

Report of the Scientific Committee

Bled, Slovenia, 24 April-6 May 2018

Annex Y DRAFT Intersessional Email Groups Table

**This report is presented as it was at SC/67b.
There may be further editorial changes (e.g. updated references, tables, figures)
made before publication.**

**International Whaling Commission
Bled, Slovenia, 2018**

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Annex Y

DRAFT Intersessional E-mail Groups

This list contains the intersessional groups identified at SC/67b. 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/68a. 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/68a.
- (3) Advisory Groups (AG): 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
Items 3.2 and 23 SC	ISG	IWC Global Data Repositories and National Reports (GDR)	This Intersessional Steering Group will: (a) Collate summary information on all IWC databases relevant to the SC; (b) Summarise data use by the SC for each database; (c) Provide recommendations to improve integration, content and workflows; (d) Review technical progress on existing databases or databases under development; (e) Consider needs and specifications for potential new databases, including developing simple technical guidelines on new proposals; (f) Produce a budget and workplan for the implementation and development of existing and new databases; (g) Review the information collected by IWC Databases and National Progress Reports and make recommendations to the Scientific Committee to amend structure, content and workflows; (h) Work with the Secretariat to assist in development and testing of databases and encourage member nations to the submit information through Progress Reports and other data flows.	Double (Convenor), Allison (<i>as Head of Statistic Department, Secretariat</i>), Børge, Brownell, de Almeida, de la Mare, Diallo, Donovan (<i>as Head of Science</i>), Ferriss (<i>Secretariat</i>), Fonseca, Gallego, Haug, Helmens, Hielscher, Hrabovsky, Iníguez, Jaramillo-Legorreta, Kitakado, Lauriano, Lundquist, Miller B. (<i>as IT Secretariat</i>), Palka, Paniego, R. Reeves, S. Reeves, Ridoux, Ritter, Santos, Sohn, S. Smith (<i>Secretariat</i>), Stachowitsch, Suydam (<i>as SC Chair</i>), Ulloa, Vikingsson, Witting, Zerbini (<i>as SC Vice Chair</i>), Zharikov. gdr@dist.iwc.int (TO BE DONE)
Item 5.1 GA-RMP	ICG	Energetics-based model (the relationship between MSYR1+ and MSYRmat)	Main tasks are: (a) Continue to assess whether it is possible to represent the trajectories from the IBEM using the emulator model; (b) Compare the yield curves from the IBEM with those from the emulator model; and (c) Develop guidelines for how to use an emulator model as the basis for a multi-stock, multi-area population dynamics model and how such a model could be conditioned given available data.	De la Mare (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, Cooke, Donovan, Kitakado, Punt. msyr@dist.iwc.int (TO BE DONE)
Item 5.2 GA-RMP	ICG	Status and <i>ISTs</i> -programming	Modify the control programs used for <i>Implementation Simulation Trials</i> to report the three measures of status.	Allison (Convenor), Butterworth, Cooke, Donovan, Givens, Punt, Zerbini. ISTs1@dist.iwc.int (TO BE DONE)
Item 5.3 GA-RMP	ICG	Status and <i>ISTs</i> -guidelines	Draft updates to the Guidelines for <i>Implementations</i> and <i>Implementation Reviews</i> to reflect decisions on evaluation status of stocks	Punt and Donovan (Co-convenors), Allison, Butterworth, Cooke, Givens, Zerbini ISTs2@dist.iwc.int (TO BE DONE)
Item 6.1 RMP	SG-2	WNP Bryde's Whale Implementation Review	Complete tasks and synthesise results of the <i>Implementation Review</i> of western North Pacific Bryde's whales.	Donovan (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, de Moor, Kitakado, Palka, Pastene, Punt, Tiedeman.
Item 6.2 RMP	SG-3	WNP common minke whales	Organize the First Intersessional Workshop on the <i>Implementation Review</i> of western North Pacific common minke whales.	Donovan (Convenor), Allison, Butterworth, Kitakado, Palka, Pastene, Punt, Tiedeman, Kim.
Item 6.2 RMP	AG-4	Genetics	Advise on genetic matters related to the WNP common minke whale <i>Implementation Review</i> .	Tiedemann, Hoelzel, Pastene, Goto, Kim, Baker, Wade.
Item 7.1.2 AWMP	AG-6	Minke whale samples	Facilitate obtaining common minke whale samples in the North Atlantic.	Tiedemann (Convenor), Donion-Valcroze, Witting, Vikingsson.

