

Draft Scientific Committee Agenda

San Diego, 22 May – 3 June 2015

[N] = SEE 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 including handling of relevant 2014 Commission Resolutions [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 for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

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

4.3 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)

4.3.1 Scientific Council

4.3.2 Conference of Parties (COP)

4.3.3 Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)

4.3.4 Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)

4.3.5 Other

4.4 Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

4.5 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

4.6 Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP)

4.7 International Committee on Marine Protected Areas (ICMMPA)

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

4.9 International Maritime Organization (IMO)

4.10 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

4.11 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)

4.12 North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES)

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

4.14 Pacific Region Environment Programme (SPREP)

4.15 African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO)

4.16 Other organisations

5. GENERAL ASSESSMENT ISSUES WITH A FOCUS ON THOSE RELATED TO THE REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP) [N]

5.1 Relationship between $MSYR_{mat}$ and $MSYR_{1+}$ [N]

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

5.3 Complete evaluation of the Norwegian proposal for amending the *CLA* [N]

5.4 Other computing matters related to the *CLA* [N]

5.5 Requirements and Guidelines for conducting surveys and *Implementations* [N]

5.6 Work plan

6. RMP – IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED MATTERS [N]

6.1 North Atlantic fin whales (*Implementation Review*) [N]

6.1.1 Report of intersessional workshop

6.1.2 Implementation Review

6.1.3 Recommendations

6.2 North Atlantic common minke whales (*Implementation Review*) [N]

6.2.1 Report of intersessional workshop

6.2.2 Implementation Review

6.2.3 Recommendations

6.3 North Atlantic sei whales [N]

6.3.1 Review intersessional works and new information

6.3.2 Pre-Implementation Assessment

6.3.3 Recommendations

6.4 North Pacific common minke whales [N]

6.4.1 Review intersessional works

6.4.2 Review new information on surveys

6.4.3 Recommendations

6.5 Western North Pacific Bryde's whales [N]

6.5.1 Review new information

6.5.2 Prepare for 2017 Implementation Review

6.5.3 Recommendations

6.6 Work plan

7. NON-DELIBERATE HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY OF LARGE WHALES [N]

7.1 Entanglement of large whales (HIM)

7.1.1 Report from the Provincetown workshop [N]

7.1.2 New information on rates, risks and mortality

7.1.3 Progress on scientific aspects of mitigation measures

7.2 Ship strikes (HIM) [N]

7.2.1 Progress on the global database

7.2.2 New information on rates, risks and mortality

7.2.3 Collaboration with the Commission's Ship Strikes Working Group including consideration of scientific aspects of mitigation measures and future work

7.3 Marine debris (E) [N]

7.3.1 Report of 2nd Workshop on assessing the impacts of marine debris

7.3.2 New information on marine debris impact on cetaceans

7.4 Other issues including mortality from acoustic sources (E)

7.5 Work plan

8. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (AWMP) [N]

8.1 Progress on SLA development for the Greenlandic hunts including consideration of Resolution 2014-1

8.2 Implications of gray whale rangewide workshop for the AWMP [N]

8.3 Aboriginal whaling management scheme

8.4 Work plan

9. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT ADVICE [N]

9.1 Eastern Canada and West Greenland bowhead whales (BRG)

9.1.1 Stock structure and abundance

9.1.2 Review recent catch information

9.1.3 Management advice

9.2 Eastern North Pacific gray whales (BRG)

9.2.1 New information including report of the rangewide workshop

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 East Greenland (AWMP)

