

Summary of Main Outcomes, Decisions and Required Actions from the 66th Meeting

The main outcomes, decisions and required actions arising from the 66th Meeting are summarised in the table below.

Issue/Agenda Item	Main outcomes
Schedule Amendments <i>Item 5</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A proposed Schedule amendment to create a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary was not adopted.
Resolutions <i>Item 6</i>	<p>Resolution on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution 2016-1 on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission was adopted by consensus. <p>Resolution on Improving the Review Process for Whaling under Special Permit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution 2016-2 on Improving the Review Process for Whaling under Special Permit was adopted. <p>Resolution on Cetaceans and Their Contributions to Ecosystem Functioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution 2016-3 on Cetaceans and Their Contributions to Ecosystem Functioning was adopted. <p>Resolution on Minamata Convention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution 2016-4 on Minamata Convention was adopted <p>Resolution on the Critically Endangered Vaquita</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution 2016-5 on the Critically Endangered Vaquita was adopted by consensus. <p>Resolution on the Creation of a Fund to Strengthen the Capacity of Governments of Limited Means to Participate in the Work of the IWC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution 2016-6 on the Creation of a Fund to Strengthen the Capacity of Governments of Limited Means to Participate in the Work of the IWC was adopted. <p>Resolution on Food Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Resolution on food security was discussed but no consensus was reached; Ghana indicated that it would continue to refine the proposal during the intersessional period ready for presentation to IWC/67.
Aboriginal subsistence whaling <i>Item 7</i> Reports: ASW Sub-Committee (IWC/66/Rep03); Scientific Committee (IWC/66/Rep01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee presented information on good progress towards its goal of finalising long-term methods to determine safe strike limits (known as <i>Strike Limit Algorithms</i>) for each individual aboriginal hunt by its 2018 meeting (only two remain to be completed – for the Greenland fin and common minke whale hunts). It also reported progress on the Aboriginal Whaling Scheme which deals with other aspects of managing hunts that are common to all. The Scientific Committee advised that all present ASW catch/strike limits will not harm the stocks. The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's report and recommendations. The Commission received the report of an Expert Workshop on ASW held in Maniitsoq, Greenland and funded by the IWC Voluntary Fund. The Commission also received a presentation from an expert member of the UN forum on indigenous peoples. After extensive discussion the Commission recognised the value of improving process and increasing understanding of issues surrounding ASW. The Commission welcomed use of a pilot timeline and process for consideration of catch/strike limit requests made in 2018. The Commission submitted the Maniitsoq expert workshop report to the ASW WG for further consideration and recommendation, as appropriate, to IWC/67 in 2018. Other intersessional discussions to improve the long-term approach will be undertaken by the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Working Group.
Socio-economic implications and small-type whaling <i>Item 8</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission received a report of intersessional work to exchange views on basic issues related to small type coastal whaling via a questionnaire from Japan which was distributed by the Secretariat. Noting the issues raised were relevant to the IWC's future, the Commission agreed to continue these discussions under Agenda Item 12 (The IWC in the Future).

Issue/Agenda Item	Main outcomes
Status of whale stocks <i>Item 9.1</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/66/Rep01)	<p>Antarctic minke whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee will publish a consolidated assessment of Indo-Pacific Antarctic minke whales in 2017. <p>Southern Hemisphere humpback whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee reported that Southern Hemisphere humpback whales are generally recovering well. Abundance in 2015 is estimated at around 97,000 – about 70% of the pre-whaling level. <p>Southern Hemisphere right whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee reiterated the importance of governments maintaining the long-term monitoring of populations off South Africa, Argentina and Australia. It provided support to Conservation Management Plans for the Southwest Atlantic and eastern South Pacific. <p>Southern Hemisphere blue whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee is reviewing new information to decide whether to undertake regional assessments of Southern Hemisphere blue whales. It continues to develop and support photo-identification catalogues throughout the region. <p>North Pacific sei whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee expects to complete its assessment of North Pacific sei whales in 2018. <p>Western North Pacific gray whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee expects to complete a rangewide review of the status of North Pacific gray whales in 2017 to support an updated Conservation Management Plan. It expressed concern over oil and gas activities and fishing activities in the western Pacific and urges governments to facilitate collaborative data sharing and analyses to support conservation measures. <p>North Pacific and North Atlantic right whales and small stocks of bowhead whales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern was expressed over a number of small stocks of these species, where ship strikes and entanglements are important threats. An assessment of western North Atlantic right whales is planned in 2017. <p>IWC-POWER North Pacific Research cruises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IWC-POWER (North Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research) international programme continues successfully, covering many areas not surveyed for decades. Seven cruises have been completed. The Bering Sea will be covered from 2017-19. Analyses of the individual identification photographs, genetic samples and sightings data is progressing. Support for obtaining permits to undertake research in national waters was requested.
