

## Structure of the Commission and Intersessional Working Groups for the period 2017 to 2018

An organogram illustrating the Commission's structure is available [here](#)

### International Whaling Commission

The Chair's reports from Commission meetings are available [here](#).

Chair: Mr J. Morishita (Japan)  
Vice-Chair: Mr A. Bibic (Slovenia)

The Commission has a membership of 88 Contracting Governments and it meets every two years. The Government of Brazil has kindly offered to host the next meeting, IWC 67, which will take place in 2018.

### Bureau

The Bureau's reports are available [here](#).

Chair: Mr J. Morishita (Japan)  
Vice-Chair: Mr A. Bibic (Slovenia)  
Chair of the F&A Committee: Mr R. Wulff (USA)  
Host of next meeting: HE H. Ribeiro (Brazil)  
Members: Minister Mario Oyarzábal (Argentina)  
Mr N. Gales (Australia)  
Mr B. Nutsukpui (Ghana)  
Mr H. Walters (St Lucia)

The Commission constituted the Bureau through Rule of Procedure M.9. It will meet on two occasions in 2017. The first meeting will be via teleconference in March and the second will be by invitation of the Chair in the later part of the year. Reports of Bureau meetings are publicly available but the sessions themselves are not open to observers.

### Working Groups reporting directly to the Commission

- i. Steering Group to review the effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission.  
The Commission established this Steering Group through [Resolution 2016-1](#) and the Secretary made a call for membership through Circular Communication [IWC.CCG.1244](#) of 8 December 2016. Membership remains open.  
Members: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Costa Rica, Iceland, India, Japan, Monaco, Switzerland and USA.
- ii. Standing Working Group (SWG) to support the review process for whaling under special permit.  
The Commission established this SWG through [Resolution 2016-2](#) and the Secretary made a call for membership through Circular Communication [IWC.ALL.274](#) of 5 January 2017. Membership remains open.  
Members: Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, Norway and USA.

### Finance and Administration Committee

The report this Committee presented to IWC66 is available [here](#).

Chair: Mr R. Wulff (USA)

Intersessional groups reporting to the F&A Committee:

- i. Budgetary Sub-committee  
The report this Committee presented to IWC66 is available [here](#).  
Chair: Ms E. Phelps (USA)  
Vice-Chair: Vacant  
Members: Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, San Marino, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States. One open seat remains available to any interested Contracting Government.

- ii. Working Group on operational effectiveness and cost savings measures  
The report this Working Group presented to IWC66 is available [here](#).  
Chair: Ms E. Phelps (USA)  
Members: Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Australia, Chile, Denmark, Japan, United Kingdom, United States. Membership remains open.  
Observers: Animal Welfare Institute, Environmental Investigation Agency, International Fund for Animal Welfare.
  
- iii. Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening IWC Financing  
The report this Correspondence Group presented to IWC66 is available [here](#).  
Chair: Ms S. Langerock (Belgium)  
Members: Australia, Belgium, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Mexico, Monaco, United Kingdom, United States. Membership remains open.  
Observers: Environmental Investigation Agency, Natural Resources Defense Council.

### **Conservation Committee**

Chair: Mr L. Rojas-Bracho (Mexico)  
Vice-Chair: Mr J. Rendell (United Kingdom)  
At IWC66 in 2016 the Committee adopted a strategic plan to set out its purpose and areas of interest (document [IWC/66/CC08](#)). It also adopted a separate work plan for the forthcoming intersessional period ([IWC/66/CC21](#)).

The Committee meets every two years, immediately prior to the Commission meeting. At IWC 66 in 2016 the Commission adopted a Conservation Committee recommendation that it also hold an annual planning meeting, where possible in conjunction with meetings of the Scientific and/or Conservation Committees.

The Committee's report to IWC66 is available [here](#).

