

Report of the Scientific Committee

Bled, Slovenia, 7-19 June 2016

Annex W: Update to the funding mechanism for allocation of funds from the IWC-SORP Research Fund

**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 W

Update to the funding mechanism for allocation of funds from the IWC-SORP Research Fund

INTRODUCTION

At IWC/SC/66b the IWC-SORP Scientific Steering Committee recommended updating IWC-SORP's 'Funding mechanism for allocation of funds from the IWC-SORP Research Fund (Annex R; IWC/SC/62¹) to align with IWC Scientific Committee procedures for reviewing project proposals.

The proposed text to update the Annex is presented below.

UPDATED ANNEX: FUNDING MECHANISM FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM THE IWC-SORP RESEARCH FUND

The Southern Ocean Research Partnership (IWC-SORP) was proposed to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in 2008 with the aim of developing a multi-lateral, non-lethal scientific research programme operating in the Southern Ocean that would improve the coordinated and cooperative delivery of science to the IWC.

Currently, there are 11 member countries in the Partnership: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa and the United States. IWC-SORP is an open Partnership and we warmly welcome new members.

The Southern Ocean Research Partnership ethos is one of open collaboration, communication and data sharing.

The process for the allocation of funds from the IWC-SORP Research Fund is given below. The background to IWC-SORP, its objectives and a description of any funded projects are available on the IWC website².

1. REVIEW BY THE IWC-SORP SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE (SSC)

1.1 All project descriptions and applications for funding will initially be sent to the SSC in accordance with the IWC Scientific Committee *pro forma*. The SSC is a Working Group of the IWC Scientific Committee. The composition of the group is presented in Appendix 1.

1.2 The SSC will review the proposals following the same assessment process adopted by the Scientific Committee in similar circumstances e.g. the Small Cetaceans Voluntary Fund. This review will include a determination of how well the proposals align with IWC-SORP objectives². In addition, the SSC will consider any conditions associated with voluntary contributions as specified by donors.

The SSC may suggest improvements to proposals where they believe this is appropriate and may solicit the assistance of other researchers in the review process.

2. REVIEW BY THE IWC SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

2.1 Upon receipt of a final proposal(s) (revised if necessary), the SSC will provide a short review of each proposal to the IWC Scientific Committee for consideration at its next annual meeting, including comments on how well the proposal aligns with IWC-SORP objectives² and any other criteria specified in the Call for Proposals. A summary of the final evaluations made by the SSC and the budgets associated with each proposal (including recommendations as to whether funding should be fully, partially or not supported) will also be provided to the IWC Scientific Committee.

2.2 Following consideration (and potential revision) by the Scientific Committee, approved requests will be added to the Scientific Committee budget as a specific request to the IWC-SORP Research Fund.

2.3 This final budget request will then form part of the Report of the Scientific Committee and will be presented to the Commission for approval.

¹ <https://archive.iwc.int/pages/search.php?search=%21collection29&k=>

² Refer to <https://iwc.int/sorp>

3. REVIEW BY THE COMMISSION

3.1 The Scientific Committee Report and associated budget will be considered by the Commission and the IWC-SORP funding requests will be reviewed during normal business.

4. IWC SECRETARIAT TO DEVELOP FUNDING AGREEMENTS WITH APPROVED PROJECTS

4.1 Based on the proposals approved by the Commission, the Secretariat will organise contracts with the successful projects.

5. DISCRETIONARY ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

At IWC62 in 2010, the Commission confirmed that the SSC is able to allocate a discretionary amount of not more than £15,000 per budget period in order to ensure the smooth running of approved programmes. Any such requests will be discussed and agreed by the SSC in advance of an allocation being made.

All discretionary allocations will be consistent with the objectives of IWC-SORP² and the IWC as endorsed by the Scientific Committee and Commission. All allocations will be reported by the SSC Chair, via the IWC-SORP Annual Report, to the IWC Scientific Committee at its next meeting.

Appendix 1

MEMBERS OF THE IWC-SORP SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE

The IWC-SORP Scientific Steering Committee (IWC-SORP SSC) is composed of a representative, with technical expertise, nominated by each member nation of the Partnership, as well as the Convenor of the Southern Hemisphere sub-committee, the Chair of the Scientific Committee, the IWC Head of Science and the IWC-SORP Secretariat.

IWC-SORP SSC has agreed to extend membership to the CCAMLR observer to IWC Scientific Committee.

At the discretion of the IWC-SORP SSC, additional representatives from Partnership members, as well as interested parties are welcome to attend and participate in meetings of this Committee.