

**SUMMARY OF MAIN OUTCOMES, DECISIONS AND
REQUIRED
ACTIONS FROM THE 67TH ANNUAL MEETING**

The main outcomes, decisions and required actions arising from the 67th Annual Meeting are summarised in the table below.

Issue and Agenda Item	Main outcomes
Governance Review <i>Item 5</i>	<p>The Final Report of the external Governance Review was presented by one of the panel members. Resolution 2018-1 on the Response to the Independent review of the IWC was adopted (see also Item 7). The Commission noted input from subsidiary bodies including the Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee. The Commission welcomed a contribution of USD 10,000 from the Government of the United States to support a workshop on this issue.</p>
Schedule Amendments <i>Item 6</i>	<p>Proposed Schedule amendment on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Schedule amendment on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling catch limits was adopted – see Item 8. <p>Proposed Schedule amendment to create a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proposed Schedule amendment to create a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary was not adopted. <p>Proposed Schedule amendment for setting catch limits for certain whale species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proposed Schedule amendment for setting catch limits for certain whale species was not adopted.
Resolutions <i>Item 7</i>	<p>Resolution on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution 2018-4 on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise was adopted by consensus. <p>Resolution on the Way Forward for the IWC [part of a package of documents, see IWC/67/08]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution on the Way Forward for the IWC was not adopted <p>Resolution on Ghost Gear Entanglement Among Cetaceans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution 2018-3 on Ghost Gear Entanglement Among Cetaceans was adopted by consensus. <p>Resolution proposing ‘The Florianopolis Declaration on the role of the IWC in the Conservation and Management of Whales in the 21st Century’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution 2018-5 was adopted. <p>Resolution on the Response to the Independent review of the IWC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution 2018-1 on the Response to the Independent review of the IWC was adopted by consensus. <p>Resolution on Advancing the Commission’s Work on the Role of Cetaceans in the Ecosystem Functioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution 2018-2 on Advancing the Commission’s Work on the Role of Cetaceans in the Ecosystem Functioning was adopted.
<p>Aboriginal subsistence whaling <i>Item 8</i></p> <p>Reports: ASW Sub-Committee (IWC/67/Rep02);</p> <p>Scientific Committee (IWC/67/Rep01)</p>	<p>Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure and Aboriginal Whaling Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission endorsed the report of ASW Working Group on the seven long-term issues, actions from the ‘Maniitsoq’ report and the timeline for providing information and comments to facilitate consideration of future catch/strike limits • The Commission endorsed the report of the Scientific Committee and its recommendations on: Strike Limit Algorithms for West Greenland fin whales and common minke whales; the Makah Management Plan; and the Implementation Review of Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock of bowhead whales. It also endorsed the report of the Scientific Committee and its management advice on all of the hunts: the proposed catch/strike limits and carryover provisions all met the conservation objectives of the Commission as did proposals to remove the minimum length limit for West Greenland fin whales and the 9-month season limit for common minke whales off Greenland. • Descriptions of the Hunt and Catch/strike limit requests were considered by the ASW Sub-Committee and in the Plenary. • The Commission endorsed the report of the Scientific Committee and its recommendations on the scientific components of the Aboriginal Whaling Scheme (Carryover, Block quotas, Interim Relief Allocations, Guidelines for Implementation Reviews, Guidelines for surveys and other data)