Intersessional groups reporting to the Conservation Committee:

- i. Ship Strikes Working Group (SSWG).  
At IWC66 in 2016 the SSWG developed a Strategic Plan to Mitigate the Impacts of Ship Strikes on Cetaceans: 2017-2020. It is available as document [IWC/66/CC20](#).  
Chair: Dr D. DeMaster (USA)  
Members: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Italy, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, USA. Membership of this group remains open.  
Collaborating IGOs: UNEP/CMS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS.  
Accredited Observers: Environmental Investigation Agency, International Fund for Animal Welfare, WWF.
  
- ii. Standing Working Group on whale watching (SWG-WW).  
In 2012 the Commission adopted its strategic plan for whale watching and it continues to make progress against the actions outlined in the plan. The plan is available [here](#) and the SWG's report to IWC66 is available [here](#).  
Chair: Mr R. Wulff (USA)  
Members: Australia, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA, IWC Scientific Committee. Industry representatives: Greg Kaufman (USA), Rafael Benegas (Argentina). Membership of the group remains open.  
Collaborating IGOs: UNEP/CMS  
Accredited Observers: Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), Fundacion Cethus, Greenpeace, Orcalab.

- iii. Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (SWG-CMP).  
The report this group presented to IWC 66 is available [here](#).  
Chair: Ms D. Callister (Australia)  
Members: Australia, Argentina, Ghana, Italy, Mexico, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA, IWC Scientific Committee. Membership remains open.  
Accredited Observers: Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Fundacion Cethus, OceanCare, WWF.
  
- iv. Standing Working Group on bycatch (SWG-BC).  
At IWC66 in 2016 the Commission adopted a [proposal](#) to establish a Standing Working Group to address bycatch. One of the SWG's first duties will be to confirm its membership and establish an expert panel to inform its activities. Mr M. Simmonds (UK) is acting as an interim bycatch Co-ordinator to assist in the development of this work area.  
Chair: Open  
Members: Belgium, Italy. Membership remains open and additional members will be sought in a separate circular.  
Collaborating IGOs: UNEP/CMS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS.
  
- v. Working Group on Voluntary National Reports on Cetacean Conservation.  
At IWC66 in 2016 the Conservation Committee established a group to review and develop the template for Voluntary National Reports to align it with the new Strategic Plan.  
Chair: Open  
Members: Australia, Mexico, United Kingdom, IWC Secretariat.
  
- vi. Conservation Committee Planning Group.  
At IWC66 in 2016 the Commission adopted a Conservation Committee [proposal](#) for a planning group to meet at least annually and where possible in conjunction with meetings of the Scientific and/or Conservation Committee. The report of the most recent planning group meeting is available [here](#).  
Chair: Chair of the Conservation Committee  
Membership: Vice-chair of the Conservation Committee, Chairs of the Committee's Standing Working Groups, nominees from Contracting Governments.

### Scientific Committee

Chair: Dr C. Fortuna (Italy)  
Vice-Chair: Dr R. Suydam (USA)

The Scientific Committee meets annually. The Government of Slovenia will host the next meeting in the alpine resort of Bled from 7-21 May 2017. The Committee operates 16 Sub groups. The draft agenda and sub-groups for 2017 are based upon the Scientific Committee's [report and the revised workplan presented at the 2016 Commission meeting](#).

The 2017 Sub-groups are:

- i. The Sub-committee on the Revised Management Procedure (RMP)
- ii. Standing Working Group on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedures (AWMP)
- iii. Sub-committee on Northern Hemisphere Whale Stocks (NH)
- iv. Sub-committee on In-Depth Assessments (IA)
- v. Sub-committee on other Southern Hemisphere Whale Stocks (SH)
- vi. Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (CMP)
- vii. Working Group Abundance estimates, Stock status and International cruises (ASI)
- viii. Working Group on Stock Definition and DNA techniques (SD&DNA)
- ix. Working Group on Non-deliberate Human Induced Mortality of cetaceans (HIM)
- x. Standing Working Group on Environmental Concerns (E)
- xi. Working Group on Ecosystem Modelling Approaches (EM)
- xii. Sub-committee on Small Cetaceans (SM)
- xiii. Sub-committee on Whalewatching (WW)
- xiv. *Ad hoc* Plenary sessions on Special Permits (SP)
- xv. Working Group on Databases and catalogues (DB)
- xvi. Working Group on interactions between the SC and the Conservation Committee (SC/CC)

