

Report of the Scientific Committee

Bled, Slovenia, 7-19 June 2016

Annex A: List of Participants

Annex B: Agenda

Annex C: List of Documents

**This report is presented as it was at SC/66b.
There may be further editorial changes (e.g. updated references, tables, figures)
made before publication.**

International Whaling Commission

Bled, Slovenia, 2016

Annex A

List of Participants

(I)=Interpreter; (H)=Head of Delegation; (AH)=Alternate Head of Delegation)

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¹From 04/06-15/06.

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INVITED PARTICIPANTS

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Annex B

Agenda

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS
 - 1.1 Chair's welcome and opening remarks
 - 1.2 Appointment of rapporteurs
 - 1.3 Meeting procedures and time schedule
 - 1.4 Establishment of sub-committees and working groups
 - 1.5 Computing arrangements
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
3. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS
 - 3.1 Documents submitted
 - 3.2 National Progress Reports on research
 - 3.3 Data collection, storage and manipulation
 - 3.3.1 Catch data and other statistical material
 - 3.3.2 Progress of data coding projects
 - 3.3.3 Progress on program verification projects
4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS
 - 4.1 African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO)
 - 4.2 Arctic Council
 - 4.2.1 PAME (Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment)
 - 4.3 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - 4.4 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
 - 4.5 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)
 - 4.5.1 Scientific Council
 - 4.5.2 Conference of Parties (COP)
 - 4.5.3 Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)
 - 4.5.4 Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)
 - 4.5.6 Other
 - 4.6 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)
 - 4.7 Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
 - 4.8 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
 - 4.8.1 Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP)
 - 4.9 International Committee on Marine Protected Areas (ICMMPA)
 - 4.10 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
 - 4.11 International Maritime Organization (IMO)
 - 4.12 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
 - 4.13 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)
 - 4.14 North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES)
 - 4.15 Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean (SPAW)
 - 4.16 Pacific Region Environment Programme (SPREP)
 - 4.17 Other
5. GENERAL ASSESSMENT ISSUES WITH A FOCUS ON THOSE RELATED TO THE REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP)
 - 5.1 Relationship between $MSYR_{mat}$ and $MSYR_{1+}$: evaluate energetics-based model
 - 5.2 Requirements and guidelines for conducting surveys: model based abundance estimates
 - 5.3 Implications of *ISTs* for consideration of 'status' (with AWMP)
 - 5.4 Work plan
6. RMP – *IMPLEMENTATION*-RELATED MATTERS
 - 6.1 North Atlantic fin whales (*Implementation Review*)
 - 6.1.1 Report of intersessional workshop
 - 6.1.2 Completion of *Implementation Review*
 - 6.1.3 Conclusions and recommendations
 - 6.2 North Atlantic common minke whales (*Implementation Review*)
 - 6.2.1 Report of intersessional workshop
 - 6.2.2 Completion of *Implementation Review*
 - 6.2.3 Conclusions and recommendations

