## Annex V

## **Intersessional E-mail Groups**

This list contains the intersessional groups identified at SC/66b. It has been divided into the following group types:

- (1) Steering Groups (SG): these are groups that have been set up to ensure that particular meetings, workshops or identified pieces of work are completed by SC/67a. They have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Committee within the context of their terms of reference (e.g. meeting budget spends, participants, agreements on parameters for analyses). Numbers are limited and members agreed at the meeting although the Convenor may request additional members or respond to late requests to be members. The expected outcomes will be either a workshop/meeting report or an analytical paper.
- (2) Intersessional Correspondence Groups (ICG): these are groups that have been set up to ensure progress on particular topics within the intersessional period. Membership is more flexible and open. It is expected that a written report on progress will be submitted to the Committee at SC/67a.
- (3) Advisory Groups: these are occasional groups established by the Committee to provide scientific and technical issues on specific issues if requested by a Contracting Government.

SC Agenda Item/ Sub-Committee	Type	Group (short name)	Terms of Reference	Members
Item 3 SC	ICG-1	Progress Reports	(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 submission of information through Progress Reports and to determine factors that inhibit reporting.	Almeida, De la Mare, Diallo, Donovan, Fonseca, Gallego, Haug, Helmens, Hielscher, Holm, Hrabovsky, Iñíguez, Jaramillo- Legorreta, Kitakado, Lauriano, Lundquist,
				progrep@dist.iwc.int
Item 5.1 RMP	SG-1	MSYR	Coordinate the intersessional work identified in the work plan (Annex D, Item 2.4) including identification of diagnostic plots.	Cooke, Donovan, Kitakado, Punt.
			•	msyr@dist.iwc.int
Item 5.2 RMP	SG-2	Survey requirements and guidelines	Coordinate intersessional work, develop an agenda for the Workshop and facilitate preparations for the Workshop examining the use of model-based estimates	Cooke, Donovan, Leaper, Jackson, Kitakado,
			including the demonstration of software.	surveyrg@dist.iwc.int
Item 5.3 RMP/AWMP	SG-3	Stock status	Provide advice on how to develop and present metrics of status based upon <i>Implementation Simulation Trials</i> at the 2017 meeting.	
				stockstatus@dist.iwc.int
Item 6.4.1 RMP	SG-4	WNP Bryde's whale Implementation Review	Guide the <i>Implementation Review</i> and plan for an intersessional Workshop in 2017.	Donovan (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, Kitakado, Pastene, Punt.
				wnpbrydes@dist.iwc.int
Item 7.1.4 HIM	ICG-2	Entanglement data in Progress Reports	Review the requested entanglement data in the National Progress Reports and recommend a streamlined approach including revising the gear types.	Double (Convenor), Donovan, Fortuna, Leaper, Mattila, Ritter. endprogrep@dist.iwc.int
Item 7.1.7 HIM	ICG-3	Potential bycatch CMP	Consider the potential for a topic-based CMP for bycatch and entanglement. This should take into account relevant ongoing work in the Scientific Committee, Commission (in 2016) and other relevant international bodies. If ICG believes appropriate, it may decide to develop a draft outline CMP to be considered by the Committee and perhaps ultimately the Commission.	Simmonds (Convenor), Cosentino, Currey, Donovan, Double, Fortuna, Leaper, Long, Mattila, Panigada, R. Reeves, Rojas-Bracho,
Item 7.2.1 HIM	SG-5	Ship strikes data review group	To continue to assist the ship strike co-ordinators in reviewing cases submitted to the IWC global database and to provide advice on how to reduce the backlog of cases.	Donovan, Double, Ferguson, Holm, Mattila,
Item 7.3 HIM	ICG-4	Accidental mortality time series	Continue populating the table of 56 large whale populations to assess the available sources of data to classify: (i) risk of ship strikes and entanglement; and (ii) reports of ship strikes and entanglements including time series where these are available.	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e
Item 8 AWMP	SG-6	AWMP	Continue to guide the <i>SLA</i> development process and ASW discussions including the organisation of the Workshop in December 2016.	

