetaceans ('marine bushmeat') as some type of substitute for other resources that are becoming scarce should be added to the priority topic list to be discussed in future meetings (Annex R31).

ITEM 15: WHALEWATCHING**Item 15.3 Review reports of intersessional working groups**

This includes intersessional groups working on aspects of the LaWE project (Annex R32 and R33), the online whalewatching database (Annex R34), the swim-with-whale operations questionnaire (Annex R35), and the project that is identifying potentially dangerous recreational interactions with cetaceans and people (Annex R36).

ITEM 16: DNA TESTING

Under this Agenda Item, we will provide the report to the Commission required by IWC Resolution 1999-8. I will refer you to the Committee's recommendation that sequences to be used in published reports should be deposited in GenBank, and that the GenBank accession number is included in the publication, whether or not this is required by the journal. This is incorporated in the policy of the *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*, and its guide for authors. The Committee recommended that similar practices be established for public archiving of non-sequence genetic data, where feasible.

ITEM 17: SCIENTIFIC PERMITS

At SC61 a working group (SP) was created to entertain the discussion of special permit programmes and associated procedural questions. The scientific results of the special permit programmes will be discussed in the relevant sub-committees and standing working groups (*inter alia* IA, NPM, E and EM).

Item 17.1: Review of results from existing permits

There are two existing ongoing Special Permit programmes (JARPN II on North Pacific common minke, sei, Bryde's and sperm whales and JARPA II on fin and Antarctic minke whales). In addition, there is one existing programme where the scientific whaling operations have finished, but final review of results is pending (the Icelandic programme on North Atlantic common minke whales).

17.1.3 Planning for a final review of results from Iceland – North Atlantic common minke whales

Because of the financial constraints in Iceland the work necessary for the final review will not be available for SC63. We will receive an update as to when the work will be completed.

17.1.4 Planning for a periodic review of results from JARPA II beginning September 2013

The first 6-year phase has been completed 92005-06 through 2010-11) and therefore the periodic review is due to begin. Considerable laboratory and analysis work are still needed (as of SC63) and since it is anticipated that this review would occur in the same intersessional period as the Iceland review, the Scientific Committee recommended the JARPA II periodic review begin in September 2013 (the 2013/2014 intersessional period).

Item 17.2: Review of new or continuing proposals

I have not been informed about any new proposal, and I do not anticipate any discussion of new Special Permit proposals at SC63.

ITEM 18: SANCTUARIES

In the major discussion about sanctuaries in 2004, the Committee recommended procedures to facilitate the review of future proposals and future sanctuary reviews (*J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 7 (Suppl.):50-1). I have not been informed about any new proposals for Sanctuaries that we have not already thoroughly reviewed. Therefore, I do not foresee any major discussion regarding this Agenda Item. Nonetheless, I have left the item on our draft Agenda for final consideration at the time of our meeting.

ITEM 19: SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

The Government of Australia hosted a workshop in Sydney 23 – 26 March 2009 to discuss plans for a five-year non-lethal research effort in the Southern Ocean. The workshop used IWC Scientific Committee research recommendations as a starting point for its deliberations. A workshop report was submitted to SC61. The Committee endorsed the general approach developed for this program. At SC62, several projects were proposed to be partially funded. At SC63, revised proposals were reviewed, accepted and funded. At SC64 progress reports from the funded projects will be received and reviewed in the relevant sub-committee, in addition, the report from the non-lethal techniques workshop (Annex R37) will be reviewed.

ITEM 20: RESEARCH AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AND RESULTS

Item 20.2: Review proposals for 2012/13

This item will be handled, as usual, by a review group chaired by the Vice Chair and appointed from the sub-committee chairs. However, I have been informed by the Secretariat that it is unlikely that we will be able to support any outside proposals and none have been received thus far. I also draw your attention to the discussion of appropriate procedures for funding research discussed under Items 19 and 22 of SC60's Committee report.

ITEM 21: COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR THE 2013 MEETING

Our priorities are largely determined by the Commission and should not require a great deal of discussion. The work plan specified by each sub-committee/working group will provide a basis for the draft Agenda for the next meeting. I will prepare a draft initial Agenda for review before the end of the meeting so that it can appear in our report and will reflect our view of priorities for 2012/13. This Agenda will, of course, be subject to revision as a result of Commission decisions. Any revisions will be sent to you in an Outcome Report shortly after the Commission meeting.

ITEM 22: DATA PROCESSING AND COMPUTING NEEDS FOR 2012/13

To facilitate discussion of this item, which necessarily occurs relatively late in the meeting, sub-committee chairs will, as usual, be asked to keep a running tally of needs arising in their sub-committee deliberations.

ITEM 23: FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2012/13

To facilitate discussion of this item, which necessarily occurs relatively late in the meeting, sub-committee Convenors will, as usual, be asked to keep a running tally of requirements arising in their sub-committee deliberations. Sub-committee chairs will try to ensure that a summary document is available as soon as possible after the sub-committees have completed their business. Where necessary, small groups will be appointed by sub-committee chairs to work out details for presentation in the plenary sessions under this item. As was done last year, we will use a standard form that should help in ensuring that the appropriate information is easily available.

ITEM 24: WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee has agreed to keep this item on the Agenda to allow for discussion of possible proposals to improve the working methods of the Committee.

We are expecting papers on a number of topics including: approaches for reviewing funding requests related to e.g. Conservation Management Plans and SORP; and priorities for Conservation Management Plans.

The Scientific Committee Handbook is available on the website and we will consider suggestions for additions/modifications under this Agenda Item.

ITEM 25: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The elected officers (Chair Palka and Vice Chair Kitakado) of the Scientific Committee are in their final year of their three year terms and an election is scheduled for this year, 2012. Our Rules of Procedure can be found on the website:

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/commission/procedure.htm#scientific>

ITEM 28: ADOPTION OF REPORT

I will do my best to ensure that we finish before 5pm on the final day with a completed report.