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E-mail Correspondence Groups and Terms of Reference

Group	Terms of Reference	Membership
(1) North Atlantic fin whales <i>ISTs</i> (Steering Group)	Assist with implementing the work plan for the North Atlantic fin whale <i>Implementation Review</i> .	Elvarsson (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, de Moor, Donovan, Gunnlaugsson, Punt, Witting.
(2) MSYR (Steering Group)	Coordinate the intersessional work exploring the relationship between $MSYR_{mat}$ and $MSYR_{1+}$ with the data for these species.	de la Mare (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, Cooke, Kitakado, Punt.
(3) North Atlantic sei whales (Correspondence Group)	Review the available data for North Atlantic sei whales in the context of a <i>pre-Implementation</i> assessment and provide a report to the 2015 Annual Meeting.	Vikingsson, (Convenor), Allison, Donovan, Gunnlaugsson, Øien, Palka, Palsbøll, Pampoulie, Prieto, Tiedemann, Waples, Witting.
(4) Amendments to the <i>CLA</i> (Working Group)	Formulate and run trials related to environmental degradation.	Allison (Convenor), Butterworth, Cooke, de la Mare, Donovan, Punt, Walløe.
(5) Workshop on abundance estimation (Steering Group)	Develop an agenda for the Workshop on abundance estimation and facilitate preparations.	Bravington (Convenor), Butterworth, Cooke, Hedley, Kitakado, Leaper.
(6) North Pacific common minke whale <i>Implementation</i> (Advisory Group)	Provide feedback to those developing research programmes for the North Pacific minke whales during the intersessional period.	Butterworth (Convenor), Allison, An, Baker, de Moor, Donovan, Double, Gaggiotti, Hoelzel, Kanda, Kelly, Kitakado, Miyashita, Park, Pastene, Punt, Wade, Waples.
(7) North Atlantic minke whale <i>Implementation Review</i> (Steering Group)	Guide the intersessional work, including holding of an intersessional Workshop to review progress on conditioning.	Walløe (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, de Moor, Donovan, Palsbøll, Punt, Prieto, Vikingsson, Witting.
(8) North Atlantic fin whales (Steering Group)	Consider the possibility of developing a single-stock model, similar to the operating model used for the humpbacks off West Greenland for fin whales.	Witting, Givens, Brandão, Butterworth, Punt, Allison, Donovan.
(9) <i>ISTs</i> (Steering Group)	Continue guiding the development of <i>SLAs</i> for the Greenland hunt.	Donovan (Convenor), Punt, Givens, Butterworth, Witting plus one other.
(10) Ship strike review (Working Group)	Continue to work on topics including data standardisation, database handbook and definitions of strikes.	Leaper (Convenor), Brownell, Cañadas, Donovan, Double, Ferguson, Holm, Mattila, Panigada, Ritter, Rowles.
(11) North Pacific gray whale stock structure (Steering Group)	Develop a set of model specifications for the first step in the modelling process.	Punt (Convenor), Bradford, Cooke, Donovan, Lang, Mate, Weller.
(12) North Pacific gray whale rangewide study (Steering Group)	Guide and review intersessional work.	Donovan (Convenor), Punt, Weller, Reeves, Moore (J), Wade, Butterworth, Scordino, Bradford, Laake, Lang.
(13) Review and synthesis of the Comprehensive Assessment of Southern Hemisphere humpback whales	Prepare a document synthesizing the results of the Comprehensive Assessment for presentation at SC/66a.	Jackson (Convenor), Baker, Butterworth, Findlay, Holloway, Robbins, Rosenbaum, Ross-Gillespie, Weinrich, Zerbini.
(14) Applying mixed stock analyses in future population assessments of humpback whales	Discuss and resolve the current sampling and analytical limitations of the mixed stock analysis approach, including: (1) sample sizes collected from breeding grounds and their influence on mixing; (2) population substructure in Oceania and the impact of combining versus using individual stocks on catch allocation; (3) some possible stratifications of the 'pure' breeding stock samples to test alternate composition of 'pure' stocks (particularly with respect to East Australia); and (4) developments of the likelihood model to account for unsampled haplotypes.	Jackson (Convenor), Baker, Butterworth, Double, Kitakado, Pastene, Ross-Gillespie, Waples, Weinrich.
(15) Further evaluate the minimum abundance of Breeding Stock D	To further evaluate the preliminary minimum estimate of BSD used in the assessment of humpback whale breeding stocks D/E/F	Robbins (Convenor), Bannister, Butterworth, Jackson, Kelley and others.
(16) Protocols and procedures of the Southern Hemisphere Blue Whale Catalogue	Further develop and reinforce SHBWC protocols and ensure clear communication of the terms of reference of the catalogue to current, pending and future contributors.	Galletti (Convenor), Matsuoka, Olson, Salgado and others.
(17) Arabian Sea (Working Group)	Continuation of the previously established intersessional Arabian Sea working group.	Baldwin (Convenor), Brownell, Carlson, Collins, Findlay, Gales, Galletti, Rosenbaum, Willson, Zerbini.

