

Report of the Scientific Committee

Bled, Slovenia, 7-19 June 2016

Annex V: Intersessional Email Correspondence Groups [draft]

**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 V [draft]

Intersessional Email Correspondence Groups

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Sub-Committee	Group	Terms of Reference	Members
RMP	MSYR (Steering Group)	Coordinate the intersessional work including identification of diagnostic plots.	De la Mare (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, Cooke, Kitakado, Punt
RMP	Requirements and guidelines for conducting surveys and <i>Implementations</i> (Steering Group)	Coordinate intersessional work, develop an agenda for the Workshop and facilitate preparations for the Workshop.	Butterworth (Convenor), Allison, Bravington, Cooke, Donovan, Leaper, Jackson, Kitakado, Miller, Palka, Walløe
RMP	IST stock status (Steering Group)	Provide advice on how to develop and present metrics of status at the 2017 meeting.	Donovan (Convenor), Butterworth, Cooke, Punt, Walløe
RMP	Western North Pacific Bryde's whale <i>Implementation Review</i> (Steering Group)	Guide the <i>Implementation Review</i> and plan for an intersessional Workshop for next year.	Donovan (Convenor), [Members to come]
AWMP	Maintenance of the AWMP Developer's Fund (Steering Group)	Plan for the intersessional Workshop and provide guidance to developers.	Donovan (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, Brandão, Givens, Punt, Witting
BRG	We were informed there are no groups for BRG		
IA	Synthesis and summary of the in-depth assessment of Indo-Pacific Antarctic minke whale	Initiate preparation of a document synthesizing the results of the in-depth assessment of Indo-Pacific Antarctic minke whale.	Murase (Convenor), Kato, Kitakado, Matsuoka, Palka, Pastene, Punt
IA	North Pacific humpback whale assessment	Prepare for an in-depth assessment of North Pacific humpback whales. The intersessional tasks include: (1) Oversee further development and testing of the assessment model. (2) Oversee any further examination of historical catch data. (3) Develop a list of information and analyses required for an Assessment, and compile a list of individuals holding essential data. (4) Coordinate Items 1-3 to facilitate the completion of an Assessment at or prior to the 2017 SC meeting.	Ivashchenko, Clapham (Convenors), Baker, Brownell, Kato, Matsuoka, Punt, Urbán, Wade, Yoshida
IA	North Pacific blue whale assessment preparations	Review available data needed for an assessment of North Pacific blue whales.	Branch (Convenor), Ivaschenko, Kato, Lang, Matsuoka, Mizroch, Noshiki, Rosenbaum, Širović
IA	IWC-POWER Survey Planning (Steering Group)	Finalise plans for the 2017 IWC-POWER survey.	Kato (Convenor), Bannister, Brownell, Clapham, Donovan, Ensor, Kelly, Kim, Matsuoka, Miyashita, Murase, Palka, Pastene, Walløe
IA	DESS database development	To develop the scope for a tender to develop the database: (1) develop list of variables; (2) poll researchers to determine what data archival systems or modules they are using; (3) determine if other researchers would be interested in using this broad relational database for their own data and if they are willing to share their knowledge, ideas, and as appropriate scripts.	Palka (Convenor), Allison, Donovan, Hughes, Matsuoka, Mizroch, Murase, Tsuji
IA	Sei whale assessment (Steering Group)	Continue progress on developing the assessment by (1) update catch history; (2) analyse past sighting data; and (3) review initial results from the population modelling and agree on any changes that may be required following the initial attempt to fit the data.	Cooke (Convenor), Allison, Kitakado, Kishiro, Mizroch, Palka, Pastene, Punt, Yoshida
IA (?)	IDCR/SOWER Commemorative Volume Editorial Group	[Terms of Reference to come]	Bannister (Editor), Brownell, Donovan, Ensor, Kato, Palka
IA	Status of North Pacific sperm whales	Identify available data to review to update our current understanding on the status of North Pacific sperm whales. Information needed for this review includes the following categories: (1), population structure within the North Pacific, (2) available abundance estimates from smaller areas, (3) revised catch histories for pelagic and land station operations, (4) listing of datasets that could	Brownell (Convenor), Baker, Bannister, Butterworth, Clapham, Cooke, Ivaschenko, Kato, Matsuoka, Mesnick, Miyashita, Reeves

