

## 67<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

09.00-17.00 Hrs Friday 7 September at the Costao Do Santinho Resort, Florianopolis, Brazil

#### DRAFT 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. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN AND WORKPLAN

##### 3.1 Updates to the Strategic Plan

*At IWC66 the Commission endorsed the Conservation Strategic Plan as a high-level outward facing document and agreed that It will be supported by separate, internal strategy documents for the Conservation Committee and its standing working groups complete with timelines. This item will briefly discuss recent updates to the strategic plan.*

##### 3.2 Workplan for the 2018-2020 Biennium and beyond

*This agenda item will receive a draft workplan for 2018-2020 for some initial discussion and revisions needed as a result of subsequent discussions under other items will be noted during the meeting. Financial or other resource implications for the 2018-2020 biennium should also be noted here and will be further discussed under item 17.*

*This item also includes discussion of areas of work for which there are no designated leads including Climate Change and Chemical Pollution.*

#### 4. STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

##### 4.1 Working Methods of the Conservation Committee

*At its meeting in 2017, the Conservation Committee Planning Group (CCPG) discussed a proposal from the Chair of the Conservation Committee that the Committee give some consideration to its working methods. It agreed that that an intersessional group comprising the Chair and Vice-chair of the Conservation Committee, the Secretariat, Argentina, Norway and Chile would work intersessionally, including at the 2018 CCPG meeting, to develop a proposal for consideration by the Conservation Committee. This item allows discussion of a draft Working Methods Document.*

##### 4.2 Timing of Conservation Committee Meetings

*At its meeting in October 2016, the Conservation Committee agreed to prepare a proposal to hold annual Conservation Committee meetings that would be discussed at IWC67. This item allows for discussion of this proposal.*

#### 4.3 Voluntary Conservation Reports

*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. At its meeting in October 2016 the Conservation Committee established an intersessional group, comprised of Australia, Mexico, the UK and the Secretariat to review and develop the report template and align it with the new strategic plan. New Zealand subsequently joined this group. This item will discuss reports received as well as a progress report from the intersessional group and discussions at the 2017 and 2018 CCPG meetings.*

4.3.1 Contracting member reports

4.3.2 Review of the Voluntary Conservation Reporting Template

#### 4.4 IWC Governance Review

*Resolution 2016-1 adopted at IWC66 agreed to a comprehensive independent review of the Commission's Institutional and Governance arrangements conducted by a panel of three independent reviewers. This agenda item allows time for discussion on the findings and recommendations of the review relating to the Conservation Committee and how these will be taken forward.*

4.4.1 Introduction to the Governance Review process and report

4.4.2 Discussion of findings and recommendations

### 5. JOINT WORKING GROUP OF THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

#### 5.1 Database of recommendations

*At IWC66 in October 2016, the Commission endorsed a recommendation from the Conservation Committee to establish an intersessional Working 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.*

*Subsequently, the May 2017 meeting of the Joint Conservation Committee-Scientific Committee Working Group agreed to hold a small in-person meeting to develop a detailed database structure, including fields and categorisation, and a process for populating the database. This meeting was held in Cambridge in September 2017. Following this, the database was developed, initial population of the database was undertaken by the Secretariat, and the Joint CC/SC reviewed this work at its 2018 meeting. This item allows for discussion of the database and recommendations for next steps.*

#### 5.2 Review of implementation of recommendations

*This agenda item will allow for discussion of how Conservation Committee recommendations will be communicated appropriately to their target audiences, how their implementation can be assessed, and the role of the database, Secretariat and Commission bodies in this process.*

### 5.3 Guidance for drafting recommendations

*At IWC66 the Commission endorsed a recommendation from the Conservation Committee that the Joint SC-CC WG work with the existing Scientific Committee process (being undertaken by the SC Chair, Vice-Chair, Head of Science and SC sub-group convenors) to develop guidelines for Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee reports on the drafting of clear and focussed stand-alone recommendations that highlight rationale/context, objectives and actors. It agreed that the guidelines should also address consistency in language. This agenda item will discuss an update on progress and guidance for drafting Conservation Committee recommendations.*

## 6. BYCATCH

*At IWC66 the Commission endorsed recommendations from the Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee on bycatch and agreed to establish a Standing Working Group on Bycatch. It further endorsed the establishment of a Bycatch Mitigation Initiative supported by an Expert Panel and a Bycatch Coordinator. This item will allow the Committee to discuss the report of the Bycatch Standing Working Group and to review related recommendations from the Scientific Committee.*

### 6.1 Report from the Bycatch Standing Working Group

- 6.1.1 Strategic Plan for Bycatch
- 6.1.2 Bycatch Mitigation Initiative workplan

### 6.2 Report from the Scientific Committee

## 7. 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 a presentation of the Whale Watching Handbook and an update of the Five Year Strategic Plan.*

### 7.1 Report from the Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Whale Watching

- 7.1.1 Progress with the online Whale Watching Handbook
- 7.1.2 Revision of the Five Year Strategic Plan
- 7.1.3 Engagement with the Indian Ocean Rim Association

### 7.2 Report from the Scientific Committee

## 8. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

*In 2008, the IWC adopted Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) as an adaptive, flexible and tailored management tool to improve the conservation outcomes for the most at risk cetacean populations. CMPs have been developed for four vulnerable cetacean populations so far - the Western North Pacific Gray Whale, the Western South Atlantic Southern Right Whale, the Eastern South Pacific Southern Right Whale, and the Franciscana (the first CMP for a small cetacean species).*

*The two main bodies responsible for progressing the Commission's work on CMPs are the Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (SWG-CMP) and the Scientific Committee's Sub-Committee on Cetacean Stocks That Are or Might Be the Subject of Conservation Management Plans (SC-CMP).*

