

**66<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Whaling Commission**

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

10.30 Hrs      Friday 21 October 2016 at the Grand Hotel Bernardin, Portorož, Slovenia

PROVISIONAL AGENDA  
and annotations

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- 1.1. Appointment of Chair      *[Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho, Mexico, is proposed]*
- 1.2. Appointment of Rapporteurs
- 1.3. Review of documents
- 1.4. Observer participation      *[Relevant Rules of Procedure are given at the end of this agenda]*

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

3.1. Draft strategic plan

*In June 2015, a Conservation Committee planning meeting identified the need to develop a strategic plan for the Conservation Committee and an associated workplan. The strategic plan was envisaged as a high level outward facing document. It will be supported by separate, internal strategy documents for the Conservation Committee and its standing working groups complete with timelines.*

*This proposal was further discussed at a second Conservation Committee planning meeting in June 2016. This item allows discussion of the strategic plan, while the work plan will be discussed under item 14 after working groups have reported their intersessional progress.*

3.2. Regular Conservation Committee planning group meeting

*This agenda item will also allow the Committee to consider proposed Terms of Reference for a regular Conservation Committee planning group meeting to be held during the intersessional period between Conservation Committee meetings.*

3.3. Joint Working Group of the Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee

*IWC Resolution 2014-4 agreed 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.*

*This agenda item will provide an opportunity for the joint Working Group of the Conservation Committee and the Scientific Committee to report on its progress, including discussions from its meetings in June 2015 and June 2016.*

- 3.3.1. Report from the 2015 Joint Working Group of the Conservation Committee report
- 3.3.2. Report from the 2016 Joint Working Group of the Conservation Committee report
- 3.3.3. Report on the collation and analysis of conservation-relevant recommendations
- 3.3.4. Consideration of the future terms of reference, timing and *modus operandi* of the Joint Working Group

#### 4. WHALE SANCTUARIES

*This item provides an opportunity for the Conservation Committee to receive, review and comment on information related to whale sanctuaries & marine protected areas.*

##### 4.1. Decadal review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary

*The Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SOS) was established in 1994 through paragraph 7b of the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. This paragraph states that the Sanctuary shall be reviewed ten years after its initial adoption and at succeeding ten year intervals. The first review was undertaken in 2004 and a second review is now underway. At its 2015 meeting, the Scientific Committee agreed on a process to complete the decadal review of the SOS.*

*During its 2016 meeting, the Scientific Committee completed its review according to the process established at its 2015 meeting. During the review, the Scientific Committee identified a number of questions for the Commission to consider that might usefully be considered first by the Conservation Committee in its discussions. Ahead of IWC66 a circular communication will be sent to Contracting Governments asking for comments on these matters that will be collated and discussed under this Item, in addition to general discussion at the meeting.*

*This agenda item will allow the Conservation Committee to comment upon the review, discuss the questions asked by the Scientific Committee and prepare Conservation Committee input to the Commission on the review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary.*

- 4.1.1. Report of the Scientific Committee (Item 19.2 of IWC/66/Rep01)
- 4.1.2. Report on the intersessional work of the Conservation Committee

##### 4.2. Proposal to establish a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary

*The Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Gabon, South Africa and Uruguay have introduced a proposal to establish a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary (SAWS). At its 2015 meeting, the Scientific Committee agreed on a process to review the SAWS proposal. During its 2016 meeting, the Scientific Committee undertook and completed its review following the process established in 2015.*

*During its review, the Scientific Committee identified a number of questions for the Commission to consider that might usefully be considered first by the Conservation Committee. A circular communication will be sent to Contracting Governments asking for comments on these matters. Responses to the communication will be collated and discussed under this Item, in addition to general discussion at the meeting.*

*This agenda item will allow the Conservation Committee to comment upon the SAWS proposal, discuss any aspects of the Scientific Committee's advice that have implications for the Conservation Committee and to prepare advice to the Commission on the proposed South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary.*

4.2.1. Report of the Scientific Committee (Item 19. 1, IWC/66/Rep01)

4.2.2. Report on intersessional work of the Conservation Committee on the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary proposal

## 5. SHIP STRIKES

*At IWC 57 in 2005 the Conservation Committee agreed to address whales being killed or seriously injured by ship strikes, recognising that the issue is also considered by the IWC's Scientific Committee through its non-deliberate Human Induced Mortality Sub-committee.*

*The Conservation Committee established a Ship Strikes Working Group which has reported progress regularly since 2006.*

*This agenda item will allow the Committee to receive the latest update from its Ship Strikes Working Group, to review relevant work of the Scientific Committee, and to receive any other material that may be submitted by Contracting Governments. It will allow the Committee to consider progress in implementing recommendations endorsed at IWC65 and the further development of the ship strikes database.*

*Of particular interest this year will be an update on the development of a ship strikes strategic plan and engagement with the International Maritime Organisation.*