9.4.1 New information

9.4.2 Management advice

9.5 Common minke whale stocks off West Greenland (AWMP)

- 9.5.1 *New information*
- 9.5.2 *Management advice*
- 9.6 Fin whales off West Greenland (AWMP)**
 - 9.6.1 *New information*
 - 9.6.2 *Management advice*
- 9.7 Humpback whales off West Greenland (AWMP)**
 - 9.7.1 *New information*
 - 9.7.2 *Management advice*
- 9.8 Humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines (AWMP)**
 - 9.8.1 *New information*
 - 9.8.2 *Management advice*
- 9.9 Work plan**
- 10. WHALE STOCKS [N]**
- 10.1 Antarctic minke whales (IA) [N]**
 - 10.1.1 *Consideration of factors that may drive Antarctic minke whale distribution and abundance*
 - 10.1.2 *Continue in-depth assessment focusing on Indo-Pacific region*
 - 10.1.3 *Work plan*
- 10.2 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales (SH) [N]**
 - 10.2.1 *Review intersessional works*
 - 10.2.2 *Review works on synthesis of the completed 8-year circumpolar assessment*
 - 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 Eastern North Pacific blue whales**
- 10.5 Distribution of baleen and toothed whales in the Antarctic relative to spatial and environmental covariates (IA)[N]**
 - 10.5.1 *Review new information*
 - 10.5.2 *Work plan*
- 10.6 North Pacific sei whale (IA) [N]**
 - 10.6.1 *Begin the In-Depth Assessment*
 - 10.6.2 *Work plan*
- 10.7 North Pacific gray whales (BRG) [N]**
 - 10.7.1 *Review report of intersessional workshop*
 - 10.7.2 *Review new information*
 - 10.7.3 *Conservation advice (excluding ASW advice)*
 - 10.7.4 *Work plan*
- 10.8 Southern Hemisphere right whales (BRG)**
 - 10.8.1 *Review new information*
 - 10.8.2 *Work plan*
- 10.9 North Atlantic right whales (BRG)**
 - 10.9.1 *Review new information*
 - 10.9.2 *Work plan*
- 10.10 North Pacific right whales (BRG)**
 - 10.10.1 *Review new information*
 - 10.10.2 *Work plan*
- 10.11 North Atlantic bowhead whales (BRG)**
 - 10.11.1 *Review new information*
 - 10.11.2 *Work plan*
- 10.12 Okhotsk Sea bowhead whales (BRG)**
 - 10.12.1 *Review new information*
 - 10.12.2 *Work plan*
- 10.13 Arabian Sea humpback whales (SH)**
 - 10.13.1 *Review new information*
 - 10.13.2 *Progress toward the development of a Conservation Management Plan and other conservation initiatives*
 - 10.13.3 *Work plan*
- 10.14 Sperm whales (SH)**
 - 10.14.1 *Review new information*
 - 10.14.2 *Work plan*

10.15 International Cruises and related issues (IA)

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

- *Mid- and Long-term recommendations for the IWC-POWER cruises [N]*
- *Review of 2014 cruise*
- *Recommendations for 2015 cruise*

10.15.2 IWC-SOWER cruises (progress on website, publications, analyses)

10.15.3 Progress on central databases

- *Update of IWC-DESS database*
- *Update on progress with IWC photographic database*

10.16 Other

11. STOCK DEFINITION (SD) [N]

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

11.2 Statistical and genetic issues related to stock structure matters faced by the Committee [N]

11.3 Terminology appropriate to stock definition and unit-to-convert [N]

11.4 Testing of spatial stock structure models [N]

11.5 Work plan

12. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (E)

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

12.2 Pollution (including POLLUTION 2020) [N]

12.3 Cetacean Emerging and Resurging Diseases (CERD) and Mortality Events [N]

12.4 Effects of anthropogenic sound on cetaceans and approaches to mitigate these effects

12.5 Effects of climate change on cetaceans

12.6 Arctic issues

12.7 Other habitat related issues

12.8 Consideration of environmental concerns in light of Resolution 2014-4

12.9 Work plan

13. ECOSYSTEM MODELLING (EM)

13.1 Review ecosystem modelling efforts undertaken outside the IWC [N]

13.2 Review results of IWC funded project to use tagging data to incorporate into models

13.3 Application of species distribution models including results of the Joint NMFS-IWC workshop

13.4 Explore role of ecosystem models in developing scenarios for simulation testing of the RMP [N]

13.5 Review other issues relevant to ecosystem modelling within the Committee

13.5.1 Case studies of the effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations

13.5.2 Other, if new information is available

13.6 Work plan

14. SMALL CETACEANS (SM)

14.1 Taxonomic status of *Tursiops* spp. throughout their range in Indian and Pacific Oceans [N]

14.2 Status of projects funded by the Voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research

14.3 Review progress on previous recommendations [N]

14.4 Review takes of small cetaceans [N]

14.4.1 New information on takes

14.4.2 Follow up on workshops on 'poorly documented hunts of small cetaceans for food, bait or cash'

14.5 Work plan, working methods and status of the Voluntary fund [N]

14.5.1 Discussion on Resolution 2014-4 (relevant aspects to SM)

14.5.2 Status of the Voluntary Fund

14.5.3 2015 workplan (and following biennium)

