

**Summary of Scientific Committee tasks identified for intersessional period 2014/15 (From the Plenary Report)**  
**(The number in brackets refers to the number of the intersessional group given in Annex T; the name refers to the Convenor of that group)**

Item	Task	SC Rep Item	Responsibility	Timescale	Funding allocated
<b>Revised Management Procedure (RMP) Annex D</b>					
North Atlantic sei whales	Summarise data on stock structure and develop hypotheses	6.4.2	Steering Group (3-Vikingsson)	Intersessionally	
North Atlantic fin whales	Plan for and hold workshop ensure SC can complete Implementation in 2016.	6.2.3, 26	Steering Group (47-Donovan) Steering Group (1 Elvarsson)	Intersessionally, Jan 2015	£7,000
North Pacific common minke whales	Urge the Government of Russian federation to give permission for survey in its EEZ throughout sub-area 12.	6.1.3	Commission, Secretariat	Intersessionally	
North Atlantic common minke whales	Guide intersessional work including technical workshop.	6.6.3	Steering Group (7)	Intersessionally, Jan 2015	
Guidelines	Update <i>Requirements and Guidelines</i> for conducting surveys and <i>Implementations</i> .	5.6, 26	Bravington, Hedley	Early 2015	£14,300
	Prepare for workshop on testing new <i>Guidelines</i> for evaluating spatial model- and design- based abundance estimates.	5.6, 26	Steering Group (5)	Immediately before SC66a	£2,200
MSYR	Evaluate density dependence parameters for inclusion in RMP testing based on energetics modelling.	5.2, 26	Andrews-Goff's <i>et al.</i>	Intersessionally	£6,000
<b>Bycatch (BC) Annex J</b>					
Entanglements	Contact coordinator of USA Take Reduction Teams (Kristy Long) and Robbins about possible monitoring schemes for rock lobster fishing gear.	7.1.1	Australia	Intersessionally	
	Report on potential solutions tested for rock lobster fishery.	7.1.1	Australia	Intersessionally	
	Bring forward papers on effectiveness of different mitigation methods.	7.1.1	All countries	Intersessionally	
	Construct and maintain dynamic matrix or table of potential mitigation measures and their effectiveness.	7.1.1	Secretariat/Leaper	Intersessionally	
Progress Reports	Add fields to Progress Reports to allow evaluation of techniques for euthanasia and disposal of live stranded whales.	7.1.2	Secretariat	Intersessionally	

	Add fields to Progress Reports regarding marine debris ingestion.	12.6.1.2	Secretariat	Intersessionally	
Ship Strikes	Continue to improve and update database, including review process and criteria.	7.5 (table), 26	Secretariat, Panigada/Ritter	Intersessionally	£10,000
	Collaborate with NOAA to test application of AIS by retracting routes/speeds of relevant ship strikes in database.	7.2.2	SC members, Secretariat	Intersessionally	
	Send Sri Lankan government a letter with info on its discussions of the area and ways SC or SSWG can assist.	7.2.2	Secretariat	Intersessionally	
	Invite Sri Lankan representative to relevant IWC meetings and workshops.	7.2.2	Secretariat	Intersessionally	
	Initiate dialogue with shipping regulators in the Hellenic Trench (Greece)	7.2.2	Leaper, Secretariat	Intersessionally	
<b>Aboriginal Whaling Management Procedure (AWMP) and Bowhead Right and Gray Whales Annex E, Annex F</b>					
SLAs for Greenlandic hunts	Consult with Greenland as to whether it wishes to proceed with the 'high' need envelope for bowhead whale SLA.	8.1.1.4	Witting	Intersessionally	
	Further work on bowhead whale SLA by developers.	8.1.1.4	SLA developers	Before Jan 15 workshop	
	Plan for and hold workshop to progress work on SLAs.	8.1.1.4, 26	Steering Group (9-Donovan)	Intersessionally	£7,000
	Begin work on developing candidate SLAs for Greenlandic minke whales.	8.1.3	Witting, Brandao, Butterworth	Intersessionally	
	Consider alternative approach to develop single-stock model for fin whales.	8.1.4	Steering Group (8-Witting)	Before Jan 15 workshop	
Bowhead whales off W Greenland	Encourage future reporting by and collaboration with Canada.	9.1.3	Secretariat	Intersessionally	
<b>Whale Stocks (IA, IANP) Annex G, G1</b>					
In-depth assessment of sei whales	Include date and location of purchases in data set provided for stock structure studies.	10.5.2	Data holders	Intersessionally	
IWC POWER cruise	Plan and conduct 2014/15 POWER cruise.	10.13, 23	Steering Groups (21-Kato)	Intersessionally	£36,000