	<p>Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Catch limits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission adopted proposed Schedule amendments for 7-year catch limits for: (1) the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock of bowhead whales; (2) the Eastern stock of gray whales in the North Pacific; (3) common minke whales, fin whales, bowhead whales and humpback whales off West Greenland; (4) common minke whales off East Greenland and (5) western North Atlantic humpback whales off St Vincent and The Grenadines. <p>Status of the voluntary fund for Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fund received generous donations from the USA and Switzerland and the money used towards holding the Utqiagvik/Barrow workshop and evaluation of the Makah Management Plan. The Commission reiterated the importance of this fund and welcomed generous voluntary contribution of GBP 10,000 from the UK to the ASW Voluntary Fund for work to improve the welfare of ASW hunts and USD 500 from Whaleman Foundation to improve welfare in the Russian ASW hunt.
<p>Cetacean Status and Health <i>Item 9</i></p>	<p>Whale stocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed the report and recommendations of the Scientific Committee on whale stocks. The Committee expressed conservation concerns over western North Atlantic right whales, Gulf of Mexico Bryde's whales, Arabian Sea humpback whales, North Pacific bowhead whales and southeastern Australian humpback whales. <p>Small Cetaceans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed the report and recommendations of the Scientific Committee on small cetaceans. In 2017 and 2018, serious concern was expressed at the status of many species and populations including: riverine and coastal populations of Irrawaddy dolphins; the Indus River dolphin; the Ganges River dolphin; river dolphins in the Amazon, Orinoco and Tocantins basins; Lahille's bottlenose dolphins in western South America; the vaquita in Mexico; Yangtze finless porpoise; the Māui dolphin in New Zealand; botos and tucuxis in the Amazon Basin; Taiwanese humpback dolphins; killer whales from the Sea of Okhotsk. Grave concern was expressed over the vaquita, Yangtze finless porpoise and the Māui dolphin in New Zealand. The Commission welcomed the work of the Small Cetaceans Fund and thanked donors for their contributions. Contributions to the Small Cetaceans Fund were welcomed as follows: EUR 5,000 from the Government of Italy, EUR 10,000 from the Government of the Netherlands, GBP 10,000 from the UK and USD 10,000 from a coalition of NGOs, of which USD 1,000 of this earmarked for the Small Cetaceans Task Team. <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed the report and recommendations of the Scientific Committee related to cumulative effects, unusual mortality events, harmful algal blooms and cetacean diseases of concern. <p>Stock definition and DNA testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed the report and recommendations of the Scientific Committee on this issue, including encouraging co-ordination of DNA registers and updating of guidelines for analyses of genetic data.
<p>Cetacean Habitat <i>Item 10</i></p>	<p>State of the Cetacean Environment (SOCER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission received the report of the SOCER and the 5-year compilation. <p>Ecosystem Functioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific and Conservation Committee including proposals for further work. <p>Arctic Ocean/Climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission noted that in future the Scientific Committee will consider both these items in the broad context of all its work rather than as stand-alone items.
<p>Unintended Anthropogenic Impacts <i>Item 11</i></p>	<p>Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission welcomed progress made by the Scientific Committee with its Pollution 2020 programme which is looking at effects of chemical pollution on cetaceans and endorsed the Scientific Committee recommendations. <p>Marine Debris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee including proposals for further work. The Commission welcomed a donation of EUR 10,000 from the Government of the Netherlands to this issue. <p>Anthropogenic Sound</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission welcomed progress in addressing the issue of Anthropogenic Underwater Noise, including engagement with other organisations. It endorsed proposals of the Scientific Committee