## 8.1 Progress Report by the SWG-CMP

*At IWC65, the Committee endorsed the CMP Work Plan 2014-2020 which sets out the priority work areas for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies to guide the development and implementation of CMPs. At IWC66 the Commission agreed to a mid-term review of the work plan, which was undertaken by the SWG-CMP during the 2016-2018 intersessional period.*

*This agenda item will include a report from the SWG-CMP on the outcomes of the mid-term review. A draft revised work plan, including a revised CMP development process and funding principles, will be presented for consideration and endorsement by the Committee.*

*This agenda item will also seek the Committee's agreement for the SWG-CMP to develop a thematic strategic plan and associated work programme during the 2018-20 intersessional period, to take the place of the CMP work plan when it ends in 2020.*

- 8.1.1 CMP Work Plan 2014-2020 mid-term review
- 8.1.2 Development of a thematic strategic plan

## 8.2 Progress on current CMPs

*This agenda item will include an update on implementation progress and upcoming priorities for the four current CMPs.*

- 8.2.1 Western Pacific Gray Whale CMP
  - 8.2.1.1 Update from range States
  - 8.2.1.2 Scientific Committee update
- 8.2.2 Southwest Atlantic Southern Right Whale CMP
  - 8.2.2.1 Update from range States
  - 8.2.2.2 Scientific Committee update
- 8.2.3 South-east Pacific Southern Right Whale CMP
  - 8.2.3.1 Update from range States
  - 8.2.3.2 Scientific Committee update
- 8.2.4 Franciscana CMP
  - 8.2.4.1 Update from range States
  - 8.2.4.2 Scientific Committee update

## 8.3 Priority species for future CMPS

*This agenda item will include an update on intersessional work to progress the development of CMPS for priority species.*

- 8.3.1 Arabian Sea Humpback whales

- 8.3.2 Mediterranean Fin whales
- 8.3.3 Populations requiring further research

#### 8.4 CMP financial update

*This agenda item will include an update from the SWG-CMP on the status of the CMP Voluntary Fund. The Committee may be asked to consider and endorse any active funding requests.*

### 9. SHIP STRIKES

*At IWC57 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.*

*At its last meeting the Committee welcomed the work undertaken on a Ship Strikes Strategic Plan and agreed it would be finalised intersessionally.*

*This agenda item will allow the Committee to receive the latest update from its Ship Strikes Working Group and to review relevant work of the Scientific Committee. It will allow the Committee to consider progress in implementing recommendations endorsed at IWC66, including on engagement with other organisations, and the further development of the ship strikes database.*

- 9.1 Report from the Scientific Committee
- 9.2 Report from the Ship Strikes Working Group
  - Ship strikes strategic plan
  - Engagement with IMO
- 9.3 Committee discussions and recommendations

### 10. WHALE SANCTUARIES

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

#### 10.1 Decadal review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary

### 11. 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 and at IWC66 the Committee welcomed progress on engaging other organisations on this topic and encouraged this to continue. This agenda item allows a review of recommendations from the Scientific Committee and of proposed future work in this area.*

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

- 11.1 Report from the Scientific Committee
- 11.2 Future work by the Conservation Committee

## 12. ANTHROPOGENIC UNDERWATER NOISE

*Anthropogenic Underwater Noise is identified as a priority threat in the Conservation Committee Strategic Plan but the Committee is yet to elaborate a work programme on this topic. This agenda item allows an update on recommendations from the Scientific Committee and on engagement with other organisations, and discussions of proposed future work.*

- 12.1 Report from the Scientific Committee
- 12.2 Update on engagement with other organisations
- 12.3 Discussion on future work

## 13. CETACEANS AND ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING

*At its 2018 meeting the Conservation Committee Planning Group gave some consideration to how the Conservation Committee could address Resolution 2016-3 related to Cetaceans and their Contribution to Ecosystem Functioning. This item will allow consideration of proposals from Contracting Members.*

## 14. SMALL CETACEANS

### 14.1 Progress under the voluntary fund for small cetacean conservation research

*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. At IWC66 the Commission endorsed the proposal to fund seven new projects. This item will allow the Scientific Committee to report its progress with both existing projects and new projects proposed for support in 2018.*

### 14.2 Small Cetaceans Task Team

*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.*

## 15. SPECIES OF URGENT OR EMERGING CONCERN

*At their meetings in 2017 and 2018 the Conservation Committee Planning Group and the joint Working Group of the Conservation Committee and the Scientific Committee Working Group (CC-SC WG) discussed potential ways in which the Conservation Committee could help with species of critical conservation concern for which urgent action was required, including the Vaquita and other species. The groups agreed to develop proposals to be considered by the Conservation Committee regarding species of critical concern and actions that might be taken. In addition, the CCPG proposed that the Conservation Committee recommend species of emergent and urgent concern as a new standing item on the Commission agenda. Having heard an update on the Small*

*Cetaceans Task Team (item 14.2) this agenda item will allow discussion on any additional ways that the Conservation Committee could help with species of critical conservation concern for which action is required.*

## 16. ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

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

## 17. FUNDING

### 17.1 Funding opportunities

*At IWC65, the Commission endorsed a series of recommendations from the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening IWC Financing (ICG-SF). 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.*

*At IWC66, the ICG-SF agreed its work plan for the intersessional period. This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Committee to hear a report on the work of the ICG-SF and to consider its recommendations.*

### 17.2 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 from the Steering Group of the Voluntary Conservation Fund on contributions to this fund and associated expenditure and to discuss the process for allocation of funding and eligibility criteria.*

17.2.1 Update on contributions and funding

17.2.2 Process for funding allocation

## 18. ADOPTION OF REPORT

*It is proposed that the report be adopted 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.