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Item 8.9 AWMP	ICG-5	ASW	Work on ASW related issues.	Donovan (Convenor) Allison, Brandão, Butterworth, Givens, Punt, Witting, de Moor Suydam.
Item 9.1.1 IA	SG-9	North Pacific humpback whales	Organise the First Intersessional Workshop on the Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific Humpback Whales	Clapham (Convenor) Baker, Calambokidis, Donovan, Kato, Kitakado, Ivashchenko, Matsuoka, Punt, Zerbini, Urban, Wade and Yoshida <i>npha@dist.iwc.int</i>
Item 9.1.2 IA	SG-8	North Pacific sei whales	Continue progress on developing the Comprehensive Assessment including to further data preparation and development of the assessment model	Cooke (Convenor), Allison, Hakamada, Kitakado, Matsuoka, Mizroch, Palka, Punt, Yoshida. <i>npseiass@dist.iwc.int</i>
Item 9.1.3 IA	ICG-7	Antarctic minke whale publication	Continue editing the submitted paper that summarises the In-depth Assessment of the Indo-Pacific Antarctic minke whale to assist in publishing the paper.	Murase (Convenor), Donovan, Kato, Kitakado, Matsuoka, Palka, Pastene, Punt, Suydam. <i>antminkeass@dist.iwc.int</i>
Item 9.2.1 NH	ICG-11	North Pacific blue whale assessment	Review available data needed for a Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific blue whales.	Branch (Convenor), Allison, Donovan, Ivashchenko, Kato, Lang, Matsuoka, Rosenbaum, Širović, Brownell, Olson (Paula), Mizroch. <i>npbwass@dist.iwc.int</i>
Item 9.2.2.1 SH	ICG-15	Antarctic blue whale catch allocation scenarios	Discussion on catch allocation scenarios to inform pygmy blue whale population modelling.	Branch (Convenor), Allison, Jackson, Brownell, Širović, Buss, Olson and Cerchio
Item 9.2.2.1 SH	ICG-13	SH blue whale catalogue work	Continued work on photo-identification catalogue to progress towards population assessment. Particularly assess temporal and spatial progress on catalogue and preparation of Australian catalogue for quality coding.	Olson and Jackson (co-Convenors), Galletti, Salgado Kent, Double, Torres Florez.
Item 9.2.2.5 SH	ICG-17	Blue whale morphometrics	Investigate morphometric measurements made for pygmy, Chilean and North Pacific blue whales, assess measurement comparability and address whether the Chilean blue whales are most similar in length to the northeast Pacific blue whales.	Brownell (Convenor), Pastene and Branch
Item 9.2.3 SH	ICG-14	Analysis of baleen plates	Continued work towards analysis of baleen plates from whales caught during the 1946/47 Antarctic season and currently stored at the Smithsonian with the Japanese whaling logs.	Brownell and Kato (co-Convenors).
Item 9.2.2.4 SH	ICG-16	Upload of New Zealand blue whale photo-IDs	Collate and upload photo-IDs collected around New Zealand to the Southern Hemisphere blue whale catalogue for the purpose of mark recapture abundance estimation.	Olson (Convenor), Galletti and Torres
Item 9.2.5 NH	ICG-10	North Atlantic sei whales	Review available data for possible assessment, especially stock structure in the western North Atlantic without genetics (strandings, acoustics, sightings etc.).	Cholewiak and Mallette (co-Convenors), Brownell, Palka, Robbins.
Item 9.3.8 NH	ICG	North Pacific sperm whale assessment	To investigate possible ways to assess sperm whales in the North Pacific.	Brownell (Convenor), Cipriano, Clapham, Hoelzel, Kato, Leaper, Mesnick, Miyashita, Murase, R. Reeves.
Item 9.4.1 SH	ICG-12	DuFresne <i>et al.</i> , (2014)	Use DuFresne <i>et al.</i> , (2014) sighting surveys to determine best approach for future survey of BSD.	Weinrich (Convenor), Double, Bannister, Butterworth, Kelly.
Item 10.1.3 CMP	SG-18	Western gray whale CMP Workshop	(1) Continue to guide the rangewide assessment. (2) Update the CMP. (3) Modelling framework.	Donovan (Convenor), Punt, R. Reeves
Items 10.1.4 and 17.11 SM/CMP	ICG-19	Franciscana	Co-ordinate presentation of CMP projects across sub-committees at SC/68a.	Iñiguez (Convenor), Cunha, Zerbini, Ia Marcondes, Siciliano, Domit, Secchi, Crespo, Cremer, Brito-Junior Santos, Ott, Di Tullio
Item 10.2.1 CMP	ICG-20	Arabian humpback whale abundance estimates	Guide the methods of the abundance estimates for Arabian Sea humpback whales.	Collins (Convenor), Cerchio, Civil, Cooke, Jackson, Minton, Strindberg, Zerbini.
Item 11.2 SD&DNA	ICG-21	DNA quality	Review recent revisions in sections of the DNA quality guidelines that pertain to data produced using NGS approaches.	Tiedemann (Convenor), Archer, Baird, Baker, Bickham, Carroll, DeWoody, Hoelzel, Goto, Jackson, Lang, Palsboll, Pampoulie, Solvang, Taguchi, and Waples
Item 11.3 SD&DNA	ICG-22	Sample depletion	Discuss and provide recommendation on genomic approaches to maximize the utility of tissue samples, particularly those in danger of depletion.	Lang (Convenor), Baker, Bickham, Carroll, Goto, Taguchi, Tiedemann