- 6.3 North Pacific common minke whales
 - 6.3.1 Review new information
 - 6.3.3 Conclusions and recommendations
- 6.4 Western North Pacific Bryde's whales
 - 6.4.1 Prepare for 2017 *Implementation Review*
 - 6.4.2 Conclusions and recommendations
- 6.5 Work plan
- 7. NON-DELIBERATE HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY OF CETACEANS (HIM)
 - 7.1 Entanglement of large whales
 - 7.1.1 Report from the Commission workshop on mitigation measures
 - 7.1.2 New information on rates, risks and mortality, including from National progress reports
 - 7.1.3 Progress on scientific aspects of mitigation measures
 - 7.1.4 Links with CMPs
 - 7.1.5 Review database and website
 - 7.2 Ship strikes
 - 7.2.1 Review report from the Intersessional group on time series for assessments
 - 7.2.2 Follow-up on recommendations including modelling: review progress and effectiveness
 - 7.2.3 Progress on the global database and review of the website
 - 7.2.4 New information on rates, risks and mortality, including from National progress reports
 - 7.2.5 Links with CMPs and collaboration with the Commission's Ship Strikes Working Group including consideration of scientific aspects of mitigation measures and future work
 - 7.3 Approaches for the assessment of the bycatch issue in small cetaceans
 - 7.4 Work plan
- 8. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (AWMP)
 - 8.1 *SLA* development for the Greenlandic hunts
 - 8.1.1 WG-Bowhead *SLA* for bowhead whales: review Canadian information
 - 8.1.2 Finalise *SLA* for fin whales
 - 8.1.3 Review progress on development of *SLA* for common minke whales
 - 8.2 Aboriginal whaling management scheme
 - 8.2.1 Complete work related to B-C-B bowhead whales
 - 8.3 Prepare for gray whale *Implementation Review*
 - 8.4 Work plan
- 9. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT ADVICE
 - 9.1 Eastern Canada and West Greenland bowhead whales (AWMP)
 - 9.1.1 New information
 - 9.1.2 Management advice
 - 9.2 North Pacific gray whales (BRG)
 - 9.2.1 Review of recent catch information from Chukotka
 - 9.2.2 Management advice
 - 9.3 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas Bowhead whale (BRG)
 - 9.3.1 New information
 - 9.3.2 Management advice
 - 9.4 Common minke whale stocks off East Greenland (AWMP)
 - 9.4.1 New information
 - 9.4.2 Management advice
 - 9.5 Common minke whale stocks off West Greenland (AWMP)
 - 9.5.1 New information
 - 9.5.2 Management advice
 - 9.6 Fin whales off West Greenland (AWMP)
 - 9.6.1 New information
 - 9.6.2 Management advice
 - 9.7 Humpback whales off West Greenland (AWMP)
 - 9.7.1 New information
 - 9.7.2 Management advice
 - 9.8 Humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines (AWMP)
 - 9.8.1 New information
 - 9.8.2 Management advice
 - 9.9 Work plan
- 10. WHALE STOCKS
 - 10.1 Antarctic minke whales (IA)
 - 10.1.1 Consideration of factors that may drive Antarctic minke whale distribution and abundance
 - 10.1.2 Review intersessional progress on ways to report on the Indo-Pacific in-depth assessment

- 10.1.3 Evaluate the possibility to initiating an in-depth assessment focusing on South Atlantic and Antarctic Peninsula
- 10.1.4 Work plan
- 10.2 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales (SH)
 - 10.2.1 Review intersessional work on improving mixing proportions for BSD/BSE1/BSO
 - 10.2.2 Review intersessional progress on developing an abundance estimate and survey methods for BSD
 - 10.2.3 Review progress on BSG sub-structuring
 - 10.2.4 Work plan
- 10.3 Southern Hemisphere blue whales (SH)
 - 10.3.1 Review new information on Antarctic blue whale
 - 10.3.2 Review new information on Pygmy blue whale
 - 10.3.3 Work plan
- 10.4 North Pacific blue whales (IA)
- 10.5 Distribution of baleen and toothed whales in the Antarctic relative to spatial and environmental covariates (IA)
 - 10.5.1 Review new information
 - 10.5.2 Work plan
- 10.6 North Pacific sei whale (IA)
 - 10.6.1 Review results of intersessional work
 - 10.6.2 Work plan
- 10.7 North Pacific gray whales (BRG)
 - 10.7.1 Review report of intersessional work
 - 10.7.2 Conservation advice (excluding ASW advice)
 - 10.7.3 Review CMP
 - 10.7.4 Work plan
- 10.8 Southern Hemisphere right whales (BRG)
 - 10.8.1 Review new information
 - 10.8.2 Work plan
- 10.9 North Atlantic right whales (BRG)
 - 10.9.1 Review new information
 - 10.9.2 Work plan
- 10.10 North Pacific right whales (BRG)
 - 10.10.1 Review new information
 - 10.10.2 Work plan
- 10.11 North Atlantic bowhead whales (BRG)
 - 10.11.1 Review new information
 - 10.11.2 Work plan
- 10.12 Okhotsk Sea bowhead whales (BRG)
 - 10.12.1 Review new information
 - 10.12.2 Work plan
- 10.13 Arabian Sea humpback whales (SH)
 - 10.13.1 Review progress on intersessional work
 - 10.13.2 Review new information
 - 10.13.3 Progress toward the development of a Conservation Management Plan and other conservation initiatives
 - 10.13.4 Work plan
- 10.14 Sperm whales (SH)
 - 10.14.1 Review intersessional progress on the feasibility of a stock assessment
 - 10.14.2 Review on progress on North Pacific catch history
 - 10.14.3 Work plan
- 10.15 Southern Hemisphere fin whales (IA)
 - 10.15.1 Initiate discussion on Southern Hemisphere fin whales
 - 10.15.2 Review post CPIII survey data
 - 10.15.3 Work plan
- 11. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE CRUISES AND DATABASES (IA)
 - 11.1 IWC-POWER cruises in the North Pacific
 - 11.1.1 Review of 2015 cruise
 - 11.1.2 Mid- and long-term recommendations for the programme
 - 11.1.3 Recommendations for the 2017 cruise
 - 11.2 IWC-SOWER cruises: progress on website, publications, analyses
 - 11.3 Databases and catalogues
 - 11.3.1 Sightings – update of IWC-DESS
 - 11.3.2 IWC-SOWER and POWER photographic database