5.1. Report of the Scientific Committee (Item 7.2, IWC/66/Rep01)

5.2. Report from the Ship Strikes Working Group

- Ship strikes strategic plan
- Engagement with IMO

5.3. Committee discussions and recommendations

## 6. WHALE WATCHING

*In 2011 the Commission reviewed and updated the terms of reference for the Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Whale Watching (SWG-WW) and expanded its membership to include two members of the Scientific Committee.*

*In 2012 the Commission adopted its Five Year Strategic Plan for whale watching and the SWG-WW has continued to make progress against the actions outlined in the plan.*

*The scientific aspects of whale watching are discussed by the Scientific Committee in response to a request in Resolution 1994-14 for it to provide advice relating to whale watching.*

*This agenda item will allow the Conservation Committee to hear the report of the intersessional work undertaken by the SWG-WW and to receive an update on the Scientific Committee's continued progress with whale watching. Of particular interest this year will be an update on progress with the development of the Whale watching Handbook and a report from the Indian Ocean Rim Association workshop entitled 'Building sustainable whale and dolphin watching tourism in the Indian Ocean region' held in Sri Lanka in February 2016.*

- 6.1 Report from the Scientific Committee (Item 16, IWC/66/Rep01)
- 6.2 Report from the Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Whale watching
  - Report from the 2016 Indian Ocean region capacity building workshop
  - Progress with the online Whale Watching Handbook

## 7. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

*In 2008 the IWC adopted Conservation Management Planning as an adaptive, flexible and tailored management tool to improve the conservation outcomes for the most at risk cetacean populations. Three CMPs have since been endorsed by the IWC. These cover the gray whale population in the western North Pacific and separate populations of southern right whales in the South-East Pacific and the South West Atlantic.*

*Also at IWC 60 in 2008 the Conservation Committee received the report of a workshop on the status of right whales in the South-east Pacific. In response to this report the Conservation Committee: (1) stated the importance of continuing work on the status of right whales and recommended that this issue remain a high priority in the future work of the Scientific Committee; and (2) agreed the item be retained on the Conservation Committee's agenda. This was previously discussed as a separate agenda item, but has now been combined with the CMP agenda item for the South-east Pacific Southern Right Whale. Accordingly the CMP agenda item will provide an opportunity for the Committee to receive updates from range countries on work related to Chile-Peru right whale population in addition to discussing progress on its Conservation Management Plan.*

*Work is progressed through the Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans and through the Scientific Committee's work on whale stocks.*

- 7.1. Western Pacific Gray Whale CMP
  - 7.1.1. Scientific Committee update (Items 9.1.3, 22, IWC/66/Rep01)
  - 7.1.2. Update from range States
- 7.2. Southwest Atlantic Southern Right Whale CMP
  - 7.2.1. Scientific Committee update (Items 10.8.1.1, 22, IWC/66/Rep01)
  - 7.2.2. Update from range States
- 7.3. South-east Pacific Southern Right Whale CMP
  - 7.3.1. Scientific Committee update (Items 10.8.1.2, 10.8.1.6, 22, IWC/66/Rep01)
  - 7.3.2. Update from range States
- 7.4. Update on additional CMP proposals

*In the report of its 2013 meeting the Scientific Committee suggested the following populations of large whales be considered for CMP development based on their population status: (1) Arabian Sea humpback whales; (2) Common minke whales in the coastal waters of China, Japan (especially the west coast) and Republic of Korea; (3) North Atlantic right whales; and (4) North Pacific right whales. In addition, the Committee suggested the following populations may benefit from CMPs on the basis of knowledge of threats, although further evaluation is needed: (5) Blue whales in the northern Indian Ocean; (6) Fin whales in the Mediterranean; and (7) Sperm whales in the Mediterranean<sup>1</sup>.*

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<sup>1</sup> See Journal of Cetacean Research and Management 15 (Supplement) 2014 pp 62-63.

*In the report of its 2014 meeting, the Scientific Committee noted that the ranges of the boto and franciscana extended across different countries and may make them suitable candidates for CMP development<sup>2</sup>.*

*The recommendations were endorsed by the Commission at IWC65 in 2014.*

*This agenda item will allow the Conservation Committee to hear an update on intersessional work undertaken. Threat based CMPs will be discussed in more detail under item 8.*

7.4.1. Progress with franciscana dolphin (Items 15.3.5, 22, IWC/66/Rep01)

7.4.2. Progress with Arabian Sea humpback whales (Items 10.13.3, 22, IWC/66/Rep01)

7.4.3. Development of threat-based CMPs

7.4.4. Other CMP proposals (Items 15.5.2, 22, IWC/66/Rep01)

#### 7.5. Progress Report by the CMP Standing Working Group

*At IWC65 in 2014, the Committee endorsed the CMP work plan 2014-2020 to identify and prioritise the IWC's work on CMPs. This item will allow the CMP Standing Working Group to report any further areas of progress including its financial update, any work on regional cetacean conservation measures and agreed priorities for the next intersessional period.*

### 8. BYCATCH

*In June 2016, the Scientific Committee made a series of recommendations relating to bycatch, including increased cooperation with other intergovernmental organisations. The Scientific Committee also recommended the establishment of an intersessional correspondence group to consider the potential development of a Conservation Management Plan on bycatch and entanglement. The issue was discussed at a Conservation Committee planning meeting in June 2016 where it was proposed to include the issue of bycatch on the agenda for the 2016 Conservation Committee meeting.*