15. WHALEWATCHING (WW)

15.1 Assess the impact of whalewatching on cetaceans [N]

15.2 Review whalewatching on the western coast of USA and Hawaii [N]

15.3 Progress on Commission's 5-year strategic plan including guidelines and regulations [N]

15.4 Other issues

15.4.1 Review reports from intersessional working groups

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

15.4.3 Consider emerging whalewatching industries of concern

15.4.4 Progress on previous recommendations

15.5 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 NEWREP-A in the light of Resolution 2014-5 [N]
 - 17.1.1 *Review report of NEWREP-A review workshop*
 - 17.1.2 *Committee conclusions and recommendations*
 - 17.2 Preparation for JARPN II review workshop in the light of Resolution 2014-5 and Annex P revised [N]
 - 17.3 Review of results from the ongoing permit, JARPN II [N]
 - 17.4 Review of the continuing proposals JARPN II [N]
 - 17.5 Work plan
- 18. WHALE SANCTUARIES (S) [N]
 - 18.1 Preparation for the decadal review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary
 - 18.2 South Atlantic Sanctuary proposal
- 19. SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP [N]
- 20. IWC LIST OF RECOGNISED SPECIES [N]
- 21. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS [N]
 - 21.1 Progress with scientific aspects of existing CMPs
 - 21.2 Progress with assisting development of new CMPs
- 22. COMPILATION OF AGREED ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES [N]
- 23. RESEARCH AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AND RESULTS
 - 23.1 Review results from previously funded research proposals
 - 23.2 Review proposals for 2015/16
- 24. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR THE 2016 MEETING [N]
- 25. DATA PROCESSING AND COMPUTING NEEDS FOR 2015/16[N]
- 26. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2015/16 [N]
- 27. WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2014-4 [N]
 - 27.1 Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee
 - 27.2 Biennial reporting and related matters
 - 27.3 Revisions to ‘Annex P’ in light of Commission Resolution 2014-5
 - 27.4 Funding procedures
 - 27.5 Other matters
- 28. ELECTION OF OFFICERS [N]
- 29. PUBLICATIONS
- 30. OTHER BUSINESS
- 31. ADOPTION OF REPORT [N]

CHAIR'S ANNOTATIONS [N]

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The Scientific Committee (SC66a) will meet in San Diego, USA, from 22 May - 3 June 2015. It will be preceded by two pre-meeting workshops on 'the Joint meeting of the Commission's Standing Working Group on whalewatching and the Scientific Committee's on whalewatching (20 May)' and a 'meeting of the Cetacean emerging and resurging diseases (CERD) intersessional Working Group'. There will also be a Joint NMFS-IWC Workshop entitled 'Towards Ensemble Modelling in Cetacean SDMs' on 21 May.

General information can be found at:

<http://events.iwc.int/index.php/scientific/SC66>

[a](#)

The list of the work agreed to be attempted during the 2014/2015 intersessional period can be found at:

<http://iwc.int/sctasks>

The list of intersessional correspondence groups and terms of reference is at:

<http://iwc.int/correspondence-groups>

I have referred to some, but not all of these intersessional groups (as SC/65b/Annex T) in the notes to the Agenda.

Item 1.3: Meeting procedures and time schedule

At the 2014 Commission meeting, two Resolutions¹ were passed that relate to Scientific Committee working procedures, broadly covering our Rules of Procedure, reporting and priorities (Resolution 2014-4), the 'Annex P' process (Resolution 2014-5) and our funding mechanisms (Resolution 2014-4) – and see circular IWC.SC.190 (15 December 2014). It is my intention to begin to address these issues early in our meeting (taking advantage of some of the free evening sessions), initially via *ad hoc* working groups (see Item 1.4). This will allow a full discussion of these matters under Item 27 but also allow progress on other relevant agenda items especially but not exclusively related to developing the budget and special permits.

Time schedule at SC66a		
Date	Items	Comments
20-21 May	Pre-meeting workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint meeting of the Commission's Standing Working Group on whalewatching and the Scientific Committee • CERD • Joint NMFS-IWC Workshop: Towards Ensemble Modelling in Cetacean SDMs.
22 May	Plenary session, voluntary session on guide to meeting procedures, then read documents. Possible meetings of SD working group and RMP Steering Group.	Items 1-4; initial discussion of how to handle Item 27
23 May	Initial meetings of sub-committees and working groups (about 15 minutes each). Possible meetings of SD working group and RMP Steering Group.	To elect chairs and adopt agendas, identify documents, etc.
24-30 May	Predominantly sub-committees (possibly some short plenary meetings). Evening sessions for <i>ad hoc</i> groups on procedures plus SP and SAN	To complete sub-committee agenda and agree reports
31 May	<i>Tentative</i> rest day	Subject to cancellation if insufficient progress is made....
1-3 June	Plenary sessions. Intention to finish no later than 5pm on 3rd June.	To complete agenda and agree report, including work plan and draft initial agenda for 2015
4 June	09:00-11:00 Convenors to complete editorial work on sub-committee and plenary reports. 11:00 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. A joint meeting of the SC and Conservation Committee will take place in the afternoon and continue in the morning of 5 th June (circular to follow shortly).	