- 11.3.3 IWC-POWER catalogues
- 11.3.4 Antarctic humpback catalogue
- 11.3.5 North Atlantic humpback catalogue
- 11.3.6 Antarctic blue whale catalogue
- 11.3.7 Guidelines for IWC databases and catalogues

12. STOCK DEFINITION (SD)

- 12.1 Guidelines for genetic studies and DNA data quality
- 12.2 Statistical and genetic issues related to stock structure matters
- 12.3 Terminology appropriate to stock definition, unit-to-serve and 'viable' population
- 12.4 Testing of spatial stock structure models
- 12.5 Work plan

13. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (E)

- 13.1 State of the Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER
- 13.2 Chemical pollution
 - 13.2.1 Pollution 2020
 - 13.2.2 Data integration and mapping of POPs and trends
- 13.3 Oil spill impacts
- 13.4 Cetacean Diseases of Concern (CDoC)
- 13.5 Strandings and mortality events
- 13.6 Effects of anthropogenic sound
 - 13.6.1 Report of pre-meeting on 'masking'
 - 13.6.2 Develop plans for workshop on stress
 - 13.6.3 Support ACCOBAMS work on noise
 - 13.6.4 Effectiveness of MMOs as a mitigation measure
- 13.7 Effects of climate change on cetaceans
- 13.8 Arctic issues
- 13.9 Marine debris
 - 13.9.1 Progress of the intersessional group
 - 13.9.2 New information on marine debris impact on cetaceans
- 13.10 Other habitat related issues
- 13.11 Work plan

14. ECOSYSTEM MODELLING (EM)

- 14.1 Review progress on Joint IWC-CCAMLR work
- 14.2 Review other issues relevant to ecosystem modelling within the Committee
 - 14.2.1 Case studies of the effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations
 - 14.2.2 Review progress on identifying long-term datasets and relevant environmental variable datasets
- 14.3 Other, if new information is available
 - 14.3.1 Application of species distribution models
- 14.4 Work plan

15. SMALL CETACEANS (SM)

- 15.1 Taxonomic status and population structure of Tursiops spp. for the North Atlantic (including the Mediterranean, Black and Caribbean seas and the Gulf of Mexico) and South Atlantic
- 15.2 Status of the Voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research
- 15.3 Review progress on previous recommendations
- 15.4 Review takes of small cetaceans
 - 15.4.1 New information on takes
 - 15.4.2 Update on progress made on the first workshops on 'poorly documented hunts of small cetaceans for food, bait or cash'
- 15.5 Work plan

16. WHALEWATCHING (WW)

- 16.1 Assess the impact of whalewatching on cetaceans
 - 16.1.1 Modelling and Assessment of Whalewatching Impact (MAWI)
 - 16.1.2 Data collection and analytical techniques
 - 16.1.3 Swim-with-whales
 - 16.1.4 Emerging concerns
 - 16.1.5 Regional review for the South Pacific
- 16.2 Progress on Commission's 5-year strategic plan and joint work with Conservation Committee
 - 16.2.1 Online handbook
 - 16.2.2 Regulations and guidelines
- 16.3 Other issues
 - 16.3.1 Progress on previous recommendations
 - 16.3.2 Platform of opportunity data

