

**SUMMARY OF MAIN OUTCOMES, DECISIONS AND REQUIRED ACTIONS
FROM THE 65TH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION**

Issue/Agenda Item	Main outcomes
<p>Aboriginal subsistence whaling <i>Item 4</i> Reports: Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (ASW) Sub-Committee (IWC/65/Rep03); Scientific Committee (IWC/65/Rep01)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission received a report on the progress towards developing long-term <i>Strike Limit Algorithms</i> for the Greenland hunts and endorsed a <i>Humpback SLA</i> for Greenland. Work on the proposed Makah management plan was completed. • A full report on conversion factors for Greenland was received by the Scientific Committee. A revised need statement for Greenland was considered by the ASW Sub-Committee and in the Plenary. • The ASW working group on long-term issues met with hunters and reported progress to the ASW Sub-Committee. • The Commission adopted a Schedule amendment for four-year catch limits for the Greenland hunts and Resolution 2014-1 to work to improve the process for ASW in the future through a more consistent and long-term approach. This will include an expert Workshop to assist the ASW Sub-Committee and the Commission with respect to improved procedures for considering ASW catch limits, with a focus on consideration of need. The Commission endorsed the objectives and an outline proposal for the Workshop as given in IWC/65/ASWRep01rev1.
<p>Sanctuaries <i>Item 5</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proposed Schedule amendment to create a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary was not adopted. • The objectives and terms of reference for the second decadal review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary were agreed as given in IWC/65/CC05. A key intent of the review process is to strengthen the conservation objectives of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary. The Chair of the Conservation Committee will liaise with the Scientific Committee to establish an intersessional group to oversee the process for the review.
<p>Socio-economic implications and small-type whaling <i>Item 6</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan reiterated its concern over the hardship suffered by its four community-based whaling communities since the implementation of the commercial whaling moratorium and made a number of points regarding paragraph 10(e) of the Schedule. • A proposed Schedule amendment to establish a catch limit for minke whales by small-type whaling vessels was not adopted.
<p>Resolutions <i>Item 7</i></p>	<p>Resolution on Highly Migratory Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution 2014-2 on highly migratory species was adopted. It seeks enhanced collaboration in the conservation of migratory cetaceans with other relevant intergovernmental organisations and requests the Secretariat to develop a draft work plan with regard to sharing of data and research priorities. Progress will be reviewed at IWC/66. <p>Resolution on Civil Society Participation and Transparency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution 2014-3 on Civil Society Participation and Transparency was adopted by consensus. <p>Resolution on the Scientific Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution 2014-4 on the Scientific Committee was adopted by consensus. <p>Resolution on Whaling under Special Permit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution 2014-5 on Whaling under Special Permit was adopted. <p>Resolution on Food Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Resolution on food security was discussed but no consensus was reached; Ghana indicated that it would continue to refine the proposal during the intersessional period ready for presentation to IWC/66.
<p>Status of whale stocks <i>Item 9</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/65/Rep01)</p>	<p>Antarctic minke whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scientific Committee continued its work to complete an in-depth assessment of the Antarctic region in 2015. <p>Southern Hemisphere humpback whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scientific Committee completed its eight-year assessment of seven breeding stocks and will present a synthesis of the complete assessments in 2015. <p>Southern Hemisphere right whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scientific Committee expressed concern over the continuing large annual mortality of calves at Península Valdés, Argentina and commended the work of a research group investigating the problem. It also expressed concern over a proposed windfarm development near important habitat of the endangered eastern South Pacific right whale population in Chile. It welcomed reports on the two Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) (see Item 11). <p>Southern Hemisphere blue whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scientific Committee is evaluating available information to see if it can start an area-based in-depth assessment.

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<p>Status of whale stocks cont. <i>Item 9</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/65/Rep01)</p>	<p>North Pacific sei whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee has evaluated the available information and agreed to start in-depth assessment at next year's meeting that it expects to complete in 2016. <p>Western North Pacific gray whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee is undertaking a rangewide review of the status of North Pacific gray whales. It welcomed information on conservation efforts in Japan and reiterated support for the work of the IUCN Western Gray Whale Advisory Committee. Concern was expressed over trap net fishing and a proposed development project on eastern Sakhalin Island near the sensitive feeding and nursery grounds. <p>North Pacific and North Atlantic right whales and small stocks of bowhead whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grave concern was expressed over these small stocks, where ship strikes and entanglements are important threats. <p>IWC-POWER North Pacific research cruises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of the IWC-POWER (North Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research) programme is to contribute information on abundance and trends in abundance of large whales and to identify the causes of any trends that do occur. The fifth (2014) cruise has been completed and the 2015 cruise plan will be finalised intersessionally. Archiving and analyses of the individual identification photographs, genetic samples and sightings data is progressing.