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Item 11.4.1 SD&DNA	ICG-23	Simulation tools	(1) review available software packages for conducting genetic and/or genomic simulations, and (2) evaluate the utility of these packages to address issues of interest to the Working Group.	Lang (Convenor), Archer, Bickham, Carroll, DeWoody, Hoelzel, Kitakado, Tiedemann
Item 11.4.2 SD&DNA	ICG-24	Stock structure related terminology	Revisit the definitions that were previously put forward for stock-related terms at IWC 2014, particularly those related to large whale assessments, and revise them where necessary.	Tiedemann (Convenor), Baird, Bickham, Carroll, Cipriano, Lang, Scordino
Item 12.1 ASI	ICG-25	Review of Abundance Estimates	(1) Coordinate the intersessional review of abundance estimates by the ASI Working Group, (2) Appoint expert small group to conduct review of abundance estimates required for next year's meeting.	Zerbini (Convenor), Allison, Donovan, Fortuna, Givens, Herr, Suydam.
Item 12.2 ASI	SG-26	ASI Pre-Meeting	Develop a process to (1) validate non-standard software and methods, (2) estimates computed from population models and (3) consider status of stocks.	Butterworth (Convenor), Cooke, Donovan, Givens, Punt, Zerbini.
Item 12.3 ASI	SG-27	Amendment of RMP Guidelines	(1) Develop a set of specific instructions for the amendment of the RMP guidelines to consider model-based abundance estimates, (2) Select a candidate to amend the RMP Guidelines according to these instructions.	Fortuna (Convenor), Butterworth, Donovan, Herr, Kitakado, Palka, Punt, Suydam, Zerbini.
Item 13.5.3 HIM	ICG-29	Bycatch inferences from strandings	Provide advice to the Committee on general issues that need to be considered whenever estimates based on strandings are being evaluated.	Slooten (Convenor), Currey, Bjørge, Cooke, Donovan, Herr, Fortuna, Lauriano, Leaper, Long, Northridge, Reeves, Ridoux, Stockin, Tarzia. <i>BISWG@dist.iwc.int</i>
Item 14 HIM	ICG-30	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.	Leaper (Convenor), Brownell, Cañadas, Donovan, Double, Ferguson, Herr, Holm, Mattila, Panigada, Ritter, Rowles, Weinrich. <i>ssredata@dist.iwc.int</i>
Item 14.2 HIM	ICG-31	Ships Routing Group	Consider how best to respond to requests for advice on routing measures.	Leaper (Convenor), Bjørge, Donovan, Ferriss, Fortuna, George, Hubbell, Mattila, Rojas-Bracho, Panigada, Thomas. Weinrich and Willson. <i>shiproute@dist.iwc.int</i>
Item 15.1 E	SG-32	Pollution	Planning activities and work priorities beyond Pollution 2020 (SC/68a).	Holm (Convenor), Donovan, Ferriss Ailsa, Rowles, Schwacke, Smith, Simmonds, Stimmelmayer, Walløe. <i>pollution2020@dist.iwc.int</i>
Item 15.4 E	SG-34	Noise	Planning pre-meeting for 2020 (SC/68b)	Cholewiak (Convenor), Cerchio, Hubbell, Lundquist, Sirovic, Torres, Williams, Simmonds. <i>noise@dist.iwc.int</i>
Item 15.6.2 E	ICG-35	Climate change	Developing appropriate intersessional activities and suggestions for future engagement including potentially a workshop or pre-meeting (SC/68a).	Simmonds (Convenor), Bjørge, Donovan, Fortuna, Frey, Hall, Kitakado, Leaper, Parsons, Suydam, Williams, Ferriss, Smith. <i>climatechange@dist.iwc.int</i>
Item 15.7.3 E	SG-33	Diseases of concern	Planning focussed session for 2019 (SC/68a).	Stimmelmayer (Convenor), Hall, Ferriss, Gulland, Mattila, Rowles, Ryeng, Smith, Suydam. <i>code@dist.iwc.int</i>
Item 16.2 EM	AG-36	Applications of species distribution models (SDMs)	Develop guidelines and recommendations for best practice in species distribution modelling.	Murase (convenor), Friedlaender McKinlay, Miller, Kelly, Kitakado, Palacios, Palka.
Item 16.4.1 EM	ICG-37	Effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations	Compile a literature review on the subject of how environmental variability may affect whale populations	Cooke (Convenor), Butterworth, de la Mare, Kitakado.
Item 16.4.4 EM	ICG-38	Cetaceans & Ecosystem Functioning: a gap analysis workshop	Prepare a Workshop under a Steering Group.	Ritter (Convenor), Butterworth, Donovan, Galletti, Kitakado, Suydam.
Item 17.6 SM	ICG-39	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, Donovan, Fortuna, Frey, Jiminez, Parsons, R. Reeves, Scheidat, Simmonds. <i>wildmeatSG@dist.iwc.int</i>