Small cetaceans <i>Item 9.2</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/66/Rep01); Conservation Committee (IWC/66/Rep05)	<p>Small cetaceans status and review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee is conducting a review on taxonomy of <i>Tursiops</i> sp. and reviewed a number of small cetaceans species and populations around the world. The Commission received several progress reports on conservation actions that were being taken or proposed for populations/species for which the Scientific Committee has expressed concern. Particular concern was expressed over critically endangered species, subspecies and populations of cetaceans (e.g. the vaquita, Māui dolphins, Yangtze finless porpoise, Baltic Harbour porpoise and the already extinct baiji) for which stringent management measures on bycatch, within well specified boundaries, are immediately needed, rather than additional research. The Commission welcomed the progress of the Small Cetaceans Task Team Initiative. <p>The fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission was pleased to note the excellent work undertaken in projects funded under the Small Cetaceans Voluntary Fund and endorsed the Committee's funding recommendation for seven new projects on small cetaceans' research and conservation selected by the Scientific Committee last June. The Commission welcomed a number of additional donations to the Small Cetaceans Voluntary Fund including from Italy (€4000), the Netherlands (amount awaiting confirmation), the UK (£10,000), Animal Welfare Institute (\$500), Cetacean Society International (\$500), Whale and Dolphin Conservation (\$500), Environmental Investigations Agency (\$3,000), International Fund for Animal Welfare (\$500), LegaSeas (\$300), N C Azzam (\$500), Ocean Care (€1,000), Pro Wildlife (€2,000), Whaleman (\$1,000). These new donations allow to fund six out of seven of the newly recommended projects by the Scientific Committee. The Commission welcomed a donation from Italy of €15,000 for the Franciscana Task Team. The Commission expressed its appreciation to governments and NGOs that have contributed to the Voluntary Fund.

Issue/Agenda Item	Main outcomes
Cetacean habitat and related items <i>Items...</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/66/Rep01); Conservation Committee (IWC/66/Rep05)	<p>State of the Cetacean Environment (SOCER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission received reports for the Pacific Ocean and the Arctic and Antarctic regions. <p>Cetacean Health and Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on an online portal with respect to cetacean diseases of concern is ongoing. <p>POLLUTION 2020 research programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee continues good progress with its Pollution 2020 programme which is looking at effects of chemical pollution on cetaceans. An online tool for visualising contaminant concentrations in cetaceans around the world is progressing well. Specific recommendations on research and to governments were endorsed. <p>Ecosystem modelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modelling is an important component of understanding the role of cetaceans in the environment and any conservation implications. A joint workshop with CCAMLR (The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) is planned. <p>Arctic Ocean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee used the scientific recommendations from a 2014 Commission workshop on the impacts of increased in marine activities on cetaceans in the Arctic as the basis for its work. Co-operation with the Arctic Councils Protection on the Marine Environment Working group was initiated and endorsed. <p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee continued to build upon the work of previous specialist workshops on this topic. A workplan is being developed and the focus will be on riverine/freshwater and coastal small cetaceans, large whales in polar regions and further links with relevant international bodies. The Commission noted that the Conservation Committee had included the issue of climate change as a priority threat in its Strategic Plan. <p>Decadal Review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SOS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee reviewed scientific aspects of the SOS and reported these to the Conservation Committee. The Conservation Committee reported on its review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SOS) which concluded that the sanctuary is consistent with existing measures to protect whales from anthropogenic threats and other environmental factors, that it contributes positively to a number of existing international commitments on biodiversity and climate change, and that it is consistent with the precautionary approach. The Commission endorsed the reports from these Committees.