Each year the Scientific Committee convenes a series of intersessional workshops and considers their reports at its annual meetings. The Committee set out the arrangements for upcoming workshops at Table 30 of its most recent report [IWC/66/Rep.01 \(2016\)](#).

### **Joint Working Group between the Scientific and Conservation Committees**

The Commission established this Working Group under Resolution [2014-4 to propose a procedure to facilitate the implementation and follow-up of conservation recommendations](#). It meets annually in conjunction with meetings of the Scientific Committee. The report from its 2016 meeting is available [here](#).

Chairs: Chairs of the Scientific and Conservation Committees.

Vice-chair: Vice-chairs of the Scientific and Conservation Committees.

Membership: The Joint Working Group between the Scientific and Conservation Committees is comprised of nominees from the Scientific Committee, Conservation Committee and Contracting Governments. Additional expertise may be included as appropriate at the discretion of the scientific Committee and Conservation Committee Chairs

Groups reporting to the Joint Working Group between the Scientific and Conservation Committees:

- i. Working Group on establishment of a database of recommendations  
At IWC66 in 2016 the Conservation Committee established an intersessional group to develop a draft structure and process for populating a web-accessible database of recommendations (and outcomes), not necessarily limited to conservation recommendations or recommendations of the Scientific Committee, taking into account initial considerations presented in Annex 2 of document [IWC/66/CC25](#).  
Chair: To be confirmed  
Members: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Mexico, United Kingdom, IWC Secretariat

### **Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee**

Chair: Mr B. Mainini (Switzerland)

The Sub-committee's report to IWC66 is available [here](#).

Intersessional groups reporting to the ASW Sub-committee:

- i. Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Working Group (ASWWG)  
The working group's report to IWC66 is available [here](#).  
Chair: Dr M. Tillman (USA)  
Members: Argentina, Austria, Denmark, Japan, Russian Federation, St Lucia, St Vincent and The Grenadines, Switzerland, USA, Secretariat  
SC Members: Prof L. Walløe. One additional seat is vacant and nominations will be sought at the Scientific Committee's 2017 meeting.  
Accredited Observers: Animal Welfare Institute, Whale and Dolphin Conservation.

### **Infractions Sub-committee**

Chair: Ms H. Ynnesdal (Norway)

The Sub-committee's report to IWC66 is available [here](#).

### **Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues (WG on WKM&WI)**

Chair: Mr H. Oosthuizen (South Africa)

At IWC65 in 2014 the Commission adopted an [Action Plan](#) to guide the Working Group. The Working Group's report to IWC66 is available [here](#).

Intersessional groups reporting to the Working Group:

i. Intersessional Working Group on Welfare

At IWC66 in 2016 the Commission adopted revised terms of reference for the intersessional working group which are to: (1) support implementation of the IWC Welfare Action Plan; and (2) identify and agree on important issues or themes to progress the promotion of good animal welfare and agree a timetable of regular future technical workshops on these issues.

Chair: United Kingdom

Members: Argentina, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA. Additional members are welcome.

Accredited Observers: Humane Society International

ii. IWC Global Whale Entanglement Response Network.

Between March 2012 and July 2016, the IWC and partners provided entanglement response training for over 700 participants from 26 countries. A description of the network is available [here](#) and the report of the network co-ordinator to IWC66 is available [here](#).

iii. IWC Expert Panel on Strandings

At IWC66, the WG on WKM&WI endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendations on strandings, including the proposal to establish an Expert Panel on strandings, to convene the first meeting of this panel and to appoint a Strandings Coordinator.