

PROPOSAL TO HOLD AN IWC WORKSHOP

PART 1: Scientific Justification

1. PROPOSED TITLE OF WORKSHOP

AWMP Workshop to Develop *Strike Limit Algorithms* for the Greenland Hunts for bowhead, minke and fin whales

2. RELEVANT SUB-GROUP OR SUB-GROUPS

Aboriginal Whaling Standing Working Group

3. OBJECTIVE/TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKSHOP

- (1) Review the performance statistics and plots for revised candidate *Strike Limit Algorithms* for bowhead whales off West Greenland
- (2) Identify a work plan to which will allow the Committee to recommend a *Strike Limit Algorithm* for this hunt.
- (3) Review the performance of initial candidate *Strike Limit Algorithms* for minke whales off West Greenland and advice on how these *SLAs* can be adjusted to perform better.
- (4) Review a draft trials structure for fin whales off West Greenland which can be used to evaluate *SLAs* for this hunt.

4. SCIENTIFIC RATIONALE FOR THE WORKSHOP, EXPLAINING *INTER ALIA* WHY IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND HOW IT RESPONDS TO IDENTIFIED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission has requested that the Committee provide it with aboriginal subsistence *Strike Limit Algorithms* (*SLAs*) for use by 2018, i.e. the Committee must recommend *SLAs* to the Commission by no later than the 2017 Annual Meeting. Progress in developing *SLAs* is necessarily an iterative process which involves first developing a trials structure which represents the key uncertainties for the hunt under consideration and then conditioning the trials to the available data. The conditioned trials are then used by developers to test candidate *SLAs* which are subsequently refined through iteration and collaboration so that the Committee is in a position to recommend a *SLA* to the Commission. The need for iteration and inter-session meetings of the AWMP has been recognized by the Committee in the past and successful meetings to develop *SLAs* for the B-C-B bowheads, the ENP gray whales and most recently for humpback whales off West Greenland have taken place in the past.

The AWMP has made considerable progress at this meeting at creating an *SLA* for bowhead whales off West Greenland, even though this is a more difficult case than humpback whales off West Greenland. However, for the SWG to be in a position to recommend an *SLA* for these whales at the 2015 Annual Meeting requires an opportunity for the developers to compare results and to identify ways to further improve performance (if that is deemed necessary / possible). Involvement of other SWG members in these discussions is essential given the need to select an *SLA*.

The trials structure developed for the North Atlantic minke whales is an appropriate platform for evaluating *SLAs* for the hunt for minke whales off West Greenland. However, at present this structure is not tailored towards aboriginal whaling considerations. There is a need to review progress in how *SLAs* can be integrated

into the current trials framework (see 5 below) and to evaluate how well the interim SLA performs on current trials.

The trials structure developed for the North Atlantic fin whales has not been implemented yet (see the RMP report). The AWMP SWG identified that it should be possible to develop a framework based only on the fin whales off West Greenland which, although likely more conservative than would be the case if development was based on the full structure, should facilitate progress. The proposed Workshop would review a draft trials structure, with the intent that it is coded and distributed to *SLA* developers before SC66a so that results of initial evaluations are available for SC66a.

5. ANY PREREQUISITE DATA REQUIREMENTS AND ANALYSES (IF BUDGET REQUESTS THESE SHOULD BE ON A SEPERATE RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORM)

1. Developers (Witting and Brandao) to refine their *SLAs* for bowheads off West Greenland (commitment already received).
2. Code for the North Atlantic minke whale trials to be modified so that removals off West Greenland are based on a stand-alone *SLA* (Punt has agreed to conduct this work if there is an intersessional workshop)
3. Trial specifications for fin whales based only on whales off West Greenland (Punt has agreed to lead this effort with help from Allison and Witting).

6. LIKELY SCIENTIFIC OUTCOME

1. Either a recommended *SLA* for bowhead whales of West Greenland or sufficient progress that the Committee can recommend review addition results and recommend an *SLA* for these whales during the 2015 Annual Meeting.
2. A trials structure for minke whales off West Greenland which is ready for use by developers by the 2015 Annual Meeting.
3. A trials structure for fin whales off West Greenland which will allow development of *SLAs* for these whales, even if progress on the *Implementation Review* for North Atlantic fin whales is not as much as hoped owing to problems conditioning the operating model.

PART 2: Logistical aspects

7. SUGGESTED STEERING GROUP (INCLUDING POSSIBLE CONVENOR)

The Steering Group for the Meeting will be Donovan (Convenor) with members Allison, Butterworth, Punt, and Witting

9. EXPECTED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING SUGGESTED INVITED PARTICIPANTS (GIVE NAMES AND AREAS OF EXPERTISE)

Participants will include national representatives from Denmark, Iceland and Japan.

Other participants:

1. Greg Donovan (Secretariat: Chair)
2. Cherry Allison (Secretariat: Computing Manager – trials structure and *SLA* must be validated)
3. Doug Butterworth (*SLA* developer)
4. Anabela Brandao (*SLA* developer)
5. Geof Givens (invited participant)
6. Andre Punt (trials developer)

10. (PROVISIONAL DATE) AND PROPOSED VENUE

Early 2015 in Copenhagen (Greenland Representation to be confirmed)

11. PROPOSED BUDGET (INCLUDING BREAKDOWN)

6 Invited participants (cost ~ £7,000)