Unintended Anthropogenic Impacts <i>Item 11</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/66/Rep01); Conservation Committee (IWC/66/Rep05)	<p>Marine Debris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission welcomed progress made in addressing the issue of marine debris. It endorsed the recommendations of the Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee on marine debris and encouraged further co-operation with other organisations, including the Global Partnership for Marine Litter (GPML) and the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI). <p>Cetacean bycatch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee on cetacean bycatch including the establishment of a Standing Working Group on Bycatch under the Conservation Committee; and the development of a Bycatch Mitigation Initiative supported by an Expert Panel. The Commission welcomed the offer of Mark Simmonds (UK) to act as an interim bycatch Co-ordinator to assist with these efforts, on a voluntary basis. <p>Anthropogenic sound</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed the recommendations from a Scientific Committee workshop on acoustic masking and whale population dynamics, including that: there is compelling evidence that chronic human-induced noise affects the marine habitat and some cetacean populations; that management actions addressing noise issues should not wait for scientific certainty; and that this issue should be brought to the attention of the International Maritime Organisation. The Commission noted that the Conservation Committee had included the issue of anthropogenic sound as a priority threat in its Strategic Plan. <p>Ship Strikes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission welcomed an update on the development of a draft Ship Strikes Strategic Plan and looked forward to the final version due by the end of November 2016. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee, including that the IWC should continue engagement with the IMO. The Commission encouraged reporting to the Ship Strikes Database.

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The IWC in the Future <i>Item 12</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission agreed to initiate informal discussions on issues regarding differences of positions of members. It will work initially by correspondence and its progress will be reported at least 60 days prior to IWC/67.
Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues (WKM&WI) <i>Item 13</i> Report: WG on WKM&WI (IWC/66/Rep06)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission welcomed the reports from a number of governments on their hunting operations or events requiring euthanasia. It also welcomed reports from Norway and the USA on their contributions to improvements in whaling operations and a presentation from NAMMCO on their Expert Group Meeting on Assessing Time to Death from the Large Whale Hunts. The Commission endorsed the recommendations from the IWC Workshop to Support the Consideration of Non-Hunting Related Aspects of Cetacean Welfare in May 2016. The primary focus of these is to take forward work to further develop a draft cetacean welfare assessment framework The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the third IWC Workshop on Large Whale Entanglement Issues and recommended the continuation of the valuable work on entanglements including training workshops and capacity building, and the development of a global entanglement database. The Commission endorsed the recommendations presented in the summary report of the joint IWC, NOAA, NEAq Workshop on Global Assessment of Large Whale Entanglement and Bycatch Reduction in Fishing and Aquaculture Gear and looks forward to receiving and advancing its more detailed report. The Commission endorsed the report and recommendations from the IWC Workshop to Develop Practical Guidance for the Handling of Cetacean Stranding Events, May 2016. The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee recommendations on strandings, including establishment of a co-ordinator and expert panel to provide guidance to response and investigations. It also provided advice on a mass mortality of sei whales in Chile in 2015. The Commission expressed appreciation for the Voluntary contributions announced by the UK of £15,000 and by a coalition of NGOs of \$3,000. The Commission thanked Michael Stachowitsch for his service as Chair, and a new Chair was welcomed under Item 21.
Scientific permits and related issues <i>Item 14</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/66/Rep01)	<p>NEWREP-A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee presented the results of its extensive discussions and those of an Expert Panel review of the new proposal by Japan for a special permit programme on Antarctic minke whales, in light of Resolution 2014-5. In Commission discussions it was clear that there is no agreement on this issue and Governments recorded their statements for the report. <p>JARPEN II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee presented the results of its discussions and those of an Expert Panel final review of the JARPENII special permit programme by Japan in light of Resolution 2014-5. In Commission discussions it was clear that there is no agreement on this issue. <p>Procedures used by the Scientific Committee for reviewing special permits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scientific Committee reported on its work to incorporate Resolution 2014-5 into its formal process for the review of special permit proposals or review if ongoing or completed research permit programmes. It also reported on working measure it had taken to improve such reviews. The Commission adopted the changes to Annex P as proposed by the Scientific Committee.