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Item 9.1 BRG	SG-7	Rangewide gray whale assessment	Continue to guide the rangewide assessment including organising the intersessional Workshop.	Donovan and Punt (co-Convenors), Bickham, Butterworth, Laake, Lang, J. Moore, R. Reeves, Scordino, Wade, Weller.
Item 10.1.2 IA	SG-8	Antarctic minke whale assessment	Finalise a document synthesizing the results of the indepth assessment of Indo-Pacific Antarctic minke whale following guidelines in Annex G.	
Item 10.2.1 SH/DB	ICG-5	Antarctic Humpback Whale Catalogue	Identify specific scientific questions that the AHWC can help to address and which geographic regions are highest assessment priority for matching.	Zerbini and Olson (co-Convenors), Donovan,
Item 10.2.1 SH/DB	SG-9	SH blue and humpback catalogues	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 the SOLAMAC workshop on 28 <sup>th</sup> November.	Zerbini (Convenor), Brownell, Galletti,
Item 10.2.1 SH/DB	ICG-6	Southern Ocean opportunistic photo-ID data	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.	
Item 10.2.2 SH	ICG-7	Humpback mixed stock analyses	Continuation of previous group. Review mixed stock analysis approach, including: (1) sample sizes collected from breeding grounds and their influence on mixing; (2) population substructure in Oceania and the impact of combining versus using individual stocks on catch allocation; (3) some possible stratifications of the 'pure' breeding stock samples to test alternate composition of 'pure' stocks (particularly with respect to East Australia); and (4) developments of the likelihood model to account for unsampled haplotypes.	
Item 10.2.2 SH	ICG-8	BSD humpback abundance	To further evaluate the preliminary minimum estimate of BSD used in the assessment of Breeding Stocks D/E/F including evaluation of DuFresne <i>et al.</i> (2014) sighting surveys.	Kelly (Convenor), Double, Bannister, Butterworth, Jackson, Ross-Gillespie, Zerbini. bshumpab@dist.iwc.int
Items 10.3.1 and 10.15.1 SH	ICG-9	Abundance of Antarctic blue 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.	
Item 10.3.1 SH	ICG-10	Blue whale baleen plates	Match up Antarctic blue whale baleen plates at the Smithsonian Institution with the original catch data in Japan.	
Item 10.3.2 SH	ICG-11	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), Branch, Brownell, Cerchio, Findlay, Lang, B. Miller, Olson,
Item 10.3.3 SH	ICG-12	Chilean blue whale abundance	Build regional habitat model and consider options for using abundance estimates to be informative about wider-scale density and abundance.	Redfern (Convenor), Brownell, Donovan,
Item 10.4.1 IA	ICG-13	North Pacific blue whale assessment	Review available data needed for an assessment of North Pacific blue whales.	Branch (Convenor), Donovan, Ivashchenko, Kato, Lang, Matsuoka, Rosenbaum, Širović, Suydam. npbwass@dist.iwc.int
Item 10.6.1 IA	SG-10	NP sei whale assessment	Continue progress on developing the assessment including: (1) update of catch history; (2) analyses of sighting data; and (3) review initial modelling results and agree changes if required.	Cooke (Convenor), Allison, Donovan, Kitakado, Kishiro, Palka, Pastene, Punt, Yoshida.
Item 10.13 SH	ICG-14	Arabian Sea	Continuation of the previously formed Arabian Sea Working Group, including consideration of research priorities and the potential for a CMP.	
Item 10.14 IA	ICG-15	Sperm whale assessment	Consider possible ways to provide 'broad brush' information on abundance and status of sperm whales with a possible focus on NP. Information includes: (1), population structure; (2) available abundance estimates from smaller areas; (3) revised catch histories for pelagic and land station operations; (4) potential datasets to improve understanding; and (5) identifying simple assessment approaches.	Brownell (Convenor), Baker, Bannister, Butterworth, Clapham, Cooke, Ivashchenko, Kato, Matsuoka, Mesnick, Miyashita, R.