At the Scientific Committee meeting in 2014 we had 105 sessions available for sub-group deliberations over a seven-day period, based on three concurrent sub-group meetings for each of five work sessions per day, starting at approximately 08:30 and ending typically at 18:30. As noted above, this schedule allowed for several *ad hoc* working groups (e.g. Special Permits and Sanctuaries and the *ad hoc* groups referred to above) to meet in the evening, typically from 18:45 to

¹ A third Resolution (Resolution 2014-1) related to aboriginal subsistence whaling is relevant to Item 8.

approximately 21:30, and for occasional longer sessions of sub-groups beyond the scheduled 18:30 finish time. However, if possible, I will minimise 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 meeting.

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 2015 Annual Meeting (SC66a).

Item 1.4: Establishment of sub-committees and working groups

The following groups were identified by the Convenors immediately after SC65b (see table below).

Sub-committees, standing and <i>ad hoc</i> working groups at SC66a			
Title	Convenor	Co-convenor	Annex
Revised Management Procedure, RMP	Bannister		D
Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure, AWMP	Donovan	Brandon	E
Bowhead, Right and Gray Whales, BRG	Walløe		F
In-depth Assessment, IA	Palka	Kelly	G
Southern Hemisphere whale stocks other than Antarctic minke and right whales, SH	Jackson		H
Stock Definition, SD	Lang	Skaug	I
Non-deliberate human-induced mortality of large whales, HIM	Leaper		J
Environmental Concerns, E	Rowles	Parsons	K
Ecosystem Modelling, EM	Palacios		K1
Small Cetaceans, SM	Scheidat	Fortuna	L
Whalewatching, WW	Urban- Rámirez	Carlson	M
DNA, DNA	Pastene		N
Special Permits, SP	Bjørge		P
Sanctuaries, SAN	Zerbini	Hall	

As noted above, I will also establish *ad hoc* groups to look at procedural issues especially those related to Resolutions. Although each group has a tentative annex number, some reports may be incorporated directly into the Scientific Committee's report. It is important that you consult the registration and document submission details that can be found on the website:

<http://events.iwc.int/index.php/scientific/SC66a>

The draft Agenda developed by the Scientific Committee and finalised by the Convenors at last year's meeting (IWC/65/Rep1(2014), Item 24) 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.

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 and Resolutions as discussed under Items 1.3 and 1.4. The Commission accepted our priorities and initial Agenda, and adopted the budget as given under Items 24 and 26 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: as last year, the Secretariat will be using the online system for registration and for submission of documents. The IWC Meeting Portal can be found at:

<http://events.iwc.int>

The deadline for primary papers is **7 days before the start of the meeting i.e. 15 May 2015**. As previously agreed, all documents will be distributed wholly electronically (website and memory sticks) by the Secretariat.

Item 3.2: National Progress Reports on research

Progress report data are to be uploaded online at the IWC data collection portal (see circular IWC.All.226).

Last year, the Committee agreed to improvements with the National Progress Reports database. Under this Item we will discuss progress made and any difficulties encountered with respect to online data entry of progress reports.

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 22 April.** I would like to be able to discuss these on Day 1. To save time, there will be no presentation of observer's reports. 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. Cooperation is important and directly relevant scientific matters will be dealt with fully under appropriate Agenda Items.

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: GENERAL ASSESSMENT ISSUES WITH A FOCUS ON THOSE RELATED TO THE REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP)

As there are a number of common assessment issues that apply to all of our work, not simply the RMP, I have modified the title of this Item to reflect this. We may wish to consider what other Items may usefully be added to this agenda item in the future.

Item 5.1: Relationship between MSYR_{mat} and MSYR₁₊

The Committee has completed its recommendation on the range of MSYR but also recognised that much remains to be learnt regarding MSYR and the issue of appropriate range for MSYR should continue to be reviewed as new information becomes available. The individual energetic-based model (IBEM) is one of potential approaches to this issue, and the Committee should review the intersessional work on the IBEM undertaken by the Steering Group established under de La Mare (SC65b item 5.2). It will also review any alternative models developed or to be presented at the meeting. These discussions are also relevant to AWMP and IA.