	<p>and Conservation Committee for further work. See also Item 7.</p> <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. It welcomed progress under the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative and endorsed (i) the Strategic Plan for Bycatch, (ii) the BMI workplan (iii) the continuation of the Bycatch Coordinator position with funding from the Voluntary Conservation Fund and (iv) the Terms of Reference for the SWG and Expert Panel. The Commission thanked those who had contributed funding for this initiative, and welcomed further funding announcements including from Belgium, (£18,000), France (EUR10,000), the UK (£18,000), and from a coalition of NGOs (USD8,500). <p>Ship Strikes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed recommendations of the Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee. It endorsed the Ships Strike Strategic Plan and adopted its work programme. It agreed to continued cooperation with other organisations on this issue including with IMO and with IUCN with respect to Important Marine Mammal Areas.
<p>The IWC in the Future <i>Item 12</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission considered a proposed Schedule amendment and one resolution under this item. The results have been covered under Items 6 and 7 above.
<p>Whale killing methods and welfare issues <i>Item 13</i></p> <p>Report of the WG on WKM&AWI (IWC/67/Rep04)</p>	<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 the Kingdom of Denmark on behalf of Greenland, the Russian Federation, Norway and the USA on their improvements in whaling operations. The Commission endorsed the continuation of work to improve whale welfare, including the further development of the Cetacean Welfare Assessment Tool and presentation of a final version to IWC68. It agreed to the development of a clear process for allocating resources from the voluntary welfare fund during the intersessional period, and its submission to IWC68. It agreed that in the interim period the Intersessional Working Group would advise on allocation of funding donated for implementation of the Welfare Action Plan, and consider any funding requests from IWC working groups for support. The Commission endorsed the report of the fourth IWC Working Group meeting on Large Whale Entanglement Issues and expressed support for continuation of the work to build capacity to respond to whale entanglements. The Commission welcomed the progress of the strandings initiative and thanked all involved for their efforts. It endorsed the Scientific Committee recommendations on strandings, including the proposal to extend the Strandings Coordinator role subject to available funds. The Commission welcomed a voluntary contribution of USD 2,000 from a coalition of NGOs.
<p>Scientific Permits <i>Item 14</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission adopted statements on three Japanese special permit programmes, two currently in place (NEWREP-A and NEWREP-NP) and one completed (JARPN II). The statements present the Commission's views on each permit, recommendations to the Government of Japan and instructions to the Scientific Committee on the review process. A number of countries disagreed with the Commission's statements and provided their own statement to this effect.
<p>Other Conservation Issues <i>Item 15</i></p>	<p>Conservation Management Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific and Conservation Committee on CMPs. This included adopting the revised CMP Work Plan 2014-2020 and agreement that a thematic strategic plan for CMPs be developed during the next intersessional period, to be submitted to the Commission for endorsement. The Commission thanked the coordinators of the four current CMPs for their ongoing commitment and excellent work to protect vulnerable populations of cetaceans. The Commission noted progress made with regards priority species for CMP and encouraged further efforts during the next intersessional period. <p>Whale Watching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific Committee and Conservation Committees on whale watching, including the revised Strategic Plan and the work plan for the next intersessional period, as well as the Whale Watching Handbook, the communications strategy to promote it, and a budget for its maintenance including an application to the Voluntary Conservation Fund. <p>National Reports on Cetacean Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission welcomed reports submitted by several countries. It endorsed a proposal to revise

	<p>the template for Voluntary Conservation Reports through an integrated database.</p> <p>Regional Research Partnerships: IWC-SORP (Southern Ocean Research Partnership) and IWC-POWER (North Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission welcomed the report from the Scientific Committee on these two IWC research programmes and endorsed plans for these to continue. <p>Joint Working Group of the Conservation Committee and the Scientific Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed proposals for a database of IWC recommendations and actions to populate and use the database to review implementation of recommendations and to assist Secretariat work planning. The Commission endorsed a proposal for the Conservation Committee to work intersessionally to develop proposals on how the IWC can take action for species of urgent or critical conservation concern.
<p>Sanctuaries <i>Item 16</i></p>	<p>Proposal for establishment of a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See item 6. <p>Southern Ocean Sanctuary Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee and endorsed the Southern Ocean Sanctuary Management Plan.
<p>Other Management Issues <i>Item 17</i></p> <p>Report of the Scientific committee (IWC/67/Rep01)</p> <p>Report of the Infractions sub-committee (IWC/67/Rep03)</p>	<p>Revised Management Procedure</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 common minke whales was completed in 2017, that for North Pacific Bryde's whales should be completed in 2019 and that for Western North Pacific common minke whales is about to commence. <p>Infractions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> infractions reported in the 2016 and 2017 seasons; follow-up reports from previous years; information on the domestic surveillance of whaling operations; and information on the provision of data. <p>Catches by Non-Member Nations</p> <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 (e.g. from the Government of Indonesia)
<p>Co-operation with other Organisations <i>Item 18</i></p>	<p>The Commission welcomed progress on engaging other organisations and endorsed proposals for future work.</p>