SC Agenda Item/ Sub-Committee	Туре	Group (short name)	Terms of Reference	Members
Item 10.15 SH	ICG-16	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.	Butterworth, Dalla Rosa, Donovan, Findlay, Friedlaender, Iñíguez, Jackson, Kelly, B. Miller, Olson, Reyes, Rodriguez-Fonseca, Samaran, Širović, Williams, Zerbini.
Item 10.15 SH	ICG-17	Examination of fin whale stock structure	Examine fin whale stock structure in the Antarctic Peninsula region using relevant available data.	Donovan, Findlay, Herr, Lang, Olson, Reyes, Rogers, Samaran, Širović, Tiedemann, Torres-Florez, Zerbini.
Item 10.17 IA	SG-11	NP humpback 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; and (4) coordinate Items 1-3 to facilitate the completion of an Assessment at or prior to the 2017 SC meeting.	exfinst@dist.iwc.int  Clapham and Ivashchenko (co-Convenors), Baker, Brownell, Donovan, Kato, Matsuoka, Punt, Urbán, Wade, Yoshida.  npha@dist.iwc.int
Item 11.1 IA	SG-12	IWC-POWER/ SOWER	To provide advice on forthcoming IWC-POWER cruises (including holding the Planning Meetings), on data analyses, storage and on requests for data/sample use of IWC-POWER/SOWER cruises.	Bravington, Brownell, Clapham, Donovan, Ensor, Kato, Kelly, Miyashita, Murase, Pastene, Wade.
Item 11.2 IA	SG-13	IDCR/SOWER volume	Complete the IWC Special Issue on the IDCR/SOWER volume.	Ensor, Kato, Palka.
Item 11.3.1 IA	ICG-18	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; and (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.	idcrsower@dist.iwc.int Palka (Convenor), Allison, Donovan, Hughes, Matsuoka, Murase, Tsuji. dessdev@dist.iwc.int
Item 11.3.7 DB	ICG-19	Development of IWC photo-ID guidelines	Develop a draft set of IWC guidelines for photo- identification catalogues supported by the IWC and developed for the purposes of stock assessment for approval at SC67a.	Cheeseman, Collins, Donovan, Double,
				photoidguide@dist.iwc.int
Item 12.1 SD	ICG-20	DNA data quality guidelines	Update DNA data quality guidelines to include data produced using next generation sequencing approaches.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Item 12.3 SD	ICG-21	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).	Fortuna, Natoli, Rodriguez-Fonseco, Suydam, Tiedemann.
Item 13.2 E	ICG-22	Pollution 2020	To progress the IWC's Pollution 2020 programme; investigate progress on reduction of PCBs in the marine environment.	stockdt@dist.iwc.int Hall (Convenor), Donovan, Greig, Herr, Holm, Jepson, Rowles, Ryeng, Schwacke, Simmonds, Ylitalo, Ziccardi.
Item 13.3 E	ICG-23	Oil spills	To prepare for the discussion of the development of an information resource and coordination strategy and progress on oils spill science and planning and preparedness at SC/67a, to coordinate with the Secretariat on oil spill preparedness and planning especially with Arctic Council.	pollution2020@dist.iwc.int  Ylitalo (Convenor), Donovan, Herr, Holm, Rowles, Ryeng, Schwacke, Simmonds, Suydam, Ziccardi.  oilspills@dist.iwc.int
Item 13. 4 E	ICG-24	Cetacean Diseases of Concern (CDoC)	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.	
Item 13.4.2 E	SG-14	Harmful algal blooms	Plan for focus meeting according to the terms of reference; develop synthesis of current science on HABs and impacts to cetaceans.	Rowles (Convenor), Gulland, Hall, Simeone, Stimmelmayr.  algalbloom@dist.iwc.int
Item 13.5 E	SG-15	Strandings	Establish the Expert Panel, facilitate first meeting (including development of a budget), work with Secretariat and develop criteria for an International Stranding Coordinator.	Simeone (Convenor), Brownell, Deaville, Donovan, Gulland, Herr, Jepson, Marcondes,