- 16.3.3 Structure for 'digest table'
- 16.4 Work plan
- 17. DNA TESTING (DNA)
 - 17.1 Review genetic methods for species, stock and individual identification
 - 17.2 Review results of the 'amendments' of sequences deposited in GenBank
 - 17.3 Collection and archiving of tissue samples from catches and bycatches
 - 17.4 Reference databases and standards for diagnostic DNA registries
 - 17.5 Work plan
- 18. SCIENTIFIC PERMITS (SP)
 - 18.1 NEWREP-A
 - 18.1.1 Progress with recommendations from the 2015 Expert Panel and Scientific Committee
 - 18.1.2 New information from the 2015 field season including comparison of predetermined and actual tracklines
 - 18.1.3 Committee conclusions and recommendations
 - 18.2 Final review of JARPN II
 - 18.2.1 Presentation of Expert Panel report
 - 18.2.2 Proponents response to Expert Panel report including new/revised analyses
 - 18.2.2.1 The period up to 2013
 - 18.2.2.2 The period 2014-2016
 - 18.2.3 Evaluation of proponent's response to recommendations of Expert Panel report
 - 18.2.3.1 The period up to 2013
 - 18.2.3.2 The period 2014-2016
 - 18.2.4 Committee conclusions and recommendations
 - 18.3 Work plan
- 19. WHALE SANCTUARIES (S)
 - 19.1 Review of the South Atlantic Sanctuary proposal
 - 19.1.1 Report of the workshop
 - 19.1.2 Committee conclusions and recommendations
 - 19.2 Decadal review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary
 - 19.2.1 Review of new information
 - 19.2.2 Committee conclusions and recommendations
- 20. SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP
- 21. IWC LIST OF RECOGNISED SPECIES
- 22. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS
 - 22.1 Progress with scientific aspects of existing CMPs
 - 22.1 Progress with assisting development of new CMPs
- 23. COMPILATION OF AGREED ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES AND SUMMARY OF STATUS
 - 23.1 Intersessional progress on abundance estimates
 - 23.2 Consideration of status
- 24. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR THE 2017-2017 MEETINGS
- 25. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2017-2018
 - 25.1 Status of previously funded research and workshop proposals
 - 25.1.1 Funded proposals for the biennium 2015-2016
 - 25.1.2 Funded proposals in previous years still ongoing
 - 25.2 Data processing and computing needs for the biennium 2017-2018
 - 25.3 Funding requirements for the biennium 2017-2018
- 26. WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE
 - 26.1 Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee
 - 26.2 Biennial reporting and related matters
 - 26.3 Additional proposals for revisions to 'Annex P' in light of 2015 trial of the amended Annex P
 - 26.4 Other matters
- 27. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- 28. PUBLICATIONS
- 29. OTHER BUSINESS
- 30. ADOPTION OF REPORT

Annex C

List of Documents

SC/66b/AWMP

[No documents]