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		be analysed to improve our understanding of sperm whales, and (5) Identifying simple assessment approaches that could be used to provide coarse initial estimates of abundance and status.	
SH	Progress on mixed stock analyses of humpback whales	Continuation of the previously established intersessional email group on mixed stock analysis of humpback whales.	Jackson (Convenor), Baker, Butterworth, Double, Kitakado, Pastene, Ross-Gillespie, Waples, Weinrich
SH	Estimate minimum abundance of BSD and evaluate utility of DuFresne <i>et al.</i> , (2014) sighting surveys	To further evaluate the preliminary minimum estimate of BSD used in the assessment of Breeding stocks D/E/F.	Kelly (Convenor), Double, Bannister, Butterworth, Jackson, Ross-Gillespie
SH	Arabian Sea (Working Group)	Continuation of the previously formed Arabian Sea Working Group.	Baldwin (Convenor), Bell, Brownell, Carlson, Collins, Double, Findlay, Gales, Leslie, Minton, Rosenbaum, Willson, Weinrich, Zerbini
SH	Clarify relationships between opportunistic data holders and photo-ID catalogues focused on Southern Ocean whales	Clarify relationships between data from initiatives providing opportunistic sightings data and existing catalogues, and the role that they might play within the context of the IWC's use of photo-identification data.	Bell (Convenor), Allen, Cheeseman, Double, Findlay, Jackson, Olson
SH	Antarctic Humpback Whale Catalogue	Identify specific scientific questions that the AHWC can help to address and which geographic regions are highest priority for photo-identification matching for this sub-committee.	Zerbini and Olson (co-Convenors), Jackson
SH	Project to match Antarctic blue whale baleen plates with source locations	Match up the baleen plates at the Smithsonian Institution with the original collection data in Japan.	Brownell and Kato (co-Convenors), Kishiro, Ososky, Potter
SH	Updated abundance and trends for Antarctic blue whales and fin whales	Inspect post-CPIII sightings data collected for Antarctic blue whales and fin whales, and Antarctic blue whale photo-IDs, with a view to providing updated abundance/trend estimates.	Kelly (Convenor), Butterworth, Branch, Olson,
SH	Workshop to build collaborative linkages among photo-ID catalogue holders	Organise a one-day Workshop to bring together researchers from South America to discuss standardisation and integration of photo-identification catalogues for blue and humpback whales just before SOLAMAC workshop on 28 th November.	Zerbini (Convenor), Brownell, Galletti, Hucke-Gaete, Jackson, Olson, Torres-Florez,
SH	Blue whale population structure using acoustics	Reconcile different vocalisations for pygmy blue whales in order to develop a set of calls for comparative purposes and constructing hypotheses of population structure.	Širović (Convenor), Brownell, Cerchio, Miller, Rogers, Samaran, Findlay, Olson, Branch and Lang
SH	Investigate Chilean blue whale abundance in context of habitat models	Build regional habitat model and consider options for using abundance estimate to be informative about wider-scale density and abundance of this species.	Redfern (convenor), Brownell, Zerbini, Galletti, Jackson, Palacios
SH	Fin whale review and development of study proposal in West Antarctic Peninsula	(1) Review, collate and summarise available fin whale sightings, catch, acoustic, tracking and abundance information; and (2) develop a proposal for a dedicated fin whale study in the west Antarctic Peninsula and Scotia Arc area.	Herr (Convenor), Bell, Burkhardt, Butterworth, De la Rosa, Findlay, Friedlaender, Iñíguez, Jackson, Kelly, Miller, Olson, Reyes, Rodriguez-Fonseca, Samaran, Širović, Williams, Zerbini
SH	Examination of fin whale stock structure	Examine fin whale stock structure in the Antarctic Peninsula region using relevant available data.	Jackson (Convenor), Bell, Butterworth, Findlay, Herr, Lang, Olson, Reyes, Rogers, Samaran, Širović, Torres-Florez, Zerbini
SD	DNA data quality guidelines	Update DNA data quality guidelines to include data produced using next generation sequencing approaches.	Tiedemann (Convenor), Lang, Hoelzel, Pampoulie
SD	Stock definition terminology	Identify stock-related terms used by different sub-committees and working groups as well as by relevant outside groups (e.g. IUCN).	Lang (Convenor), Cipriano, Fortuna, Natoli, Rodriguez-Fonseco, Tiedemann
HIM	Consider the potential development of a topic-based Conservation Management Plan on bycatch and entanglement (Correspondence Group)	Take into account relevant ongoing work in the Scientific Committee and also that ongoing in other relevant international bodies. This will assist in the development of an outline CMP to be considered by the Commission as requested at the joint meeting of the Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee in 2015.	Simmonds (Convenor), Cosentino, Currey, Double, Leaper, Long, Mattila, Panigada, Reeves, Rojas-Bracho, Ritter, Slooten, Wimmer
HIM	Time series of non-deliberate human induced mortality estimates (Correspondence Group)	Continue populating a table of 56 large whale populations to assess the available sources of data to classify: (i) risk of ship strikes and entanglement; and (ii)	Double (Convenor), Leaper, Mattila, Ritter