	Investigate onboard recording systems.	10.13.5	Steering Group (20-Matsuoka)	Intersessionally	
	Investigate upgrading DESS to a relational database. These should be linked to the photo database being developed by IWC Secretariat.	10.13.5	Steering Group (20-Matsuoka)	Intersessionally	
SOWER	Assist in resolving data discrepancies in IDCR/SOWER data.	10.13	Steering Group (23-Palka)	Intersessionally	
<b>Other Southern Hemisphere Whale Stocks (SH) Annex H</b>					
Humpback whales	Compile and synthesise assessment results for all SH stocks.	10.2.1.4, 26	Jackson, (Steering Group (10-Jackson))	Intersessionally	£1,000
Antarctic humpback whale catalogue	Continue to provide funding to support the catalogue curated by the College of the Atlantic (COA), which is available online.	10.2.2.4, 26	COA	Ongoing	£15,000
Arabian Sea humpback whales	Support regional conservation efforts.	10.12, 26	Rosenbaum, Collins, Steering Group (17)	Intersessionally	£14,573
Blue whales	Continue work on Southern Hemisphere Blue Whale Catalogue (SHBWC).	10.3, 26	Galletti, Steering Group (16-Galletti)	Intersessionally	£15,000
	Synthesise information on pygmy blue whales.	10.3.4	Steering Group (19-Bannister)	Intersessionally	
Sperm whales	Investigate feasibility of a future sperm whale assessment.	10	Steering Group (18-Brownell)	Intersessionally	
<b>Bowhead, Right and Gray Whales (BRG) Annex F</b>					
NP Gray whales	Further analyse photos to confirm if two whales present and if it was a mother-calf pair. Compare with other gray whale photos throughout the range.	10.6.1	Authors of SC/65b/BRG12 (Kato <i>et al.</i> )	Intersessionally	
	Prohibit trap net fishing on gray whale feeding grounds.	10.6.2	Russian Federation and Sakhalin authorities	Intersessionally (asap)	
	Ensure maintenance of Piltun Lagoon.	10.6.2	Russian Federation	Intersessionally (asap)	
	Develop age and sex structured population dynamics model.	9.2, 26	Punt	Intersessionally	£15,000
	Plan for and convene workshop to forward modelling process for gray whales across NP.	26	Steering Group (11-Punt)	Intersessionally	
NP Right whales	Establish photo-ID catalogue to compare JARPN AND JARPN II photos with existing photos.	10.9	Japanese researchers	Intersessionally	

	Prepare abundance estimates for Right whales in the Okhotsk Sea and Kamchatka Peninsula.	10.9	Japanese researchers	Intersessionally	
S Right whales	Population and health monitoring research.	10.7, 26	Sironi <i>et al.</i>	Intersessionally	£13,000
<b>Stock Definition (SD) Annex I</b>					
TOSSM	Examine future application of TOSSM datasets to new cetacean examples of interest to the Committee	11.4	Steering Group (43-Lang)	Intersessionally	
SD terminology	Agree a revised set of stock definitions with special reference to small cetaceans.	11.4	Steering Group (26-Cipriano)	Intersessionally	
<b>Environmental Concerns (E) Annex K</b>					
SOCER	Compile and produce draft report.	12.1 26	Authors	Intersessionally	£3,000
Marine Debris	Prepare for 2 <sup>nd</sup> workshop on assessing impact of marine debris.	12.6, 23	Steering Group (20-Simmonds)	Intersessionally	
Environmental threat CMPs	Review information from Commission on threat based CMPs.		Steering Group (29-Rojas Bracho)	Intersessionally	
CERD	Plan for and convene pre-meeting.	26	Steering Group (30-Rosa, 44-Rowles)	Intersessionally	£5,000
Oil spills	Seek observer status at the Arctic Council to improve communication of issues related to cetaceans including oil and gas activities.	12.2.2.2	Secretariat (Secretary)	Intersessionally	
Mass strandings	Plan for and convene workshop to investigate large mortality events and mass strandings. It will be held in conjunction with the 2015 Biennial SMM meeting.	26	Steering Group (44-Rowles)	Intersessionally	£5,000
Anthropogenic Sound	Apply appropriate measures to protect highly endangered harbour porpoise population of the Baltic Sea.	12.4.3	Governments in Baltic Sea area (Secretariat to contact?)	Intersessionally (asap)	
	Continue mapping Cuvier's beaked whales' habitat in the Mediterranean	12.4.4	ACCOBAMS SC	Intersessionally	
Climate change	Develop a medium-term plan for climate change work for the SC.	12.5	Steering Group (31)	Intersessionally	
<b>Ecosystem Modelling (EM) Annex K1</b>					
Joint workshop with CCAMLR	Continue developing a relationship with CCAMLR and plan for joint workshop.	13.4, 26	Steering Group (33-Currey)	Intersessionally	
Tag data	Analyse satellite tag data to develop individual-based models and generate hypotheses regarding competition between species.	26	Friedlaender	Intersessionally	£11,000
<b>Small Cetaceans (SM) Annex L</b>					
Marine bushmeat	Plan for a workshop on poorly documented hunts of small cetaceans for food, bait or cash.	14.8	Steering Group (36-Ritter)	Intersessionally	