<p>Ship strikes <i>Item 10.2</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/65/Rep01) Conservation Committee (IWC/65/Rep05)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee reviewed and endorsed the work of the ship strikes co-ordinators and reiterated the importance of the IWC global database in evaluating the issue and developing mitigation measures. A number of specific recommendations were made and presented to the Conservation Committee. The most effective mitigation measure is to separate whales and ships, but when this is not possible, reducing vessel speed is helpful, which has implications for intensified collaboration between the IWC and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The Commission received the Report of the Ship Strikes Working Group and endorsed all the recommendations from the ship strikes Workshop held in Panama in 2014 (IWC/65/CCRep01), including that the IWC should develop a long-term working relationship with the IMO.
<p>Conservation management plans (CMPs) <i>Item 11</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/65/Rep01) Conservation Committee (IWC/65/Rep05)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee developed a list of potential candidate large whale populations for CMPs, requested advice on whether a similar list of small cetacean populations should be developed, recommended updating of the template for threat-based CMPs and noted that marine debris is an appropriate candidate for a threat-based CMP. The SC discussions and recommendations were presented to the Conservation Committee. The Commission endorsed a number of recommendations by the Conservation Committee including a suggestion that the issue of marine debris is incorporated and addressed in CMPs, that further review and analysis is required on the concept of a threat-based marine debris CMP and that the Scientific Committee should undertake further analysis on priority candidates of small cetaceans that would benefit from the implementation of a CMP. <p>Western North Pacific gray whale CMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A memorandum of co-operation on the conservation of western North Pacific gray whales was signed by Japan, Russian Federation and the USA during the meeting.
<p>Whalewatching <i>Item 12</i> Report: Conservation Committee (IWC/65/Rep05)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee expressed concern over tourism involving feeding boto in Brazil and poor management of whalewatching in Bocas del Toro, Panama and some swim-with operations. It encouraged continuation of workshops to improve whalewatching in Oman. It also discussed how to assist the Conservation Committee on the development of the online Handbook on Whalewatching. The Standing Working Group on Whalewatching (SWG-WW) work plan for the proposed intersessional period of 2014-16 was endorsed.
<p>Other regular Conservation Committee items <i>Item 10</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed the Conservation Committee's progress with other ongoing areas of work, these being: (1) an investigation of inedible 'stinky' gray whales in the Chukotkan aboriginal subsistence hunt; (2) southern right whales in Chile and Peru; (3) National Reports on Cetacean Conservation; and (4) marine debris. The issue of inedible 'stinky' gray whales was referred to the Scientific Committee. Marine debris should be a standing agenda item for the Scientific Committee.

<p>Whale killing methods and associated welfare issues (WKM&AWI) <i>Item 13</i> Report: Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues (WKM&AWI) (IWC/65/Rep06)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission welcomed the reports from several Governments on their hunting operations or events requiring euthanasia. They also welcomed reports from Norway and the USA on their contributions to improvements in whaling operations. • NAMMCO provided a summary of its manuals for hunters that focussed on safety for hunters and rapid death for the target species of the hunts. • The Commission recommended that work related to entanglements, including training workshops and capacity building, the development of a global database and convening future workshops continue, including the post of Technical Advisor to the Secretariat. • The Report of the Workshop on Euthanasia Protocols (IWC/65/WKM&AWIRep01) and its recommendations were endorsed. • The Commission agreed revised terms of reference for the current intersessional working group which is now renamed as ‘Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues’, (WG-WI). Its task is to review information and provide advice to the Commission on issues relating to whale killing methods and all aspects associated with ensuring good welfare of cetaceans that are hunted or otherwise impacted by human activities (See IWC/65/WKM&AWI05rev2). • An updated action plan was also adopted in order to reflect the current scope the IWC’s welfare work. • Additional voluntary contributions were announced by the UK (£20,000 towards the work of the WG-WI) and a consortium of NGOs (£10,800).