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Item 13.6 E	ICG-25	Noise	(a) Further collaboration between the IWC anthropogenic noise group and the IUCN WGWAP noise task force including sharing the results of the 'masking' Workshop; and (b) follow up on national and international ocean noise strategies.	
Item 13.7 E	ICG-26	Climate change	Discussions of future work including the development of a proposed strategy to address scientific aspects of the potential vulnerability cetaceans.	
Item 13.8 E	ICG-27	Arctic	Progress on four priority topics identified under Item 13.8 of the Committee's report.	George, Haug, Leaper, R. Reeves, Rosa, Rosenbaum, Rowles, Stimmelmayr, Thomas, Simmonds, Suydam, Víkingsson.
Item 13.9 E	ICG-28	Marine debris	(a) Pre-planning for marine debris Workshop on plastics; and (b) progress on collaborations with IGOs particularly on gear marking.	arctic@dist.iwc.int Simmonds (Convenor), Baulch, Donovan, Fossi, Hall, Leaper, Long, Marcondes, Mattila, Rowles, S. Smith, Ylitalo.
Item 13.11 E	SG-16	Cumulative impacts	Planning and preparation for a cumulative impacts Workshop or focus sessions at SC/67b.	marinedebris@dist.iwc.int  Hall (Convenor), Cooke, Donovan, Gulland, Kitakado, Rowles, Schwacke, Ylitalo.
				cumulativeimpacts@dist.iwc.int
Item 14.1 EM	SG-17	IWC-CCAMLR Workshop	Commence planning of a joint Workshop between IWC-SC and SC-CAMLR WG-EMM.	Butterworth, Currey, De La Mare, Donovan, Double, Friedlaender, Hill, Ichii, Kovacs, Murase, Palka, Trathan, Watters.
				iwcccamlr@dist.iwc.int
Item 14.2.4 EM	ICG-29	Environmental variability	Identify long time series (>=20 yr) of cetacean demographic parameters and/or abundance.	Cooke (Convenor), De La Mare, Donovan, Friedlaender, Kitakado, Punt.
			Identify potentially relevant environmental time series.	envvar@dist.iwc.int
Item 14.3.1 EM	ICG-30	Species distribution models	Develop guidelines and recommendations for best practice in species distribution modelling.	Becker and Murase (co-Convenors), Friedlaender Kelly, Kitakado, McKinlay, Palacios, Palka. asmodels@dist.iwc.int
Item 14.3.1 EM	ICG-31	Ensemble averaging	Further the recommendations from the joint NMFS-IWC Workshop.	
				enav@dist.iwc.int
Item 15.1 SM	ICG-32	Tursiops taxonomy	Provide an overview of evaluation of <i>Tursiops</i> conducted in SC/66a, SC/66b and other relevant new information.	Natoli (Convenor), Fortuna, Hoezel, Lang, Rosel.
				tursiopstax@dist.iwc.int
Item 15.3.4 SM	SG-18	Brazil river dolphins	Provide guidance to Brazil on reporting to the Committee on river dolphins.	Zerbini (Convenor), Brichta, Coutinho, Donovan, Fruet, Luna, Marmontel, Martin, Porter, Raseira, R. Reeves, Scheidat, Silva, Thomas. brridol@dist.iwc.int
Item 15.4.2 SM	SG-19	Poorly documented takes of small cetaceans	Develop a draft 'toolbox' of investigative techniques to assist in documenting more clearly takes of small cetaceans; and organise a workshop comprising a multi-disciplinary group of biologists, social scientists, managers and NGOs with a global scope. Increase formal liaison with other MEA.	Porter (Convenor), Baker, Brownell, Collins, Cosentino, Fortuna, Frey, Jiminez, Parsons, Ritter, Scheidat, Simmonds.  smcetdoc@dist.iwc.int
Item 15.5.2 SM	SG-20	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, Fortuna, Genov, Parsons, Porter, R. Reeves, Scheidat. smallstt@dist.iwc.int
Item 16.1 WW	SG-21	MAWI	Further the 'Modelling and Assessment of Whale-watching Impacts' project. 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.	Donovan, Fortuna, Jimenez-Assmus, Kaufman, Leaper, Parsons, Ritter, Robbins,
Item 16.2 WW	ICG-33	Swim-with-whale operations	Assist in addressing the recommendations on swim-with-whale operations made at SC/66b.	Assmus, Kaufman, Parsons, Ritter, Rodriguez-Fonseca, Sironi, C. Smith, Urbán, Weinrich.
Item 16.3 WW	ICG-34	IORA	Assist the Secretariat and the Conservation Committee in providing scientific advice to IORA (the Indian Ocean Rim Association) when appropriate and facilitate communication between IORA and the IWC.	Ferriss, Fortuna, Iñíguez, Kaufman, New,

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Item 16.9 WW	ICG-35	WW work plan	Develop a work plan that focuses on the science of whalewatching impacts including integration of work with: other Scientific Committee sub-groups (e.g. ship strikes and noise); with the Conservation Committee whale watching working group; and with other international organisations such as ACCOBAMS. Advise on key areas/threats for which the invitation of IPs would be highly beneficial; communicate intersessionally to plan the agenda as necessary.	Donovan, Ferriss, Fortuna, Jimenez-Assmus, Iñíguez, Kaufman, New, Panigada, Parsons, Rose, Rojas-Bracho, Simmonds, Rendell,
Item 18.1 SP	AG-1	Advisory Group on SP trials	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. The full Terms of Reference are given in Annex T4.	Bannister (Convenor), Butterworth, Cooke, De la Mare, Donovan, Fortuna, Kitakado, McKinlay, Morishita, Punt, Walløe.  sptrials@dist.iwc.int
Item 20 SC	SG-22	IWC-SORP	Provide advice on scientific and logistical matters related to the IWC-SORP (Southern Ocean Research Partnership) programme.	Double and Herr (co-Convenors), Bell, Bjørge, Brownell, Charrassin, Donovan, Fortuna, Iñíguez, Jackson, Lauriano, Luna, Lundquist, Oosthuizen.
				iwcsorp@dist.iwc.int
Item 23 AE	ICG-36	Abundance estimates	The intersessional group will: (i) review the table of abundance estimates in Annex S; (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.	Butterworth (Convenor), Allison, Branch, Cañadas, Donovan, Fortuna, Gunnlaugsson, Kitakado, Jackson, Miyashita, Matsuoka, Øien, Palka, Suydam, Walløe, Zerbini.  abunest@dist.iwc.int
Item 26.3 SC	ICG-37	Annex P	To consider the need or otherwise to additionally modify Annex P in the light of the recommendations and suggestions made by previous Expert Panels and the discussions reflected in the Committee's considerations at SC/66b.	// // // // // // // // // // // // //