SC/66b/BRG

01. RONE, B.K., CLAPHAM, P.J., WELLER, D.W., CRANCE, J.L. AND LANG, A.R. North Pacific right whales and blue whales in the Gulf of Alaska: results from a 2015 visual and acoustic ship survey. 11pp.
02. SIRONI, M., ROWNTREE, V.J., DI MARTINO, M., BELTRAMINO, L., RAGO, V., MARÓN, C.F. AND UHART, M. Southern right whale mortalities at Península Valdés, Argentina: updated information for 2014-2015. 8pp.
03. SUYDAM, R., GEORGE, J.C., PERSON, B., RAMEY, D., STIMMELMAYR, R., SFORMO, T., PIERCE, L. AND SHEFFIELD, G. Subsistence harvest of bowhead whales (*Balaena mysticetus*) by Alaskan Eskimos during 2015 and other aspects of bowhead biology and science. 11pp.
- 03rev1. SUYDAM, R., GEORGE, J.C., PERSON, B., RAMEY, D., STIMMELMAYR, R., SFORMO, T., PIERCE, L. AND SHEFFIELD, G. Subsistence harvest of bowhead whales (*Balaena mysticetus*) by Alaskan Eskimos during 2015 and other aspects of bowhead biology and science. 11pp.
04. BRATTSTRÖM, L.V., MOCKLIN, J., TUDOR, B., GEORGE, J.C. AND GIVENS, G.H. Update on the bowhead whale aerial survey photo-ID program and 2011 aerial spring survey. 13pp.
- 04rev1. BRATTSTRÖM, L.V., MOCKLIN, J., TUDOR, B., GEORGE, J.C. AND GIVENS, G.H. Update on the bowhead whale aerial survey photo-ID program and 2011 aerial spring survey. 13pp. [Submitted after close of meeting]
05. SHPAK, O.V. Update on studies of bowhead whales (*Balaena mysticetus*) in the Okhotsk Sea in 2014-2015. 5pp.
06. HAYDEN, M., CASTELLINI, J.M., O'HARA, T., BHAWAL, R., ESCOBEDO, J., HARMON, C., SAN-FRANCISCO, S., ZABET-MOGHADDAM, M., KLEIN, D., GRIFFE, B., MILLER, D., BICKHAM, J. AND GODARD-CODDING, C.A.J. Total mercury concentrations in epidermis and advancements in steroid hormone analyses in gray whale blubber: significance for western gray whale biopsy research. 17pp.
07. BAIRD, A.B., GEORGE, J.C., SUYDAM, R.S. AND BICKHAM, J.W. Population genetic studies of bowhead based on mtDNA sequences and SNPs. 10pp.
08. BLOKHIN, S.A., LITOVKA, D.I., TYURNEVA, O.Y. AND SHKARUPA, M.A. Gray whales *Eschrichtius robustus* photo-id in the Mechigmsky Bay (western Bering Sea, Russia) in 2013-2015. 5pp.
09. BANNISTER, J.L., HAMMOND, P.S. AND DOUBLE, M.C. Population trends in right whales off southern Australia 1993-2015. 14pp.
10. BLOKHIN, S.A., LITOVKA, D.I., TYUPELEEV, P.A. AND SHKARUPA, M.A. Toxic elements (Fe, Zn, Cu, Hg, As, Cd, Pb) in gray whales and Pacific walrus organs in the Mechigmsky Bay (western Bering Sea, Russia). 3pp.
11. KATO, H., NAKAMURA, G., YOSHIDA, H., KISHIRO, T., OKAZOE, N., ITO, K., BANDO, T., MOGOE, T. AND MIYASHITA, T. Status report of conservation and researches on the western North Pacific gray whales in Japan, May 2015-April 2016. 9pp.
12. BURDIN, A.M. AND SYCHENCKO, A.O. Status of western gray whales off northeastern Sakhalin Island, Russia in 2015. 9pp.
13. REYES REYES, V., HEVIA, M., MARINO, A., THAYRE, B. AND IÑIGUEZ, M.A. Presence of southern right whales on the Patagonian shelf of Argentina during summer 2016. 5pp.
14. GEORGE, J.C., SUYDAM, R. AND STIMMELMAYR, R. A possible structure for a Bowhead Whale Health Report. 7pp.
15. ILYASHENKO, V.Y. AND ZHARIKOV, K.A. Needs of indigenous people of Chukotka in whaling products and possible questions for the nearest future. 3pp.
- 15rev1. ILYASHENKO, V.Y. AND ZHARIKOV, K.A. Needs of indigenous people of Chukotka in whaling products and possible questions for the nearest future. 3pp.
16. WELLER, D.W., TAKANAWA, N., OHIZUMI, H., FUNAHASHI, N., SYCHENCKO, A.O., BURDIN, A.M., LANG, A.R. AND BROWNELL, R.L., JR. Gray whale migration in the western North Pacific: further support for a Russia-Japan connection. 4pp.
17. BICKHAM, J.W., GEORGE, J.C. AND SUYDAM, R. Meeting to discuss the biology and genomics of bowhead whales. 10pp.
18. WELLER, D.W., LANG, A.R., CHIVERS, S.J., CARRETTA, J.V. AND RONE, B.K. Progress report on a 2015 ship survey for large whales off the west coast of the US and Canada. 3pp.
19. URBÁN R., J., SWARTZ, S., GÓMEZ-GALLARDO, U, A., MARTINEZ A, S. AND ROSALES-NANDUCA, H. 2016 gray whale research in Laguna San Ignacio and Bahía Magdalena, Mexico. 17pp.
20. MARTINEZ A, S., SWARTZ, S., URBÁN R., J. AND ROSALES-NANDUCA, H. The age of living gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) estimated from photographic identification data. 8pp.
21. YAMADA, T.K., TAJIMA, Y., ISHII, M. AND ASAKAWA, H. A juvenile gray whale found drifting off Atami, Central Japan in 2016. 8pp.
22. ILYASHENKO, V. AND ZHARIKOV, K. Aboriginal subsistence whaling in the Russian Federation in 2015. 2pp.
23. GALLETTI VERNAZZANI, B., ARROYO, P., GOYA, E. AND PALMA, A. REVISED Conservation Management Plan for eastern south Pacific southern right whale population (*Eubalaena australis*). 31pp.

24. GALLETTI VERNAZZANI, B. 2012-2016 overview of IWC Conservation Management Plan for the critically endangered eastern south Pacific southern right whales population. 8pp.
25. COOKE, J.G., WELLER, D.W., BRADFORD, A.L., SYCHENCKO, O., BURDIN, A.M., LANG, A.R. AND BROWNELL, R.L., JR. Updated population assessment of the Sakhalin gray whale aggregation based on a photoidentification study at Piltun, Sakhalin, 1995-2015. 14pp.
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REPORTS OF INTERSESSIONAL WORKSHOPS

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01. Report of the Meeting of the IWC-POWER Technical Advisory Group (TAG), 7-9 October 2015, Tokyo, Japan. 24pp.
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