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

When it last discussed this issue (IWC, 2007), the Committee agreed that two steps still had to be completed: (1) finalisation of the MSYR review, which was completed in 2013; and (2) specification of additional trials for testing amendments to the CLA. The latter related to modelling works based on individual-based simulation models under the Working Group on Ecosystem Modelling, which will provide the basis for additional trials to further explore the behaviour of the RMP; it agreed last year that allowing density-dependence in the natural mortality would provide a more stringent test for the impacts of environmental change. The Committee agreed to re-establish the intersessional working group under Allison (SC/65b/AnnexT4) to formulate and run trials related to environmental change, and to report the results to this meeting.

Item 5.3: Complete evaluation of the Norwegian proposal for amending the CLA

The Committee was again unable to complete its evaluation of the Norwegian proposal last year because of incompleteness of the trial specifications related to environmental change (see Item 5.2). At the same time, the Committee agreed that it would not be necessary to have all of the trials related to environmental degradation completed before a decision on amending the CLA could be made, given the time required to parameterise trials based on individual-based models. It will complete the task once any additional trials (see Item 5.2) have been specified and run. The Committee stressed that evaluation of the Norwegian proposal must be completed by this year's meeting.

Item 5.4: Other computing matters related to the CLA

Last year there were some minor issues outstanding which were to be addressed intersessionally. The results will be reported to the meeting.

Item 5.5: Update Requirements and Guidelines for conducting surveys and Implementations

The existing Committee's Requirement and Guidelines were written only for the design-based surveys. Recently, the Committee recognised a need to consider what circumstances might require approval when the survey and analysis are conducted based on spatial modelling or quasi design-based approaches. The Committee agreed that a review of this issue should take place intersessionally (see SC65b/Annex D), but due to the unavailability of contracted experts during this intersessional period, comprehensive discussion will be deferred to 2016.

ITEM 6: RMP – IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED MATTERS

The Committee is developing a list of agreed abundance estimates for all stocks and the uses for which they are suitable. The RMP sub-committee will update its list for all stocks considered this year. An Annex of all agreed abundance estimates of the Committee will be included as an Annex to the Plenary Report.

Item 6.1: North Atlantic fin whales (*Implementation Review*)

The Committee was unable to complete the *Implementation Review* last year. Some progress has been made during this intersessional period, especially thanks to works under an intersessional steering group (SC/65b/Annex T1 and T47) and the intersessional workshop, held at Copenhagen, in February 2015 (see SC/66a/Rep04). The Committee hopes to be able to complete this *Implementation Review* this year.

Item 6.2: North Atlantic common minke whales (*Implementation Review*)

The objective is to try to complete the *Implementation Review* at this meeting if possible. An intersessional workshop, held at Copenhagen, in February 2015 (see SC/66a/Rep05) under an intersessional steering group (SC/65b/Annex T7). The Committee hopes to complete this *Implementation Review* this year.

Item 6.3: North Atlantic sei whales

Last year, the Committee established a correspondence group (SC/65b/Annex T3) to review available data for the species in the context of a pre-*Implementation Assessment*. Based on the new information, the Committee will decide to initiate a pre-*Implementation Assessment* or not.

Item 6.4: North Pacific common minke whales

The Committee completed the *Implementation Review* for western North Pacific minke whales in 2013. However, it acknowledged that work remains on finalising abundance estimates for use with the RMP and on a research programme should an 'option with research' be chosen. It looks forward to reviewing a detailed research plan for a joint Russian-Japanese survey in the Okhotsk Sea.

Item 6.5: Western North Pacific Bryde's whales

Although an *Implementation Review* for this stock is due, given the situation that considerable new data are likely to be available by 2017 by outcomes of JARPN-II review and an additional abundance survey, the Committee agreed that the *Implementation Review* for the Western North Pacific Bryde's whales be conducted in 2017 and that it be a 'full' *Implementation Review*. The Committee will begin planning for this review.

ITEM 7: NON-DELIBERATE HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY OF LARGE WHALES

This Item groups together all of the items on scientific aspects of human induced mortality of large whales. This information is relevant for RMP, AWMP, BRG and in-depth assessments and given the common nature of issues related to both estimation and mitigation it is sensible to consider them together. The general item will primarily be discussed by the HIM sub-group although aspects will be covered by E.