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Item 17.6.2 SM	ICG-42	Aquatic Wildmeat Database	Discuss which research questions the "Aquatic Wildmeat Database" could help answer and to assess the best approach for data validation and quality control for data obtained other than from the SM committee.	Cosentino (convenor), Reeves, R., Slooten, Gallego, Trujillo, Collins, Simmonds.
Item 17.7 SM	AG-40	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), Bjørge, Donovan, Fortuna, Genov, Parsons, Porter, R. Reeves, Scheidat. taskteamSG@dist.iwc.int
Item 17 SM	SG-41	Sotalia Workshop	Organisation of two workshops focusing on Sotalia.	Domit (convenor), Zerbini, Porter, Scheidat, Caballero.
Item 18.1 WW	ICG-43	Swim-with-whale operations	Assess the extent and potential impact of swim-with-whale operations.	Rose (Convenor), Frey, Forestell, Gero, Jimenez-Assmus, Minton, Parsons, Ritter, Rodriguez-Fonseca, Simmonds, Sironi, C. Smith, Stack, Urban, Weinrich. swimwhale@dist.iwc.int
Item 18.1.1 WW	SG-44	Modelling and Assessment of Whale Watching Impacts (MAWI) Steering Group	(1) Identify those whale watching locations that would be most suitable and amenable for targeted studies addressing these questions; (2) summarise and assess the current modelling tools available to analyse the data that will be collected; (3) develop a Strategic Framework, supported by a Decision Tree, to aid in the prioritisation of policy and research choices; develop toolkits and resources for whale watching research that can be accessed globally; (4) consider how to standardise data collection; and (5) organise the fourth MAWI workshop	New (Convenor), Baldwin, Cook, Cosentino, Forestell, Frey, Jimenez-Assmus, Leaper, Minton, Noren, Parsons, Robbins, Rose, C. Smith, Weinrich. mawi@dist.iwc.int
Item 18.1.3 WW	ICG-45	Human-induced behavioural changes of concern	Continue to monitor the relevant literature; seek to produce a new review of information for the Committee across the whole range of interactions; review the appropriate terminology; and continue to consider the relevance of this topic to the work of the sub-committee, including how this topic might best be studied in future.	Simmonds (Convenor), Cosentino, Forestell, Minton, Parsons, Rodriguez Fonseca, Vail, Wells.
Item 18.4 WW	ICG-46	Communication with the Conservation Committee	Discuss development of better methods for disseminating recommendations and advice on whale watching to the CC (joint with CC).	Parsons (Convenor), Rendell (Co-Convenor), Cosentino, Ferriss, Minton, Ritter, Rose, Simmonds, S. Smith, Weinrich.