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(18) Investigate the feasibility of a future sperm whale assessment	Continue to identify data availability and needs to undertake a future assessment of sperm whales. Information would be sought in the following categories: (1) population structure within ocean basins; (2) population size within ocean basins and abundance in smaller areas; (3) catch history; and (4) consideration of the development of a new assessment model.	Brownell (Convenor), Baker, Bannister, Bell, de la Mare, Hoelzel, Kasuya, Kato, Leaper, Mate, Matsuoka, Mesnick, Miyashita, Murase, Palacios, Perrin, Reeves, Smith, Whitehead.
(19) Pre-assessment of pygmy blue whales	(1) identify/geographic groups for which assessments/status could be undertaken; (2) identify those for which assessment/status reviews can be initiated and completed for the 2016 meeting; and (3) identify tasks needed and who would complete them for the 2016 meeting.	Bannister (Convenor), Brownell, Galletti and regional data holders
(20) Onboard recording for North Pacific surveys	Ways of dealing with data.	Matsuoka (Convenor), An, Donovan, Ensor, Miyashita, Murase, Palka, TNASS person.
(21) IWC-POWER Survey Planning (Steering Group)	Finalise plans for 2015 IWC-POWER survey.	Kato (Convenor), An, Bannister, Brownell, Clapham, Donovan, Ensor, Kelly, Matsuoka, Miyashita, Murase, Pastene, Wade.
(22) POWER Technical Advisory Group (Working Group)	Initial consideration of medium-term plans for IWC-POWER.	Kitakado (Convenor), Bravington, Donovan, Hedley, Kelly, Matsuoka, Palka.
(23) IDCR/SOWER Data Validation (Working Group)	Assist in resolving data discrepancies in IDCR/SOWER.	Palka (Convenor), Bravington, Burt, Donovan, Hedley, Hughes, Kelly.
(24) Methods for estimating availability bias (Email Group)	Explore methods and data for estimating availability bias.	Kelly (Convenor), Findlay, Herr, Kock, Matsuoka, Murase, Palka.
(25) Indo-Pacific Antarctic minke whale in-depth assessment (Working Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiate the collation of previous studies and conclusions related to the Indo-Pacific Antarctic minke whale in-depth assessment. - Collate the data available from the Antarctic minke whales in the South Atlantic, which will be used to determine if an in-depth assessment can be initiated. 	Murase (Convenor), Kato, Matsuoka, Palka, Pastene.
(26) Stock definition terminology (Working Group)	Agree a revised set of stock definitions, with special reference to small cetaceans.	Cipriano (Convenor), Bjørge, Brownell, Currey, Fortuna, Hoelzel, Jackson, Lang, Natoli, Reeves, Rosel, Rosenbaum, Thomas.
(27) Marine debris Workshop (Steering Group)	Prepare for 2 nd Workshop on assessing the impacts of marine debris.	Simmonds (Convenor), Baulch, Fossi, Gallego, Holm, Iñiguez, Leaper, Mattila, Perry, Podestá, Parsons, Rosa, Williams.
(28) Marine debris (Correspondence Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Monitor the progress on the research-related recommendations from the marine debris Workshops; (b) evaluate fishing practices and identify those that pose lower entanglement/gear loss risk; (c) further investigate microplastics, their associated microbes and macroplastic digestion; (d) liaise with the POLLUTION 2020 Steering Group over the issue of microplastics and adsorbed or leached chemicals; (e) liaise with the Steering Group for the 2nd Workshop on mitigation and management of marine debris; and (d) liaise with the <i>ad hoc</i> national progress report group on marine debris related fields. 	Simmonds (Convenor), Baulch, Bjørge, Fossi, Hall, Mattila, Parsons, Rojas-Bracho, Rowles, Ylitalo.
(29) Environmental threat CMPs development (Correspondence Group)	Review information from the Commission on threat based CMPs; work to identify areas of collaboration or assistance from E for existing CMPs or CMPs being proposed	Rojas-Bracho (Convenor), Iñiguez, Parsons, Rowles, Schweizer, Simmonds, Rosenbaum, Baulch.
(30) Cetacean Emerging and Resurging Diseases (CERD Steering Group 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinate the work of the CERD work plan. - Further develop CERD website with the Secretariat. - Link and promote CERD website via social media. - Advertise the internship program and oversee the work to population the fields of the website. - Develop the agenda, participant list, and organisation for the CERD pre-meeting at SC/66a. 	Rosa (Convenor), Brownell, Cozzi, Di Guardo, Galletti, Hall, Iñiguez, Marcondes, Mattila, Mazzariol, Parsons, Podestá, Ritter, Robbins, Rowles, Simeone, Stimmelmayer, Vély, Weller.
(31) Climate change (Steering Group)	Coordinate and organise the Steering Committee meeting in August 2014. Review work by the SC to date, place this in the context of latest knowledge and processes being undertaken by other IGOs. Identify climate change priorities for the SC develop a draft work plan for the ESWG.	Simmonds, Palacios, Parsons (Convenors), Hall, Holm, Rojas-Bracho.
(32) EM planning (Steering Group)	Solicit contributions, liaise with prospective invited participants.	Palacios (Convenor), Butterworth, de la Mare, Punt, Walløe.