Item 7.1: Entanglement of large whales (HIM)

This item primarily relates to bycatches. This year it will also discuss scientific aspects of the second workshop on large whale entanglement issues to be held in Provincetown, MA (USA), 21-23 April 2015.

Item 7.2: Ship strikes (HIM)

This will consider information on ship strikes including estimation of rates, collaboration with the Commission's ship strikes working group on scientific aspects (e.g. hot spots and mitigation), and progress with the ship strikes database (including reports from the coordinators, Panigada and Ritter). It will also include collisions with whalewatching vessels. An important focus will be the collaboration with the Commission's working group and the development of a long-term workplan.

Item 7.3: Marine debris (E)

This Item will consider any relevant scientific aspects of the Conservation Committee's workshop on the impact of marine debris held in Honolulu in August 2014.

ITEM 8: ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

In 2014, the Commission adopted Resolution 2014-1 that *inter alia* called upon the Scientific Committee to work expeditiously to complete *SLAs* for the remaining Greenland hunts and consider multispecies issues.

This year, the Committee expects to be able to recommend an *SLA* for bowhead whales and plans to complete work on *SLAs* for fin whales and common minke whales by 2017. It will review progress made at the intersessional workshop on these matters (and the AWS), held in Copenhagen, in February 2015 (SC/66a/Rep03).

Item 8.2: Implications of gray whale rangewide workshop for the AWMP

The Committee will focus upon any implications for the AWMP that might arise out of the April 2015 Workshop to be held in La Jolla (SC/66a/Rep07).

ITEM 9: ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT ADVICE

In 2014, the Commission adopted new strike limits recommended by the SC64 for aboriginal subsistence whaling for the Greenlandic hunts.

The Committee is developing a list of agreed abundance estimates for all stocks and the uses for which they are suitable. The AWMP and BRG sub-committees will develop/update their list for all stocks considered this year. An Annex of all agreed abundance estimates of the Committee will be included as an Annex to the Plenary Report.

ITEM 10: WHALE STOCKS

Individual items will be dealt with by appropriate sub-committees, as indicated in the Draft Agenda. Note that the old item referring to 'Other stocks of right whales and small stocks of bowhead whales' has been broken up into its component parts.

The Committee is developing a list of agreed abundance estimates for all stocks and the uses for which they are suitable. The IA sub-committee will develop/update its list for all stocks it has considered. An Annex of all agreed abundance estimates of the Committee will be included as an Annex to the Plenary Report.

Note that papers produced under the Southern Ocean Research Programme (SORP) will be discussed by the relevant sub-committees.

Item 10.1: Antarctic minke whales

The Committee will try to finalise the in-depth assessment with a focus on the Indo-Pacific region.

Item 10.2: Southern Hemisphere humpback whales

Last year, the Committee agreed that it had completed the assessment of the breeding stocks BSD/BSE1/BSO although it recommended further intersessional work for future assessments (SC/65b/AnnexT14) and evaluation of the minimum abundance of BSD (SC/65b/AnnexT15). The primary focus this year will be the development of a synthesis of the completed 8-year circumpolar assessment, initially being developed by an intersessional working group (SC/65b/AnnexT13). In addition, it will begin to evaluate data requirements and the process for future assessments.

Item 10.5: Distribution of baleen and toothed whales in the Antarctic relative to spatial and environmental covariates

The Committee agreed at 2013 meeting to add this item to the work of IA and will again review new information on this item.

Item 10.6: North Pacific sei whales

The committee will begin In-Depth Assessment of North Pacific sei whales.

Item 10.7: North Pacific gray whales

The Commission is particularly concerned about the status of the gray whales whose feeding grounds coincide with oil and gas operations off Sakhalin Island, Russian Federation. New information from telemetry studies and photo-identification studies means that a major review of stock structure in the North Pacific is required to better understand the impacts of anthropogenic threats to gray whales on both sides of the Pacific including during migration. A rangewide workshop is again being held in La Jolla in April 2015 (SC/66a/Rep07) and the results will be discussed under this item and under Item 8.2.

Item 10.15: International Cruises and related issues**10.15.1 IWC-POWER cruises in the North Pacific**

The Committee has now agreed objectives. It will review the results of the past cruises, the planning meeting report for the 2015 cruise and discuss plans for the 2016 cruise (SC/65b/AnnexT21; SC/66a/Rep02).

The Committee will also review the work of an intersessional group (SC/65b/AnnexT21) and an associated workshop held in Tokyo on 8-10 October 2014 (SC/66a/Rep01) on the development of mid- and long-term recommendations for the IWC-POWER cruises.