<p>Finance and Administration <i>Item 19</i></p>	<p>Financial Situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission received an update on its financial situation and noted that the Commission's existing work programme could not be covered by the current level of resources. <p>Administrative Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on Hosting Meetings of the Commission & Scientific Committee, noting progress made since IWC 66 as outlined in the survey responses. An update on progress in implementing Resolution 2016-6 on the Voluntary Assistance Fund to Support Governments of Limited Means including recommendations to further increase participation. The Commission welcomed a contribution of EUR 5,000 to this fund from the Government of the Netherlands to this fund. A framework for the creation of an Organisational Risk Management and Currency Strategy. A report on the progress regarding facilitating intersessional communications, including a limited Twitter presence in relation to the Whale Watching Handbook and bycatch. A report on the status of the Commission's headquarters buildings. The Commission noted that the Secretariat will prepare a document outlining existing Memoranda of Understanding and will provide a strategy for managing proposals for further agreements. The issue of annual Conservation Committee Meetings was referred to the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness. <p>Intersessional Working Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission endorsed the reports of the Intersessional Correspondence Group for Strengthening Finance, Working Group on Operational Effectiveness and Voluntary Conservation Fund Steering Group. The Commission agreed changes to the Commissions Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations as proposed by the Chair of the Scientific Committee and the Chair of the Voluntary Conservation Fund Steering Group. The proposal for Annual Conservation Committee meetings did not reach consensus and was referred to the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness for further discussion. <p>Financial Statements, Budget and Budgetary Sub-Committee Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commission adopted the audited accounts for 2016 and 2017 and noted the expected outcome of the 2018 financial year. The Commission agreed to reduce the Scientific Committee's budget by c.28% as outlined in document IWC/67/FA/06, and it was agreed that contributions would remain frozen at the current level. This is a deficit budget and a revised budget table will be provided to Contracting Governments. The Commission was pleased to accept Australia's offer to take the vacant Chair's position on the Budgetary Sub-Committee, and thanked the USA as outgoing Chair.
<p>Adoption of Committee reports <i>Item 20</i></p>	<p>The Committee adopted the reports of all of its subsidiary bodies and thanked the Chairs of those for their hard and effective work.</p>
<p>Elections and Bureau <i>Items 21 and 22</i></p>	<p>The Chair of the Commission, Dr Joji Morishita (Japan) completed his term of office at the end of the meeting. Dr Andrej Bibic (Slovenia), the Vice-Chair, will take over the role of Chair. The new Vice Chair will be Amadou Diallo (Republic of Guinea).</p> <p>The Chair of the Scientific Committee, Dr Caterina Fortuna, completed her term of office at the end of the meeting. Dr Robert Suydam (USA), the Vice-Chair, will take over the role of Chair. The new Vice-Chair is Dr Alex Zerbini (Brazil).</p>
<p>Date and Venue for Upcoming Meetings <i>Item 23</i></p>	<p>The next meeting of the Scientific Committee will take place in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2019. The next meeting of the Commission will take place in 2020, dates and venue to be decided.</p>
<p>Other Matters <i>Item 24</i></p>	

Appendix 1

Text of Schedule Amendments Adopted at the 67th Meeting

Schedule Amendment on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (IWC/67/01 rev1)

Text proposed to be deleted is shown in ~~strike through~~ and text proposed to be added is shown in **underline and bold**.

Other Operations

5. Each contracting Government shall declare for all whale catchers under its jurisdiction not operating in conjunction with a factory ship or land station one continuous open seasons not to exceed six months out of any period of twelve months during which the taking or killing of minke whales by such whale catchers may be permitted. Notwithstanding this paragraph one continuous open season not to exceed nine months may be implemented so far as Greenland is concerned. **This paragraph shall not apply to aboriginal subsistence whaling under paragraphs 13(b)(3)(ii) and 13(b)(3)(iii).**

Baleen Whale Catch Limits

13(a) . . .