Small cetacean in E Mediterranean and Red Seas	Request Greek authorities stop illegal use of explosives in Aegan Sea.	14.1.2	Secretariat (Secretary?)	Intersessionally	
	Request Turkey develops a Conservation plan for small cetaceans in its waters.	14.1.2	Secretariat (Secretary?)	Intersessionally	
Progress on previous recommendations	Consult on illegal trade of totoaba and raise the issue at CITES. This trade is causing loss of vaquita in nets.	14.4.1	Mexico/USA	Intersessionally	
	Provide updates of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) reports for Hector's and Maui's dolphins on a regular basis.	14.4.2	New Zealand	Intersessionally	
	Commit to specific population increase targets and timelines and provide annual reports on progress towards conservation goals.	14.2.2.	New Zealand	Intersessionally	
	Write to Chinese government drawing attention to recommendations on Yangze finless porpoises.	14.4.7	Secretariat (Secretary?)	Intersessionally	
CMPs	Define 'task teams' to consider and develop high priority projects.	14.7	SM conservation research fund Review Group	Intersessionally	
<b>Whalewatching (WW) Annex M</b>					
MAWI	Define research questions that will help understanding if impacts of whalewatching. Summarise modelling tools available.		Steering Group (37-New)	Intersessionally	
Emerging industries	Improve, educate and stimulate the emerging cetacean watching industry in Oman.	10, 26	Baldwin	Intersessionally	£3,850
Impacts	Report back to SC on the implementation of regulations and licensing of boto feeding operations in Brazil.	15.1	Ritter	Intersessionally	
Review	Compile review of the industry on the NE Pacific	15.2	Kaufman, Weinrich, Janiger-Shulman	Intersessionally	
Platforms of Opportunity	Refine guiding principles for data collection forms in SC/65b/WW07 and add to IWC website.	15.4	Steering Group (41-Rose)	Intersessionally	
	Add final data collection guiding principles to Handbook.	15.4	Steering Group (40-Rojas Bracho)	Intersessionally	
<b>DNA (DNA) Annex N</b>					
GenBank	Continue to work with GenBank to facilitate work on correction of inconsistencies.	16.2	Cipriano	Intersessionally	
<b>Scientific Permits (SP) Annex P</b>					
New Permits	Prepare for and conduct workshop to review Japanese permit for a new research programme in the Antarctic.	26	Donovan, Chair, Vice-chair	Intersessionally, Jan/Feb 15	£13,000

JARPN II	Proponents develop a comprehensive document that details how recalculations of sample size and changes in allotments of lethal versus non-lethal methods fit with achieving the overarching programme objectives.	17.3.2	Proponents	Intersessionally	
<b>Other</b>					
Sanctuaries	Assemble scientific information that might assist Commission in establishing objectives for a SOS.	18.1	Steering Group (42-Zerbini)	Intersessionally	
SORP	Continue engaging with and supporting work of SORP. Contribute to salary of co-ordinator.	19, 26	Secretariat, SC	Intersessionally	£13,000
JCRM	Prepare the commemorative IDCR/SOWER Special Issue.	10.13.7	Editorial board ,Secretariat	Intersessionally	
	Update list of recognised species in journal and on website.	20	Secretariat	Intersessionally	