ITEM 11: STOCK DEFINITION

As in the last year, convenors may submit key papers relevant to their work to the SD Working Group for early review of their technical aspects and implications (e.g. with respect to uncertainty and appropriate hypotheses).

Item 11.1: Guidelines for genetic studies and DNA data quality

Substantial progress on the genetic analysis guidelines was made at last year's meeting. The Committee will review

any updates on the guidelines.

Item 11.2: Statistical and genetic issues related to stock structure matters faced by the Committee

Amongst the issues identified last year was the consideration of previous trial results with respect to ‘tipping points’ in inter-population migration rates that made significant differences to trial outcomes. The use of the TOSSM framework to address difficulties faced by the Committee will also be discussed.

Item 11.3: Terminology appropriate to stock definition and unit-to- conserve

The Committee is in the process of trying to develop a suite of definitions for stock-related terms, with special reference to small cetaceans, and will review progress of an intersessional group (SC/65b/AnnexT26) this year.

Item 11.4: Testing of spatial stock structure models

The Committee will review progress on the TOSSM itself, examine the future application of TOSSM datasets, and advance the use of TOSSM to provide guidelines for setting subarea boundaries for assessment (SC/65b/AnnexT43).

ITEM 12: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Item 12.1: State of Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER

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

<http://iwc.int/socer>

Item 12.2: Pollution (including POLLUTION 2020)

This item includes updates on the POLLUTION 2000+ Phase II project, POLLUTION 2020 (SC/65b/AnnexT46), work needed related to oil spill response and assessments, evaluating risk to cetaceans from marine debris (SC/65b/AnnexT29) and other relevant updates. The Committee will review their progress and decide on further steps.

Item 12.3: Cetacean Emerging and Resurging Diseases (CERD) and Mortality Events

The Committee will review progress made by the intersessional CERD working group (SC/65b/AnnexT30).

ITEM 13: ECOSYSTEM MODELLING

Item 13.1: Review ecosystem modelling efforts undertaken outside the IWC

This year, the Committee will discuss how best to further the long-term scientific exchange between IWC SC/EM and SC-CCAMLR WG-EMM (SC/65b/AnnexT33).

Item 13.4: Explore how ecosystem models contribute to developing scenarios for simulation testing of the RMP

Last year, the Committee identified a number of issues relating to ecosystem effects and the RMP that could be usefully explored either with this individual-base model (IBM) or with simplified emulator models that mimic the behaviour of the IBM. The Committee established an intersessional group (SC/65b/AnnexT34) to identify long time series of cetacean demographic parameters and/or abundance and potentially relevant environmental time series.

ITEM 14: SMALL CETACEANS

Item 14.1: Taxonomic status of *Tursiops spp.* throughout their range in Indian and Pacific Oceans

This year we will start a 3-years review of *Tursiops spp.* throughout its range. The first year is dedicated to the review on the knowledge on taxonomic status of *Tursiops* in Indian and Pacific Oceans (Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand and possibly eastern India). In the following two years we will review this genus in: (a) Western-Central Indian Ocean (Arabic peninsula, eastern Africa); (b) Atlantic Ocean (including Mediterranean and Black Seas).

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. The Committee should consider how it wishes to summarise the received and available information on direct and incidental takes of small cetaceans and consider how best to provide advice on these including issues related to ‘marine bushmeat’.

Item 14.5: Work plan, working methods and status of the Voluntary fund

IWC Resolution 2014-4 has great relevance to the Small Cetaceans sub-committee. The sub-committee will have to provide some feedback to the full Committee on relevant parts of this resolution. An early session of the sub-committee will be scheduled to accommodate this discussion.

ITEM 15: WHALEWATCHING

Item 15.1: Assess the impact of whalewatching on cetaceans

This item will include review of progress of intersessional groups on several related topics including the LaWE project (SC/65a/AnnexR34-35), the swim-with-whale operations questionnaire (SC/65a/AnnexR37), and the project to identify potentially dangerous recreational interactions with cetaceans and people (SC/65a/AnnexR38).

Item 15.2: Review whalewatching on the western coast of USA and Hawaii

This item will focus on information from the host country, USA.

Item 15.3: Progress on Commission's 5-year strategic plan including guidelines and regulations

The Commission has adopted a 5-year strategic plan for whalewatching. Many aspects of that plan have a scientific component and this item will begin to provide the Committee's contribution to that work, including the development of guiding principles (SC/65a/AnnexR36) and updating the compendium of guidelines and regulations.

