

67th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

WHALE KILLING METHODS AND WELFARE ISSUES WORKING GROUP

14.00 Hrs Thursday 6 September 2018 at the Costao do Santinho Resort, Florianopolis, Brazil

DRAFT AGENDA and annotations

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- 1.1 Appointment of Chair [Herman Oosthuizen, South Africa 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. DATA PROVIDED ON WHALES KILLED

This item allows Contracting Governments to provide the information specified in Resolutions 1999-1 and 2001-2. Resolution 1999-1 encouraged reporting of data on whales killed including the number killed by each method, the number killed instantaneously, times to death, number of whales targeted and missed, number of whales struck and lost, calibre of rifle where used, number of bullets used and methods to determine unconsciousness/time to death. Resolution 2001-2 encouraged Contracting Governments to submit information on variance data on times to death (to the extent possible) and comparative data from the killing of other large mammals.

This item also allows reporting of data relevant to administration of euthanasia.

3.1 Contracting Government reports

4. INFORMATION ON IMPROVING THE HUMANENESS OF WHALING OPERATIONS

This item allows Contracting Governments to provide information specified in Resolution 1997-1 and supported by Resolution 2001-2. Resolution 1997-1 concerns steps being taken to improve the humaneness of aboriginal whaling operations. Resolution 2001-2 encourages all Contracting Governments to provide appropriate technical assistance to reduce time to unconsciousness and death in all whaling operations.

4.1 Reports from Contracting Governments

5. WHALE WELFARE

At IWC65 in 2014, the Commission agreed to reflect the full scope of the IWC's consideration of welfare within the Terms of Reference of the Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues group¹, and agreed an updated Action Plan for the WG-WKM&WI (See Report of the 65th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission 2014, Annex H, Appendix 4). An intersessional working group is working to progress the Action Plan and this item is an opportunity for the group to report its progress.

¹ At IWC65 in 2014 the revised name ('Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues', WG-WI), Terms of Reference and Action Plan outlined in IWC/65/WKM&AWI05 Rev2 was adopted by consensus.

Of particular interest this year will be progress in development of a Whale Welfare Assessment Tool developed by the UK in the context of the IWC Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues Action Plan.

- 5.1 Report from the intersessional group
- 5.2 Whale Welfare Assessment Framework

At IWC66 the Commission endorsed the recommendations from an IWC Expert Workshop to Support the Consideration of Non-Hunting Related Aspects of Cetacean Welfare held in Kruger National Park, South Africa, 3-4 May 2016 including the development and application of a proposed cetacean welfare assessment framework that could help to further strengthen the consideration of welfare within existing IWC programmes. A proposed Whale Welfare Assessment Framework will be presented for discussion and endorsement by the Working Group.

- 5.2.1 Presentation of the Whale Welfare Assessment Framework
- 5.2.2 Review of Scientific Committee recommendations

6. WELFARE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ENTANGLEMENT OF LARGE WHALES

In 2010 and 2011 the IWC held two workshops which developed a series of recommendations for responding to the welfare concerns caused when whales become entangled in marine debris. At IWC64 in 2012 the Commission endorsed these recommendations which included promoting the establishment of national entanglement response networks. A dedicated co-ordinator has been attached to the Secretariat since 2011 to implement these recommendations. This item provides opportunity for a progress update and discussion on the programme's future development.

Of particular interest this year will be the report from the fourth IWC Working on Large Whale Entanglement issues, Provincetown, MA, USA, 7-9 June 2018. Also of interest will be the Secretariat's report on progress with the global entanglement response programme.

The IWC's separate work programmes on marine debris and on bycatch are reported to the Conservation Committee.

- 6.1 Report of the fourth IWC Workshop on Large Whale Entanglement issues
- 6.2 Secretariat report on progress

7. STRANDINGS

The Action Plan for the WG-WKM&WI agreed at IWC65 includes Objective 2.4 on Strandings as follows: 'To work through existing strandings networks to produce specific recommendations to the Commission in relation to the welfare implications of responding to cetacean stranding events'. This agenda item will provide an opportunity to discuss progress against this objective and next steps.

Of particular interest will be progress of the IWC Strandings Initiative including the work of the Strandings Expert Panel and the Strandings Coordinator. The meeting may also wish to take account of the relevant recommendations of the Scientific Committee with respect to strandings.

- 7.1 Scientific Committee recommendations
- 7.2 Secretariat progress report

8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The Chair will propose to adopt the report by correspondence.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues is tasked with reviewing information and providing advice to the Commission on issues relating to whale killing methods and all aspects associated with ensuring good welfare of cetaceans that are hunted or otherwise impacted by human activities (Report of the 65th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission 2014, Annex H, Appendix 4).

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.