Safety issues at sea <i>Item 15</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japan drew attention to the violent activities against its research vessels in the Southern Ocean during previous seasons and requested necessary actions by the relevant member states concerned. Several member states reaffirmed the strength of existing legal frameworks for addressing issues of safety at sea. The Commission reiterated that it does not condone, and in fact condemns, any activities that are a risk to human life and property in relation to the activities of vessels at sea (see Resolution 2011-2).

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Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) <i>Item 16.1</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/66/Rep01); Conservation Committee (IWC/66/Rep05)	<p>Western North Pacific gray whale CMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission received an update on a rangewide review of the population structure and status of North Pacific gray whales and welcomed plans to update and finalise the draft CMP. The Commission welcomed new information from the US Navy on the occurrence of gray whales in autumn, winter and spring in the western North Pacific. The Commission congratulated Korea and Mexico for signing the range state Memorandum of Co-operation on the Western North Pacific Gray Whale. Japan, the Russian Federation and the USA signed in 2014. <p>Southwest Atlantic southern right whale CMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission received an update on recent workshops to progress implementation of the Southwest Atlantic Southern Right Whale CMP. The Commission thanked Miguel Iñiguez (Argentina) for his work as coordinator and thanked Brazil for taking on the role. <p>South-east Pacific southern right whale CMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission received an update on recent work to progress implementation of the Eastern South Pacific Southern Right CMP and endorsed the revised CMP, now including Peru as a range state. <p>Additional CMP proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission welcomed the draft Conservation Management Plan for the franciscana and agreed to nominate and endorse this CMP during this meeting. The Commission recommended dialogue between the Government of Oman and other IWC member Governments to discuss the potential of a CMP for Arabian Sea humpback whales. <p>Report of the Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (SWG-CMP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed all the recommendations of the SWG-CMP including the proposal for a mid-term review of the CMP Work Plan 2014-20, to be undertaken during the 2016-18 intersessional period. The Commission encouraged further contributions to the CMP Voluntary Fund.
Whalewatching <i>Item 16.2</i> Report: Conservation Committee (IWC/66/Rep05)	<p>Joint workshop on capacity building for whale and dolphin watching in the Indian Ocean Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee heard a report of a workshop Sustainable Whale and Dolphin Watching Tourism in the Indian Ocean region. It endorsed the recommendations on ways that the IWC could support the IORA Network and continue to implement Objective 3 of the IWC's Strategic Plan for Whalewatching. <p>Progress report by the Whale Watching Standing Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission welcomed progress on the development of an online Whale Watching Handbook. It endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific Committee and the SWG-WW, including on collaboration and fund raising to support the further development of the Handbook. The Commission recommended that the CMS join the Standing Working Group to take forward Whale Watching Handbook and thanked the CMS for its offer to support the Handbook with translation in French and Spanish. The Commission agreed that the 5-year Strategic Plan on Whale Watching, which ends in 2016, should continue as the overarching strategy on whale watching and can be updated intersessionally. The Commission encouraged contributions to the Voluntary Conservation Fund to support the development of the Handbook.
Other Conservation Issues <i>Item 16.3-16.4</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission welcomed national reports on cetacean conservation from a number of countries. It noted that an intersessional group under the Conservation Committee would review and develop the report template to align it with the new Conservation Committee Strategic Plan. It agreed Terms of Reference for an annual Conservation Committee planning meeting. The Commission welcomed and endorsed the Conservation Committee (CC) Strategic Plan. It commended the work of the Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group and endorsed recommendations, including to establish an intersessional working group to guide the development of a web-accessible database of conservation related recommendations. The Commission welcomed progress with engaging other organisations on conservation issues of mutual interest. The Commission thanked the UK for a contribution of £15,000 to the Voluntary Conservation Fund.
The Revised Management Procedure (RMP) <i>Item 17.1</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/66/Rep01)	<p>Revised Management Procedure (RMP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission reviewed progress on the Scientific Committee's work on the RMP and related matters which included matters related to the MSYR, testing, possible amendments and survey guidelines. The <i>Implementation Review</i> for North Atlantic fin whales was completed. That for North Atlantic common minke whales is ongoing and should be completed in 2017. No work was undertaken on the Revised Management Scheme.