ITEM 16: DNA TESTING

Under this item, we will provide the report to the Commission as 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

The SP working group (SP) will discuss special permit programmes and may consider any associated procedural questions arising from the expert workshop in a general way. The detailed 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). The question of the Commission Resolution 2014-5 and the revision of the Annex P process will be dealt with initially early in the meeting (see notes to Item 1.3 and 1.4).

Item 17.1: Review of NEWREP-A in the light of Resolution 2014-5

The Committee will hear results of the expert review workshop (held 7-10 February 2015 in Tokyo; SC/66a/Rep06) for the Japanese new programme in the Antarctic. The Committee will develop its advice to the Commission (taking into full account relevant parts of Resolution 2014-5) which will be forwarded to the Commission along with the expert panel report and response from the proponents.

Item 17.2: Preparation of JARPN II review workshop in the light of Resolution 2014-5 and Annex P revised

The next JARPN II review workshop is scheduled in February 2016. Preparations will begin at this meeting in accordance with Annex P (and any revisions in the light of Resolution 2014-5).

Item 17.3: Review of results from the ongoing permit, JARPN II

The JARPA II programme on fin and Antarctic minke whales has ceased; thus the only ongoing Special Permit programme is that of JARPN II on North Pacific common minke, sei, Bryde's and sperm whales.

Item 17.4: Review of the continuing proposal JARPN II

The Committee will hear a clearer explanation of the reasons behind the changes in the sample sizes made in 2014 for the JARPN II programme and whether these changes are intended to be continued in 2015 and beyond.

ITEM 18: WHALE 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).

Under this item the Committee will: review advice from the Commission on the review of Sanctuaries; finalise the review of the SOS based upon objectives provided by the Commission; finalise details of a review of a proposal for a South Atlantic Sanctuary.

ITEM 19: SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

SORP is an IWC collaborative non-lethal research effort that is directed by the Scientific Committee in response to agreed priorities for research needs. The research is managed through approved, large scale, multi-national projects which report annually to the Scientific Committee on progress and future plans. The Committee has received considerable input from projects agreed under the SORP programme. The scientific results will be considered by the relevant sub-groups (including IA and SH) so that this item will focus only on logistical and administrative actions required to further the SORP programme.

ITEM 20: IWC LIST OF RECOGNISED SPECIES

This item will review and update as necessary the IWC list of recognised species. I will establish an *ad hoc* group to look at this initially.

ITEM 21: CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Commission has asked us to develop a prioritised list of candidates for Conservation Management Plans (CMPs).

ITEM 22: COMPILATION OF AGREED ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES

The Committee has agreed upon the need to develop a list of agreed abundance estimates for large whales. This work began in 2012 and will be completed this year. This Item will allow us to examine a consolidated list and agree an overview. This will form a separate Annex to the report.

ITEM 24: COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR THE 2016 MEETING

Our priorities are largely determined by the Commission which now meets biennially. Last year, the Committee first time developed a two-year work plan as well as a two-year initial agenda. This was adopted by the Commission. The plan and initial agenda for the next meeting may be subject to slight modifications based on discussion by each sub-committee/working group.

ITEM 25: DATA PROCESSING AND COMPUTING NEEDS FOR 2015/16

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 26: FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2015/16

Last year was the first for the Committee to make a table of two-year funding requirement using an agreed procedure. The budget was adopted by the Commission. The table may change according to progress of the funded projects and urgent needs specified by each sub-committee/working group. Discussions of the funding process itself will begin early in the meeting in the light of intersessional work and the Commission Resolution 2014-4 (see Item 1.3). Any proposed general improvements will be discussed under Item 27.

ITEM 27: WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2014-4

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, including discussion on the balance between cost savings and the efficiency of the Committee. The Committee also agreed to place this item on the agenda to stimulate discussion within the Committee as to how best to improve communications on conservation matters to the Conservation Committee and Commission.

As noted under Item 1.3, the primary focus of discussions under this Item will relate to consideration of the Committee's procedures in light of Resolutions at the 2014 Commission meeting: Scientific Committee and its Rules of Procedure (Resolution 2014-4), the 'Annex P' process (Resolution 2014-5) and our funding mechanisms (Resolution 2014-4). These will begin early in the meeting.

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

<http://iwc.int/scientific-committee-handbook>

ITEM 28: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This is my final year as the Committee's Chair and the current Vice-chair will be elevated to the Chair according to our rules. A new Vice-chair will be elected this year. We may wish to consider the period of office given the Commission's biennial schedule.

ITEM 31: ADOPTION OF REPORT

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