(6) Commencing in 2026, and provided the appropriate Strike Limit Algorithm has been developed by then, strike/catch limits (including any carry forward provisions) for each stock identified in sub-paragraph 13(b) shall be extended every six years, provided: (a) the Scientific Committee advises in 2024, and every six years thereafter, that such limits will not harm that stock; (b) the Commission does not receive a request from an ASW country relying on the stock ('relevant ASW country'), for a change in the relevant catch limits based on need; and (c) the Commission determines that the relevant ASW country has complied with the approved timeline and that the information provided represents a status quo continuation of the hunt.

(7) The provisions for each stock identified in sub-paragraph 13(b), especially the provisions for carryover, shall be reviewed by the Commission in light of the advice of the Scientific Committee.

13(b) Catch limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling are as follows:

(1) The taking of bowhead whales from the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock by aborigines is permitted, but only when the meat and products of such whales are to be used exclusively for local consumption by the aborigines and further provided that:

(i) For the years ~~2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**, the number of bowhead whales landed shall not exceed ~~336~~ **392**. For each of these years the number of bowhead whales struck shall not exceed 67, except that any unused portion of a strike quota from ~~any year (including 15 unused strikes from the 2008–2012 quota)~~ **the three prior quota blocks** shall be carried forward and added to the strike quotas of ~~any~~ subsequent years, provided that no more than ~~15 strikes~~ **50 percent of the annual strike limit** shall be added to the strike quota for any one year.

(ii) ~~This provision shall be reviewed annually by the Commission in light of the advice of the Scientific Committee.~~

(2) The taking of gray whales from the Eastern stock in the North Pacific is permitted, but only by aborigines or a contracting Government on behalf of aborigines, and then only when the meat and products of such whales are to be used exclusively for local consumption by the aborigines.

(i) For the years ~~2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**, the number of gray whales landed taken in accordance with this sub-paragraph shall not exceed 744 ~~980~~, provided that the number of gray whales struck taken in any one of the years ~~2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025** shall not exceed 140, **except that any unused portion of a strike quota from the prior quota block shall be carried forward and added to the strike quotas of subsequent years, provided that no more than 50 percent of the annual strike limit shall be added to the strike quota for any one year.**

(ii) ~~This provision shall be reviewed annually by the Commission in light of the advice of the Scientific Committee.~~

(3) The taking by aborigines of minke whales from the West Greenland and Central stocks **from the East Greenland hunt** and fin whales from the West Greenland stock and bowhead whales from the West Greenland feeding aggregation and humpback whales from the West Greenland feeding aggregation is permitted and then only when the meat and products are to be used exclusively for local consumption.

(i) The number of fin whales struck from the West Greenland stock ~~in accordance with this subparagraph~~ shall not exceed 19 in each of the years ~~2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**, **except that any unused portion of a strike quota from the prior quota block under a Strike Limit Algorithm management advice shall be carried forward and added to the strike quotas of subsequent years, provided that no more than 50 percent of the annual strike limit shall be added to the strike quota for any one year.**

(ii) The number of minke whales struck from the Central stock ~~in accordance with this subparagraph~~ shall not exceed ~~12~~ **20** in each of the years ~~2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**, except that any unused portion of the ~~a~~ strike quota for each year shall be carried forward ~~from that year~~ and added to the strike quotas of any subsequent years, provided that no more than 3 strikes shall be added to the strike quota for any one year. **Commencing in 2020, and provided a Strike Limit Algorithm for this stock has been developed by then, any unused portion of a strike quota from the prior quota block under a Strike Limit Algorithm management advice shall be carried forward and added to the strike quotas of subsequent years, provided that no more than 50 percent of the annual strike limit shall be added to the strike quota for any one year.**

(iii) The number of minke whales struck from the West Greenland stock shall not exceed 164 in each of the years ~~2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**, except that any unused portion of the ~~a~~ strike quota for each year ~~from the prior quota block under a Strike Limit Algorithm management advice~~ shall be carried forward ~~from that year~~ and added to the strike quotas of any of the subsequent years, provided that no more than ~~15 strikes~~ **50 percent of the annual strike limit** shall be added to the strike quota for any one year. ~~This provision will be reviewed if new scientific data become available within the 4 year period and if necessary amended on basis of the advice of the Scientific Committee.~~

