



## INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

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# RESEARCH PROPOSAL REQUEST

## 1. RELEVANT AGENDA ITEM (NO. AND TITLE)

This item addresses agenda item 2 Pollution and builds on the work undertaken by Pollution 2000+ to provide an analysis of the trends and status of contaminants of concern in cetaceans globally

## 2. PROJECT TITLE

Contaminant Status, Trends and Risk Assessments in Cetaceans

## 3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND WHY IT IS NECESSARY TO SUB-COMMITTEE

Pollution 2020 builds on the earlier initiatives of Pollution and Pollution 2000+ to determine the impact of chemical pollutants on cetacean populations worldwide. These initiatives and their associated research projects have led to a number of important outputs highly relevant to the conservation and management of cetaceans and the work of IWC. Here we propose collect information on the status and trends in contaminant levels for key species of cetaceans globally. The focus will be on legacy chemicals for status and trends, and status and distribution for emerging contaminants of concern and will build upon the prioritization outlined in Pollution 2020 proposal. The work clearly addresses the IWC Resolution 2012-1, adopted at the 64<sup>th</sup> meeting (“Resolution on the importance of continued scientific research with regard to the impact of the degradation of the marine environment on the health of cetaceans and related human health effects”). The Pollution 2020 Steering Group met in March 2014 to assess the findings of the work to date and to prioritize options for future work. These options were developed further at the standing working group meeting and adoption of the workplan was recommended. This specific work will coordinate with the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program of Arctic Council in both the methods of comparability of data and the analyses of trends. In addition data from the AMAP reports and other long term datasets will be utilized. The objectives for this study are:

- 1) to collect status and trends contaminant data of cetaceans globally through country/region points of contact that were identified as part of Pollution 2000+ work (IWC 2010). This will be accomplished through a focus meeting of IWC SC 66a. Country/regional points of contact will be requested to provide data on the temporal trends of contaminants in cetaceans in their region/country. This will occur at 66a. **OUTCOME: identification of cetacean contaminant data available for use in trend and status analyses. 2016**
- 2) To collate data and evaluate comparability of data sets among nations/regions/studies. The data will then be formatted for use in geospatial analyses to determine areas or species of concern. This would lead to the development and production of maps at appropriate time periods (decadal at least) that will feed into GIS layers for global analyses and mapping for evaluation of health and risks to cetaceans. This will occur intersessionally and be presented at 66b. **OUTCOME: to standardise contaminant data formats and to provide geospatial and temporal evaluation of reliable and**

sufficient data to inform the SC on the status and trends of contaminants in cetaceans and the potential risks to cetacean populations. 2016

#### 5. RESEARCHERS' NAME(S)

Ailsa Hall, Sea Mammal Research Unit, University of St Andrews, UK and Gina Ylitalo, NMFS, NOAA, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, USA

#### 6. ESTIMATED TOTAL COST (WITH BREAKDOWN AS NEEDED, E.G. SALARY, EQUIPMENT)

Objective	Task	Support in kind	Amount in kind	Requested budget	Total requested
<b>Data collation and evaluation</b>	Collect data into common data formats, evaluate data comparability, convert data into appropriate geospatial formats, provide data for mapping, write up results	Dr Ailsa Hall, (Sea Mammal Research Unit, UK) supervision and guidance	£8,000	Research assistant provide the specific work	Salary costs, £5,000
		Gina Ylitalo (NWFS)	£4000		
	2016				
				<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£5,000</b>