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		reports of ship strikes and entanglements including time series where these are available.	
E	Pollution 2020 (Working Group)	To progress the E SWG's Pollution 2020 programme; investigate progress on reduction of PCBs in the marine environment; coordinate with Secretariat on oil spill preparedness and planning especially with Arctic Council; progress on efforts to provide information to oil spill response communities.	Hall (Convenor), Greig, Herr, Holm, Jepson, Rowles, Ryeng, Schwacke, Simmonds, Ylitalo, Ziccardi
E	Cetacean Diseases of Concern (CDOC) (Working Group)	Finalise the IWC CDOC website redesign and content, determine best approach to maintain information in website and the consultation/discussion sessions, enhance communications, and maintain quarterly CDOC updates.	Rosa (Convenor), Gulland, Holm, Hall, Mattila, Rowles, Ryeng, Stimmelmayer, Simeone, Ylitalo
E	Harmful algal bloom (Steering Group)	Planning for focus meeting according to the terms of reference; synthesis of current science on HABS and impacts to cetaceans.	Rowles (Convenor), Gulland, Hall, Simeone, Stimmelmayer
E	Cumulative impacts (Steering Group)	Planning and preparation for collaborative cumulative impacts workshop or focus sessions at SC/67b.	Hall (Convenor), Donovan, Gulland, Rowles, Schwacke, Ylitalo
E	International stranding response (Working Group)	Establish the Expert Panel, facilitate first meeting, following Terms of Reference in report, and develop criteria for International Stranding Coordinator.	Simeone (Convenor), Brownell, Deaville, Gulland, Herr, Jepson, Marcondes, Mazzariol, Rosa, Stimmelmayer, Simmonds
E	Marine debris (Working Group)	Pre-planning for marine debris workshop on plastics. Progress on collaborations with IGOs particularly on gear marking.	Simmonds (Convenor), Baulch, Fossi, Hall, Leaper, Long, Marcondes, Rowles, Ylitalo
E	Arctic (Working Group)	Progress on four priority topics. Establishing further collaborations with Arctic Council.	Moore (Convenor), Baulch, George, Haug, Leaper, Reeves, Rosa, Rosenbaum, Rowles, Stimmelmayer, Thomas, Simmonds, Suydam, Vikingsson
E	Effects of climate change on cetaceans (Working Group)	Discussions of future work. Develop a strategy to address the potential vulnerability of tropical species, river dolphins and beaked whales.	Simmonds (Convenor), Palacios, Parsons, Williams
E	Anthropogenic noise (Working Group)	Establishing collaborations between IWC anthropogenic noise group and GWAP. Follow up on national and international ocean noise strategies.	Moore (Convenor), Cholewiak, Donovan, Leaper, New, Parsons, Reeves, Simmonds, Suydam, Williams
E	Oil spills	?	??
EM	Joint SC-CAMLR-IWC SC Workshops planning	Commence planning of a joint workshop between IWC-SC EM and SC-CAMLR WG-EMM.	Kitakado, Kawaguchi (co-Convenors), Butterworth, Currey, De la Mare, Double, Friedlaender, Hill, Ichii, Kovacs, Murase, Palka, Trathan, Watters
EM	Applications of species distribution models (SDMs)	Develop guidelines and recommendations for best practice in species distribution modelling.	Becker, Murase (Convenors), Friedlaender Kelly, Kitakado, McKinlay, Palacios, Palka
EM	Effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations	Identify long time series (≥ 20 yr) of cetacean demographic parameters and/or abundance. Identify potentially relevant environmental time series.	Cooke (Convenor), De la Mare, Friedlaender, Palacios
SM	Poorly documented takes of small cetaceans	Develop a 'toolbox' of investigative techniques to assist in documenting more clearly takes of small cetaceans; and hold a workshop comprising a multi-disciplinary group of biologists, social scientists, managers and NGO's with a global scope. Increase formal liaison with other MEA.	Porter (Convenor), Baker, Brownell, Collins, Cosentino, Frey, Jiminez, Parsons, Ritter, Scheidat, Simmonds
SM	Small Cetacean Task Team	Assist the Scientific Committee in providing timely and effective advice on situations where a population of cetaceans is or suspected to be in danger of a significant decline that may eventually lead to its extinction; the ultimate aim being to ensure that extinction does not occur.	Simmonds (Convenor), Donovan, Genov, Parsons, Porter, Reeves, Scheidat