*This agenda item will allow the Committee to review relevant work and recommendations of the Scientific Committee, and to receive any other material that may be submitted by Contracting Governments.*

8.1 Report of the Scientific Committee (Items 7.1.7, 22, IWC/66/Rep01)

8.2 Progress report from intersessional work

### 9. MARINE DEBRIS

*At IWC63 in 2011 the Commission endorsed a Conservation Committee recommendation to include a standing agenda item on marine debris. Two joint Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee workshops on marine debris held in May 2013 and August 2014 made a range of recommendations that were endorsed by the Conservation Committee. These included the need for improved data collection and research on the impacts of marine debris on cetaceans and potential mitigation approaches. The importance of engaging with other intergovernmental organisations with respect to marine debris was highlighted.*

*The IWC's work programme on responding to entangled whales is reported separately through the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Concerns.*

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<sup>2</sup> See Journal of Cetacean Research and Management 16 (Supplement) 2015 pp69.

- 9.1. Report from the Scientific Committee (Item 13.9, IWC/66/Rep01)
- 9.2. IWC engagement with other Intergovernmental Organisations on marine debris

## 10. SMALL CETACEANS

- 10.1 Small Cetaceans Task Team (Item 15. 5.2, IWC/66/Rep01)

*At its 2014 meeting, the Scientific Committee agreed to trial a new intersessional approach for situations that are considered a high conservation priority and especially where time is short and no mitigation actions are in place.*

*Consequently, at its 2015 meeting, the Scientific Committee developed the Terms of Reference for a Small Cetaceans Task Team Initiative to assist the Scientific Committee in providing timely and effective advice on situations where a population of cetaceans is in danger of a significant decline that may eventually lead to its extinction; the ultimate aim being to ensure that extinction does not occur. This item will allow the Scientific Committee to provide an update on the activities of the Task Team Initiative.*

- 10.2 Progress under the voluntary fund for small cetacean conservation research (Item 15.2, IWC/66/Rep01)

*The Commission operates a voluntary fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research. In 2011 funding was provided for a total of nine projects, and further voluntary contributions allowed funding of additional projects in 2013 and 2016. This item will allow the Scientific Committee to report its progress with both existing projects and new projects proposed for support in 2016.*

## 11. PROGRESS UNDER THE VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION FUND

*At IWC65 in 2014 the Commission established a Voluntary Conservation Fund. This agenda item will allow the Conservation Committee to receive a progress update on contributions to this fund and associated expenditure.*

## 12. VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REPORTS ON CETACEAN CONSERVATION

*Contracting Governments may submit voluntary national reports on cetacean conservation to the Conservation Committee. The Committee welcomes these reports and has encouraged more countries to submit them.*

- 12.1. Introduction of national reports

## 13. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT

- 13.1. Engagement with other intergovernmental organisations

*The Secretariat will report on progress on engaging other Intergovernmental Organisations on issues of mutual interest and highlight a number of future opportunities.*

### 13.2. Funding opportunities

*At IWC65, the Commission endorsed a series of recommendation from the Intersessional Correspondence group on Strengthening IWC Financing. These recommendations included, inter alia, a proposal for working groups wishing to resource projects to establish budgeted work plans, and if possible to identify funding partners.*

*This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Committee to consider the work and recommendations of the Intersessional Correspondence Group.*

## 14. WORKPLAN FOR THE 2016-2018 BIENNIUM AND BEYOND, INCLUDING RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

*This agenda item will receive a draft workplan developed by the UK and can take into account discussions under the previous agenda items. Any financial or other resource implications for the 2016-2018 biennium should be considered here.*

## 15. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

*The Chair will propose to adopt the report by correspondence.*

### **ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**

*Rule of Procedure C.2*

2. Observers accredited in accordance with Rule [of procedure] C.1.(a) and (b) are admitted to all meetings of the Commission and the Technical Committee, and to any meetings of Committees and all subsidiary groups of the Commission and the Technical Committee, except the Commissioners-only meetings, meetings of the Bureau and closed meetings of the Finance and Administration Committee.

### **SPEAKING RIGHTS FOR OBSERVERS**

*Rule of Procedure C.3*

3. Observers accredited in accordance with rule C.1.(a) and (b) will have speaking rights during Plenary sessions and sessions of Commission subsidiary groups and Committees to which they are admitted to under C.2, in accordance with the Rules of Debate of the Commission. Observers might also submit documents for information to the delegations and observers participating in such sessions, provided these are submitted through the Secretariat at least 48 hours before the session in which they are intended to be made available, and are duly authored or endorsed by the accredited organisation making the submission, which is to be held responsible for its contents.

*Rules of Debate Paragraph A*

#### A. Right to Speak

1. The Chair shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak, with the exception of accredited Observers, which should be allowed to speak only after all Commissioners desiring to speak do so. As a general rule, Observers will only be allowed to speak once at each Agenda item under discussion, and at the discretion of the Chair.