Item 18.6 WW	AG-47	Communication with the Indian Ocean Rim Association	Help provide advice to IORA when appropriate and facilitate communication between IORA and the sub-committee	Ferriss (Convenor), Baldwin, Iñiguez, New, Parsons, Simmonds, C. Smith, S. Smith, Weinrich. iora@dist.iwc.int
Item 18.1 WW	ICG-48	River dolphin interactions	Monitor, assess and report on commercial interactions, including watching, provisioning and swimming, with river dolphins, in the Amazon and elsewhere	Trujillo (Convenor), Luna, Marmontel, Parsons, Rojas-Bracho.[CMF1]
Item 19 SC/SP	AG	Protocol on feasibility of biopsy sampling minke whales	(1) To provide advice on developing an experimental protocol for ascertain whether it is possible to reliably biopsy minke whales and, if so, under what circumstances (experience, vessel type, equipment, environmental conditions, etc.), starting from the advice provided by the Expert Panel (JCRM 19 suppl:431-490). (2) To reconsider and refine questions in the Mogue <i>et al.</i> 2016, as necessary.	Palka (Convenor), Clapham, Donovan, Double, Lauriano, Mogue, Palsbøll, Tamura, Tiedemann, Yasunaga, Wade, Walløe and Zerbini biopsy@dist.iwc.int (TO BE DONE)
Item 23.1 PH	ICG-50	Appendices for photo-ID guidelines	Continue compilation of technical appendices for photo-ID guidelines	Olson (convenor), Dalla Rosa, Donovan, Double, Galletti, Genov, Mallette, Marcondes, Matsuoka, Minton, Panigada, Reyes Reyes, Stack, Taylor, Torres-Florez, Weinrich.
Item 23.2.4 PH	ICG-49	Search for missing SOWER photos	Search for and/or reconstruct archive of missing SOWER photos	Matsuoka, Taylor (co-Convenors), Donovan, Olson.
Item 24 ASI	SG-28	IWC-POWER/SOWER	To provide advice on the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 IWC-POWER cruises (including holding the Planning Meetings), on data analyses, storage and on requests for data/sample use of IWC-POWER/SOWER cruises.	Matsuoka (Convenor), An, Bannister, Bravington, Brownell, Clapham, Donovan, Ensor, Kato, Kelly, Kitakado, Miyashita, Murase, Pastene, Wade, Zerbini, Zharikov.
Item 24.2 SC	ICG-52	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, Burkhade, Bjørge, Brownell, Charrassin, Donovan, Fortuna, Fruet, Gallegos, Galletti, Herr, Iñiguez, Jackson, Langerocle, Lundquist, Lauriano, Lune, Reyes Reyes, Vermeulen, Zerbini Oosthuizen; Charrassin, Elwin, Ridoux, Samaran. iwscorp@dist.iwc.int

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Item 28.3 SC	ICG-53	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/67b.	Fortuna (Convenor), de la Mare, Donovan, Double, Lundquist, Morishita, H. Morita, Y. Morita, Moronuki, Okazoe, Palka, Rendell. <i>annexp@dist.iwc.int</i>
Item 29 IA	ICG-51	IDCR/SOWER volume	Complete the IWC Special Issue on the IDCR/SOWER volume.	Bannister (Convenor), Brownell, Donovan, Ensor, Kato, Palka. <i>idersower@dist.iwc.int</i>
