

## **Establishment of a working group between the Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee**

4-5 June 2015

Point Loma Room, Level 1 of the South Tower, San Diego Marriott Marquis

### **Terms of Reference**

IWC Resolution 2014-4 provides terms of reference as follows:

*'[The Commission] agrees to establish a working group between the Conservation Committee and the Scientific Committee in order to propose a procedure to facilitate the implementation and follow-up of conservation recommendations'.*

### **Timing and Venue**

Circular Communication IWC.CCG.1148 of 24 March 2015 announced that the working group would commence its work at a meeting on 4-5 June 2015. The Government of the United States has confirmed that the meeting will take place at the same venue as will be used for the Scientific Committee meeting during its meeting from 22 May to 3 June 2015.

### **Preparation of the Draft Agenda**

The IWC Secretary convened a steering committee composed of the Chairs of all Conservation Committee working groups (Ship Strikes, Whalewatching and Conservation Management Plans), the Chairs of the equivalent Sub-committees in the Scientific Committee, the Chairs of the Conservation and Scientific Committees, the US as host of SC66a, and Monaco and Chile as sponsors of Resolutions 2014-2 and 2014-4.

The Steering Committee developed an annotated draft agenda as follows:

### **Draft Agenda**

- 1 Welcome**
  - a. Appointment of Chair
  - b. Appointment of Rapporteur
  - c. Review and clarification of Terms of Reference
  
- 2 Identifying the IWC's conservation recommendations**

*Annotation: At IWC65 in 2014 the Commission adopted around 50 conservation recommendations. Some of these were developed during Committee discussions although most were adopted through the reports of specialist intersessional workshops dealing with topics including ship strikes, entanglement and Arctic affairs.*

*A recent document prepared by the Secretariat describes the 2014 recommendations and will be available to the working group. This document also identifies other International Organisations whose involvement is required to implement the recommendations, and discussions under item 4 will cover how to take these recommendations forward with the appropriate organisations.*

*In addition, the Working Group may wish to consider a historical review (for example, since the 1990s) of IWC conservation recommendations and progress on their implementation. Several topics have a long history and an analysis would provide better understanding of the current state of each topic and a framework to understand how actions can be improved and become more effective.*

- a. Recommendations arising from the 2014 meeting
- b. Historical review of recommendations since 1990

### **3 Progress to date in implementing conservation recommendations**

*Annotation: Many environmental agreements require parties to report certain information to the international organisation designated by the agreement. The reporting allows the international organisation and other parties to assess the extent to which parties are implementing their obligations.*

*The IWC receives annual reports on catch data. In addition, many contracting governments submit scientific and voluntary conservation progress reports. These reports provide an important mechanism for tracking the implementation of conservation recommendations at the national level.*

*In addition, the working group may wish to consider the role of the Secretariat in tracking and implementing conservation recommendations.*

- a. The role of the Scientific Committee's progress reports
- b. The role of the Conservation Committee's voluntary conservation reports<sup>1</sup>
- c. Proposal to establish a mechanism for reporting IWC intersessional progress
- d. The role of the Secretariat in implementing and following up conservation recommendations

### **4 Relationships with other organisations**

*Annotation: IWC Resolution 2014-2 decided to seek enhanced collaboration in the conservation of migratory cetaceans with other Inter-governmental Organisations. The*

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<sup>1</sup> When commenting on the draft agenda, Chile noted the possibility that 'not all the actions taken by governments or other institutions such as NGOs, IGOs, etc. are available at the Conservation Committee voluntary progress report. Therefore it may also be wise to ask the Governments to give information on their administrative mechanism used to implement such recommendations (for example, institutions in charge and contact details, etc), so the group can track or request information on the actions that have been taken'.

*opportunity to partner with these organisations provides the IWC with different mechanisms to implement the conservation recommendations identified in Item 2 above.*

- a. International regulatory organisations
  - i. International Maritime Organization
- b. International fishery organisations
  - i. FAO Committee on Fisheries
- c. International organisations
  - i. IUCN
- d. International Environmental Agreements
  - i. Convention for Biological Diversity and Aichi Biodiversity Targets
  - ii. Convention for Migratory Species
  - iii. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
  - iv. United Nations Environment Programme
  - v. Work of the UN on marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction
- e. Regional Agreements
  - i. ASCOBANS
  - ii. ACCOBAMS
  - iii. Arctic Council
  - iv. NAMMCO
  - v. Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)
  - vi. Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
  - vii. Regional Seas Agreements

## **5 Obtaining financial resources**

*Annotation: At IWC 65 the Commission endorsed a series of recommendations on strengthening IWC financing, including the establishment of a voluntary conservation fund.*

*This item will provide an opportunity to re-examine the recommendations from the intersessional group on financing in the context of making progress with the Commission's conservation recommendations.*

## **6 Review of Terms of Reference for the Joint Scientific-Conservation Committee Working Group**

*Annotation: Following the discussion of agenda points listed above, this item provides an opportunity for the group to review and, if necessary, adapt or broaden its Terms of Reference for consideration at the next Commission meeting in 2016.*