(iv) The number of bowhead whales struck off West Greenland ~~in accordance with this subparagraph~~ shall not exceed 2 in each of the years ~~2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**, except that any unused portion of the ~~a~~ strike quota for each year ~~from the prior quota block under a Strike Limit Algorithm management advice~~ shall be carried forward ~~from that year~~ and added to the strike quotas of any subsequent years, provided that no more than ~~2 strikes~~ **50 percent of the annual strike limit** shall be added to the strike quota for any one year. ~~This provision will be reviewed if new scientific data become available within the 4 year period and if necessary amended on basis of the advice of the Scientific Committee.~~

(v) The number of humpback whales struck off West Greenland ~~in accordance with this subparagraph~~ shall not exceed 10 in each of the years ~~2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018~~ **2019, 2020, 2021, 2022,**

~~2023, 2024 and 2025~~, except that any unused portion of the ~~a strike~~ quota for each year ~~from the three prior quota blocks under a Strike Limit Algorithm management advice~~ shall be carried forward from that year and added to the strike quotas of any of the subsequent years, provided that no more than 2 strikes 50 percent of the annual strike limit shall be added to the strike quota for any one year. ~~This provision will be reviewed if new scientific data become available within the remaining quota period and if necessary amended on basis of the advice of the Scientific Committee.~~

- (4) For the seasons ~~2013-2018~~ 2019-2025 the number of humpback whales to be taken by the Bequians of St. Vincent and The Grenadines shall not exceed ~~24~~ 28. The meat and products of such whales are to be used exclusively for local consumption in St. Vincent and The Grenadines.

Baleen Whale Size Limits

15(b) It is forbidden to take or kill any fin whales below 57 feet (17.4 metres) in length in the Southern Hemisphere, and it is forbidden to take or kill fin whales below 55 feet (16.8 metres) in the Northern Hemisphere; except that fin whales of not less than 55 feet (16.8 metres) may be taken in the Southern Hemisphere for delivery to land stations and fin whales of not less than 50 feet (15.2 metres) may be taken in the Northern Hemisphere for delivery to land stations, provided that, in each case the meat of such whales is to be used for local consumption as human or animal food. **This paragraph shall not apply to aboriginal subsistence whaling under paragraph 13(b)(3)(i).**

Appendix 2
Resolutions Adopted at the 67th Meeting

Resolution 2018-1

**Resolution on the Response to the Independent Review
of the International Whaling Commission**

RECALLING Resolution 2016-1, which the International Whaling Commission adopted by consensus to establish a comprehensive, independent review of its institutional and governance arrangements;

NOTING the importance of continuing to work towards consensus agreement on reforming the Commission;

REAFFIRMING the Commission's commitment to ensure it aligns its institutional and governance arrangements with best practice for contemporary multilateral treaty bodies, notwithstanding any difference in views among Commission members on substantive matters;

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGING the work of the independent review panel selected to conduct the review in accordance with the Terms of Reference for an Independent Review of the International Whaling Commission;

RECOGNISING the extensive outreach the review panel undertook to reach an informed view, including through soliciting the views of all Commission members, the Secretariat, accredited observers, and representatives of other multilateral treaty bodies;

NOTING that the review panel submitted a final report on 8 April 2018, and that the report provides recommendations for institutional and governance reform, and calls on the Commission to develop an implementation plan for reform;

NOTING that a number of the panel's recommendations are already underway;

FURTHER RECOGNISING the need for the Commission to respond to the independent review panel's report in a timely and considered way, and ensure the Commission is on a clear path to becoming a more accountable and effective organisation.