<p>The Revised Management Procedure (RMP) <i>Item 14</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/65/Rep01)</p>	<p>Revised Management Procedure (RMP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission reviewed progress on the Scientific Committee’s work on the RMP and related matters which included matters related to the MSYR, testing, possible amendments and survey guidelines. The <i>Implementation Review</i> for western North Pacific common minke whales was completed although more work may be required if a variant with research is proposed. Those for North Atlantic common minke whales and fin whales are ongoing and should be completed in 2015/16. • No work was undertaken on the Revised Management Scheme.
<p>Scientific permits and related issues <i>Item 15</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/65/Rep01)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two expert Workshops were held in the intersessional period, one to review the results of the completed Iceland special permit programme and the other to review the then ongoing JARPA II programme. • The judgment of March 31, 2014 of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the case concerning whaling in the Antarctic was discussed. The Commission passed a Resolution on special permits (2014-5) that included instructions to the Scientific Committee and a request on the steps that must be taken before permits are issued.
<p>Safety issues at sea <i>Item 16</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan drew attention to the violent activities against its research vessels in the Southern Ocean during the last two seasons and requested necessary actions by the relevant member states concerned. • The Commission reiterated that it does not condone, and in fact condemns, any activities that are a risk to human life and property in relation to the activities of vessels at sea (see Resolution 2011-2).
<p>Catches by non-member nations <i>Item 17</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/65/Rep01)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission was pleased to receive catch data from Canada’s bowhead hunt. The Secretary will continue to request information on catches and quotas from Canada. • The Secretary will continue to request information from the Government of Indonesia on their whale catches.
<p>Infractions <i>Item 18</i> Report: Infractions Sub-Committee (IWC/65/Rep04)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - infractions reported in the 2012, 2012/13, 2013 and 2013/4 seasons; - follow-up reports from previous years; - information on the domestic surveillance of whaling operations; and - information on the provision of data. • The Commission discussed the Report of the Infractions Sub-Committee and referred unresolved issues concerning catches taken in Greenland in 2013 to the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness and Cost Saving Measures which will report to IWC/66. • Following the recent judgement of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Commission agreed that the IWC databases should show catches taken under the Japanese JARPA II programme as taken under special permits issued by Japan with a footnote indicating they have been discussed by the ICJ and including a reference both to the court judgement and the discussions documented in the Chair’s Report of this meeting.
<p>Environmental and health issues <i>Item 19</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/65/Rep01); Conservation Committee (IWC/65/Rep05)</p>	<p>Scientific work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission reviewed progress on the Scientific Committee’s ongoing work on environmental concerns including, pollution, disease, sound and climate change. With respect to chemical pollution the IWC’s POLLUTION 2000+ Phase III has been successfully completed and a new programme recommended. The Committee received reports of Workshops on soundscape mapping and the Commission’s Arctic Workshop; it endorsed the recommendations. A number of recommendations on sound were made with respect to mitigation and provision of data. This work was presented to the Conservation Committee. • The Commission also reviewed the Report of the Arctic Workshop (IWC/65/Rep07rev1), endorsed its recommendations and in particular noted a request to establish greater contact with the Arctic Council.

<p>Small cetaceans <i>Item 20.1</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/65/Rep01); Conservation Committee (IWC/65/Rep05)</p>	<p>Small cetaceans status and review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee reviewed small cetaceans in east Asian waters in 2013 and the eastern Mediterranean and Red Sea in 2014. Concern was expressed over a number of populations that were subject to high bycatch rates in Korea and Japan and to bycatch and the illegal use of explosives in the Mediterranean. Recommendations were also made concerning small cetacean hunts in Japan and live-captures of white whales and killer whales from the Okhotsk Sea. In reviewing progress on previous recommendations, serious concern and the need for action was expressed over the vaquita in Mexico, Maui's dolphins in New Zealand, river dolphin species in Laos, Cambodia, China and Brazil, franciscana in Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina, live-captures and drive hunts in the Solomon Islands, bycatches and occasional hunts in Ghana. It reiterated a long-standing statement that no removals should be authorised until full assessments of sustainability are completed. The Commission received several progress reports on conservation actions that were being taken or proposed for populations/species for which the Scientific Committee has expressed concern. <p>The fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciation was expressed to governments and NGOs that have contributed to the Voluntary Fund. The Commission was pleased to note the excellent work undertaken under this Voluntary Fund. Since it began in 2011, 14 projects have been funded to the value of around £350,000. The focus is on research that will lead to improved conservation status with an emphasis on developing countries and critical conservation needs. The Commission recommended the 'task team' approach suggested by the Scientific Committee to respond to situations where urgent attention is required to protect small cetacean populations. The approach will allow the Committee to more swiftly evaluate a situation and provide advice and recommendations intersessionally. Additional donations to the fund were announced by the UK (£10,000), Italy (€15,000 to support the participation of experts in the work on small cetaceans), the Netherlands (€85,000 to assist the IWC to enhance its work on small cetaceans, to work further on non-lethal research methods and to enhance dialogue on alternatives for subsistence whaling) and a consortium of NGOs (£16,000).