(33) Joint IWC SC/EM and SC-CAMLR WG-EMM facilitation and planning (Correspondence Group)	(1) Continue formalisation of a relationship between IWC and CCAMLR; and (2) commence planning of a joint Workshop between IWC SC/EM and SC-CAMLR WG-EMM.	Currey (Convenor), Butterworth, de la Mare, Kitakado, Kock, Palacios, Watters.

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(34) Effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations (Correspondence Group)	(1) Identify long time series (≥ 20 yr) of cetacean demographic parameters and/or abundance; and (2) identify potentially relevant environmental time series.	Cooke (Convenor), Best, de la Mare, Palacios.
(35) Applications of species distribution models (SDMs) (Correspondence Group)	Develop guidelines and recommendations for best practice in modelling steps.	Murase (Convenor), Friedlaender, Kelly, Palacios, Palka.
(36) Marine bushmeat (Intersessional Group)	Prepare for a Workshop on poorly documented hunts of small cetaceans for food bait or cash.	Porter (Convenor), Baker, Brownell, Fortuna, Reeves, Ritter, Simmonds.
(37) Modelling and Assessment of Whalewatching Impacts (MAWI) (Steering Group)	Define specific research questions and hypotheses that will benefit understanding of the impact of whalewatching, identify those whalewatching locations that would be most suitable and amenable for targeted studies addressing these questions, and summarise the current modelling tools available to analyse the data that will be collected.	New (Convenor), Carlson, Cook, Kaufman, Leaper, Parsons, Ritter, Robbins, Rose, Simmonds, Weinrich.
(38) Swim-with-whale operations	Assess the extent and potential impact of swim with-whale operations.	Rose (Convenor), Gero, Kaufman, Parsons, Ritter, Sironi, Weinrich.
(39) In-water interactions	Identify and investigate potentially dangerous recreational interactions between free-ranging cetaceans and people in the water, investigating the extent of the problem and research on behavioural 'warning indicators'; identify research gaps and summarise information.	Ritter (Convenor), Gero, Parsons, Rose, Scheer, Simmonds, Vermeulen.
(40) Populating the Five-Year Strategic Plan Whalewatching Handbook	Collate information to assist Commission's Standing Working Group on Whalewatching to populate the Whalewatching Handbook.	Rojas-Bracho (Convenor), Carlson, Iñíguez, Kaufman, Luna, Parsons, Ritter, Weinrich.
(41) Guiding principles for data collection forms	Work on finalising a list of standardised elements, with descriptions/ explanations, which should be included in a data collection form for use on platforms of opportunity, to be hosted by the Commission website.	Rose (Convenor), Carlson, Kaufman, Ritter, Rodríguez-Fonseca, Robbins, Vinding, Weinrich.
(42) Southern Ocean Sanctuary Review Group	Compile scientific information on Southern Hemisphere whales to facilitate the discussion of objectives of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary by the Commission.	Zerbini (Chair), Bjørge, Donovan, Double, Fortuna, Hall, Jackson, Kitakado, Palka, Robbins.
(43) Advance the use of TOSSM (Intersessional group)	Provide general guidelines for setting sub-area boundaries for assessment processes, with particular reference to populations that pose management challenges to the Committee and for RMP/AWMP <i>Implementations</i> .	Lang (Convenor), Bravington, Butterworth, Donovan, Jackson, Kitakado, Palsboll, Punt, Tiedemann, Waples.
(44) STranding And Mortality INvestigAtions (STAMINA) (formerly the Emergency Response Task Force, CERD Steering Group 2)	Develop the agenda and participant list for the meeting prior to the Society of Marine Mammalogy meeting in 2015 in San Francisco for presentation at SC/66a. Investigate or advise as needed on strandings of concern particularly those that are associated with anthropogenic sound. Develop a draft document of standardization as needed. Monitor large whale mortalities and strandings in Southern Hemisphere (Marcondes lead).	Rowles (Convenor), Brownell, Fernandez, Gulland, Jepson, Marcondes, M. Moore, Simeon, Vély, Uhart.
(45) Anthropogenic sound (Correspondence Group)	Further prepare the agenda and the Invited Participant list for the SC/66b focus sessions on anthropogenic sound regarding Masking and Marine Mammal Observers (see work plan). Further develop next steps for the SoundScape Mapping efforts.	Leaper (Convenor), Parsons, Rosenbaum, Simmonds, Williams.
(46) Pollution 2020 (Steering Group)	Review and monitor progress of the Pollution 2020 research projects and modeling. Develop items for discussion, invited participant list, and organize the focus meeting on contaminant status and trends for SC/66a. Develop the questionnaire and send out the survey for identification of chemicals of concern for cetaceans for the intersessional evaluation of chemicals of concern.	Hall (Convenor), Donovan, Holm, Fossi, Parsons, Rowles, Schwacke, Simmonds, Ylitalo.
(47) <i>Implementation Review</i> Workshop for North Atlantic fin whales (Steering Group)	Organise a Workshop for further progress on the <i>Implementation Review</i> for North Atlantic fin whales.	Donovan (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, Punt, Vikingsson, Walløe, Witting.