NOW, THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:

ACKNOWLEDGES receipt of the independent review panel's report, which provides a basis upon which to progress reform of the Commission's institutional and governance arrangements;

ADOPTS the report of the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness, and considering the recommendations of the independent review panel's report, **DIRECTS** the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness to develop a plan to implement reforms that will improve the institutional and governance arrangements of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, to be presented to the 68th meeting of the Commission;

REQUESTS subsidiary bodies, contracting governments and accredited observers continue to work with the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness for the development of a plan to implement the reforms that will improve institutional and governance arrangements of the Commission;

AGREES to the Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness found at Annex A;

FURTHER AGREES that existing work to improve governance and accountability being progressed by the Secretariat, the Bureau or other relevant subsidiary bodies as identified in Annex B should continue.

Annex A

Terms of Reference to develop an implementation plan for institutional and governance reform

Objective

The Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (Working Group) will identify reforms to improve and enhance the effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission's institutional and governance arrangements, and develop an implementation plan for consideration by the Commission at its 68th meeting in 2020.

Scope

The following elements of the Commission's institutional and governance arrangements will be considered:

- (a) Strategic and work planning practices;
- (b) Meeting arrangements, conduct and procedures;
- (c) Subsidiary bodies (Secretariat, Bureau, committees and subgroups);
- (d) Communication and outreach;
- (e) Financial management;
- (f) Rules of procedure and legal preparedness.

Out of scope

As per Resolution 2016-1 on *Enhancing the Effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission*, institutional and governance reforms will not take account of the Commission's objectives or mandate. The Working Group will not consider reforms that seek to amend or relate to:

- (a) The text of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling;
- (b) The text of the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling;
- (c) The conservation and management status of cetaceans;
- (d) Contracting Governments' compliance with the Convention and Schedule;
- (e) Aligning the Commission's operations with the International Court of Justice's judgment in the case concerning Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia v. Japan: New Zealand intervening).

Inputs

The Working Group will take account of the following sources of information to identify reforms and develop the implementation plan:

- (a) The report of the independent review panel and its recommendations (2018)
- (b) The Scientific Committee's preliminary feedback on the independent review panel's report (IWC/67/Rep01(2018), Annex X)
- (c) Additional input as a result of consultation undertaken by the Working Group following IWC67 with subsidiary bodies, contracting governments and accredited observers

Working method and time

The Working Group will conduct its work in two stages:

(1) *Identify reforms*

The Working Group should build on the consultation undertaken by the independent review panel. The views of subsidiary bodies, contracting governments and accredited observers should be sought. The method of consultation is to be determined by the Working Group. This stage should be completed by July 2019.

(2) *Develop an implementation plan*

The plan to implement the reforms should include:

- (a) Discrete deliverables
- (b) Identified leads
- (c) Timeframes
- (d) Performance indicators

This plan should be developed in time for consideration by the Commission at its 68th meeting in 2020.

Annex B

The Secretariat should continue to progress the following improvements to management and accountability in the next intersessional period. These improvements are already underway, straightforward and do not require additional resources, and can be implemented without delay.

- Review the provision of IT services to the Commission to improve the efficiency of the Secretariat and to enable effective collaboration between the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
- The Secretariat to work with the Commission and its subgroups to enhance financial management and financial reporting practices including by:
 - Ensuring compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards and accounting best practice
 - Continuing to enhance the currency, risk and cash flow management strategy and associated policies
 - Establishing a consistent approach to the calculation of per diems for Commission meetings, subgroup meetings and workshops
 - Ensuring that robust contracts are in place for all work being undertaken for the Commission in line with U.K. legal requirements and procurement best practice.
- Enhance the Secretariat's operation and management practices through:
 - Reviewing and amending staff regulations and human resource policies to ensure they are in line with U.K. legal requirements and best practice
 - Reviewing the allocation of financial and human resources within the Secretariat to ensure that they are aligned to Commission priorities
 - Developing an organisational risk register for the Secretariat
 - Developing a plan to ensure organisational resilience to potential staff turnover in the short to medium term, and build depth of capability where needed.