<p>Regional non-lethal research partnerships <i>Item 20.2</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/65/Rep01)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission welcomed a report on the Southern Ocean Research Partnership (SORP) which included updates on the existing projects. Further international involvement in this programme was encouraged. Some Governments requested the continued funding of the SORP co-ordinator through the Research Fund.
<p>Scientific Committee working methods <i>Item 20.3</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee reported on work to review and improve its working methods. Improvements highlighted included the process to develop the research budget, review research proposals, communicate with the Commission and others and data access under Annex P.
<p>Finance and Administration <i>Item 22</i> Report: Finance and Administration Committee (IWC/65/Rep02)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Working Group on Providing Options to Governments with Limited Means to Participate in the Commission's Work was re-constituted under the chairmanship of Hideki Moronuki (Japan). The Commission expressed appreciation for the enhanced new IWC website. The Commission endorsed the work of the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness and Cost Saving Measures and recommended that the Working Group continue its work with an enhanced membership and include: (1) consideration of the new biennial meeting pattern; and (2) a review of the operations of the Commission such that its limited resources are used effectively. A new Working Group was established to deal with matters outside the mandate of the present Working Group. The Commission recommended a change to Rule of Procedure P.3 to allow the Secretariat to circulate a list of dates and subject titles of confidential communications to all Commissioners and Contracting Governments. The Secretariat was requested to continue to identify cost savings including staffing levels and in particular to investigate options to reduce bank charges. The Secretariat was requested to review the organisation of the new biennial meeting structure, for report to IWC/66, including contacting Contracting Governments to obtain feedback on IWC/65. The Chair indicated that she would recommend the Bureau to introduce a 'cut-off' after day three such that all discussion and decisions on Resolutions and Schedule amendments would be completed by this time.

<p>Financial Statements and budget <i>Item 23</i> Report of the Finance and Administration Committee (F&A) (IWC/65/Rep02)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission adopted the 2012 and 2013 Financial Statements and approved the Provisional Financial Statement for the year ending 31 August 2014 subject to audit. • The Commission adopted an addition of Rule of Procedure A.3 relating to contact details of national offices responsible for making payments. • The Commission adopted the 2015 budget as presented in IWC/65/07 except including an amendment to reduce the 1.5% increase in contributions to 0%, partly by reducing the Scientific Committee contingency budget to 10%. For 2016, the Commission placed square brackets around the amount for the specialist Workshop to review special permits, pending the outcome of the Scientific Committee's deliberations on the Annex P process. • The Committee took note of the forecast for 2017-18 and adopted the proposed income and expenditure for the bridge period (IWC/65/7). • In future media fees will be waived and the observer fee will remain at its current level in 2016. • The contributions formula will be considered by the Budgetary Sub-Committee (BSC) at IWC/66 and the contributions formula will be made available through the IWC website. • The length of term served by the Chair/Vice-Chair of the BSC is changed to cover two biennial cycles. The two empty 'open seats' on the BSC could be filled by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission. • The Commission expressed appreciation to the retiring chair of the F&A Committee, Donna Petrachenko (Australia) for her excellent work over several years. Ryan Wulff (USA) was elected Chair of the F&A Committee. • A suggestion that a percentage of money donated to voluntary funds should be transferred to the IWC general fund was referred to the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness and Cost Saving Measures for consideration in the intersessional period.
<p>Date and place of Annual Meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No date or place was proposed for the 2016 meeting. • The Government of the USA kindly agreed to host the Scientific Committee meeting from 20 May-4 June 2015 in San Diego.
<p>Elections and Bureau <i>Items 25 and 26</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruno Mainini (Switzerland) was elected as Chair of the Commission and Joji Morishita (Japan) was elected as Vice-Chair. • Uruguay, Ghana, Australia and St Lucia were elected to the Bureau. Thus the total membership of the Bureau will comprise the Chair (Switzerland), the Vice-Chair (Japan), the Chair of the F&A Committee (USA), and the four elected members.