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SM	Tursiops taxonomy review	Provide an overview of evaluation of <i>Tursiops</i> conducted in SC/66a; SC/66b and other, relevant new information.	Natoli (Convenor), Hoezel, Rosel
SM	Reporting from Brazil	Provide guidance to Brazil on reporting to the Committee on river dolphins.	Zerbini (Convenor), Brichta, Coutinho, Fruet, Luna, Marmontel, Martin, Porter, Raseira, Reeves, Scheidat, Silva, Thomas
SM	Bushmeat?	Bushmeat in west Africa?	Frey
WW	Modelling and Assessment of Whalewatching Impacts (MAWI) (Steering Group)	Define specific research questions and hypotheses that will benefit understanding of the impact of whalewatching, identify those whalewatching locations that would be most suitable and amenable for targeted studies addressing these questions, and summarise the current modelling tools available to analyse the data that will be collected.	New (Convenor), Carlson, Cook, Cosentino, Jimenez-Assmus, Kaufman, Leaper, Parsons, Ritter, Robbins, Rose, Simmonds, C. Smith, Weinrich, Urbán
WW	Swim-with-whale operations	Assess the extent and potential impact of swim-with-whale operations.	Rose (Convenor), Gero, Jimenez-Assmus, Kaufman, Parsons, Ritter, Rodriguez-Fonseca, Sironi, C. Smith, Urbán, Weinrich
WW	Communication with the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)	Help provide advice to IORA when appropriate and facilitate communication between IORA and the sub-committee.	Simmonds (Convenor), Baldwin, Ferriss, Iñiguez, Kaufman, New, Parsons, C. Smith, Urbán
WW	Strategic planning of the work programme and agenda	Seek to increase the emphasis on the science of whalewatching impacts within the sub-committee; advise on key areas/threats to focus on where the invitation of IPs would be highly beneficial; seek to integrate the agenda/work programme of the sub-committees and working groups of the Committee, e.g. ship strikes and noise; liaise with the Conservation Committee; seek to improve connections with other international organisations such as ACCOBAMS; and communicate intersessionally to plan the agenda as necessary.	Rendell (Convenor), Carlson, Cosentino, Donovan, Ferriss, Fortuna, Jimenez-Assmus, Iñiguez, Kaufman, New, Panigada, Parsons, Rose, Rojas-Bracho, Simmonds, Urbán, Wulff
DNA	We were informed there are no groups for DNA		
SP	Advisory group on trials (Advisory Group)	Assist in the process to facilitate the Committee to review and agree trial specifications during SC/67a to allow a satisfactory response to the SP Panel's Recommendation 1. [Greg to check wording]	Bannister (Convenor), Butterworth, Cooke, De la Mare, Donovan, Fortuna, McKinlay, Kitakado, Morishita, Punt, Walløe
SAN	We were informed there are no groups for SAN		
DB	Development of IWC photo-ID guidelines	Develop a set of IWC guidelines for photo-ID catalogues supported by the IWC and developed for the purposes of stock assessment.	Olson (Convenor), Allen, Baker, Bell, Carlson, Cheeseman, Collins, Donovan, Double, Findlay, Galletti, Garrigue, George, Jackson, Kaufman, Mallette, Matsuoka, Minton, Mizroch, Stevick, Weinrich, Zerbini
AE	Intersessional group on abundance estimates (Intersessional Group)	The intersessional group will: (i) review the table of abundance estimates in Annex X; (ii) consider how to combine estimates for an overview table; (iii) identify estimates which have not been considered by the Committee; (iv) identify any potentially missing estimates; and (v) produce a draft strategy for discussion at the next Annual Meeting for a process to ensure consistency of the review of abundance estimates across sub-committees and working groups.	Donovan, Branch, Butterworth, Gunnlaugsson, Kitakado, Jackson, Miyashita, Matsuoka, Øien, Palka, Walløe, Zerbini
SC	Committee working group on streamlining data entry within National Progress Reports (Working Group)	(1) Review the information currently collected by Progress Reports through the IWC Portal and make recommendations to the Scientific Committee to amend structure, content and workflows. (2) Work with the Secretariat to approach member nations to encourage the	Double (Convenor), All Heads of Delegation, Brownell, Fonseca, Hielscher, Iñiguez, Lauriano, Lundquist, Reeves, Santos

Sub-Committee	Group	Terms of Reference	Members
		submission of information through Progress Reports and to determine factors that inhibit reporting.	
SC/CC			