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Infractions <i>Item 17.2</i> Report: Infractions sub-committee (IWC/66/Rep04)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> infractions reported in the 2014, 2014/15, 2015 and 2015/6 seasons; follow-up reports from previous years; information on the domestic surveillance of whaling operations; and information on the provision of data. The Commission discussed the Report of the Infractions Sub-Committee including the unresolved issue of catches taken in Greenland 2013 and 2014. Some members considered that these catches should be reported as infractions. The Kingdom of Denmark, supported by others, did not agree with this view. There was support for measures to ensure that a situation in which no ASW catch limits are set should not occur in the future, such as Rule of Procedure J.4.
Catches by non-member nations <i>Item 17.3</i> Reports: Scientific Committee (IWC/66/Rep01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission was pleased to receive information on catches and quotas from Canada's bowhead hunt. The Secretary will continue to request such information from Canada. The Secretary will continue to seek information on other catches by non member Governments (eg from the Government of Indonesia).
Co-operation with other organisations <i>Item 18</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission welcomed progress on co-operation with other organisations and the work of the Secretariat, Scientific Committee and other Committee's in this respect. It endorsed the next steps proposed in Document IWC/66/4.
Finance and Administration <i>Item 19</i> Report: Finance and Administration Committee (IWC/66/Rep02)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed the Secretariat's report on communications and received reports on document archiving, communications and meeting arrangements. Proposals relating to the disbursement of SORP funds were endorsed, and guidance for distribution of voluntary funds in the intersessional period was also endorsed. The Commission noted the status of the British pound and that a Risk Management Strategy, including a review of currency management, would be developed for IWC/67. The Commission adopted the report of the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness, including proposed changes to the rules of procedure and rules of debate. The Commission also adopted a Rule of Procedure J.4. The Commission endorsed the work of the Working Group on Strengthening Operational Effectiveness, including that the Working Group on Website Guidance be subsumed into this group. The Commission endorsed the work plan of the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening IWC Financing, and requested Belgium to continue as Chair. The Commission adopted a series of changes to the Scientific Committee's Rules of Procedure in response to Resolution 2014-4 and a separate proposal from the Chair of the Scientific Committee.
Financial statements and budget <i>Item 19.4</i> Report: Finance and Administration Committee (IWC/66/Rep02)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Financial Statements for the 2013/14 and 2015 financial years, as well as the provisional financial statement for 2016, were endorsed. The Commission adopted the budget of the Scientific Committee including the removal of square brackets from the Special Permit Review item. The budget for 2017 and 2018 was adopted, including an increase in line with UK inflation of 0.3%. The Commission endorsed a request from the Secretariat to incur expenditure of c.£10,000 in relation to developing proposals for the warehouse at IWC Headquarters. These proposals will be reported to IWC/67. The Chair of the Finance & Administration Committee informed members of the Commission that there are currently vacancies on the Budgetary Sub-Committee.
Elections and Bureau <i>Items 21 and 22</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joji Morishita (Japan) was elected as Chair of the Commission and Andrej Bibic (Slovenia) was elected as Vice Chair. Ghana, Australia, Argentina and St Lucia were elected to the Bureau. Thus the total membership of the Bureau will comprise the Chair (Japan), the Vice-Chair (Slovenia), the Chair of the F&A Committee (USA), the host Government for IWC/67 (Brazil) and the four elected members. Bruno Mainini (Switzerland) was elected as Chair to the ASW sub-committee and Herman Oosthuizen (South Africa) was elected as Chair to the WKM&WI sub-committee.
Date and place of Annual Meetings <i>Item 23</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission was pleased to accept the kind offer from the Government of Brazil to host the next meeting of the Commission, IWC/67 in 2018. The Commission was pleased to accept the kind offer from Government of Slovenia to host the Scientific Committee meeting in 2017 in Bled. The Commission was pleased to accept the kind offer from Government of Kenya to host the Scientific Committee meeting in 2018 in Nairobi.