Resolution 2018-2

Resolution on Advancing the Commission's Work on the Role of Cetaceans in the Ecosystem Functioning

RECALLING the IWC's acknowledgement in Resolution 2016-3 of the biological contributions made by cetaceans to ecosystem functioning and their associated economic and social values;

RECALLING ALSO the IWC's recognition of the need to integrate the contribution made by live cetaceans and carcasses present in the ocean to marine ecosystem functioning into the decision-making processes of the IWC and other fora;

RECALLING FURTHER the IWC's decision to increase collaboration and cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations to advance this work;

NOTING the Scientific Committee recommendation and plan to conduct an expert workshop to, among other outcomes, review the current state of knowledge on the ecosystem functioning provided by cetaceans and develop a prioritized list of recommendations for scientific research to fill identified knowledge gaps, as requested from the Scientific Committee in Resolution 2016-3;

NOTING ALSO that the Conservation Committee has established a Working Group on Cetaceans and their role in Ecosystem Functioning in order to make recommendations on how the Committee could address Resolution 2016-3, including how to review the ecological, management, environmental, social and economic aspects of the contributions of cetaceans;

AWARE that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) adopted a Resolution on the Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region (UNEP/CMS/COP12/Doc.24.2.6) which requests the CMS Secretariat and the CMS Scientific Council to work with the Scientific and Conservation Committees of the International Whaling Commission to increase understanding of cetaceans' contribution to the functioning of marine ecosystems, including co-hosting a workshop to review the existing data and research and identify opportunities to expand this work.

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION

COMMENDS the Scientific and Conservation Committee for their efforts to increase understanding of the contribution of cetaceans to ecosystem functioning, and encourages them to collaborate whenever possible with CMS and other international organisations, including to identify additional opportunities to jointly advance this work;

ENCOURAGES the Scientific and Conservation Committees to seek synergies and advance co-operation and co-ordination regarding their complementary work streams on this issue;

ENCOURAGES Contracting Governments to integrate the value of cetaceans' ecological roles into local, regional and global organisations on biodiversity and environment, including climate change and conservation policies;

REQUESTS the Secretariat to convey this resolution to the CMS Secretariat as well as other relevant fora.

Resolution 2018-3

Resolution on Ghost Gear entanglement among cetaceans

ACKNOWLEDGING that the abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) is recognised as a major anthropogenic global problem that causes economic losses, environmental damage and harm to marine wildlife, including cetaceans;

Further acknowledging that bycatch in active fishing gear is the greatest immediate threat for cetaceans globally, and that the IWC is committed to addressing this issue through its Bycatch Mitigation Initiative;

RECOGNISING that despite being extremely difficult to quantify, the amount of existing ALDFG is prevalent and likely to be increasing;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that the mortality rates associated with ghost fishing gear are very difficult to quantify, especially transient ALDFG that follow the winds and geostrophic currents, making them difficult to track and find, and prolonged studies very challenging;

AWARE that entanglement due to ALDFG is an increasingly significant threat to cetacean welfare, causing infection, starvation, drowning and even amputation of fins or tails and that it is an obstacle to the recovery of some endangered whale and dolphin populations;

RECALLING the Global Whale Entanglement Response Network developed by the IWC that promotes capacity building of national leaders in disentanglement programmes of large whales for IWC Contracting Governments;

NOTING the wide collaboration of the IWC with other international governmental conventions and organizations; and the active engagement of the Secretariat with the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO);

FURTHER NOTING that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' Committee on Fisheries endorsed Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear at its thirty-third session and further work to address ALDFG, including the development of a comprehensive global strategy to tackle issues relating to ALDFG;

NOW, therefore, the Commission,

RECOGNISES the transboundary nature of the ALDFG problem and the importance of regional and international cooperation by IWC Contracting Governments and other International Organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Maritime Organization of the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to prevent and mitigate ALDFG, in addition to national- and local-level initiatives;

ENCOURAGES the IWC Secretariat in conjunction with Contracting Governments, other International Organizations and NGOs to continue to work constructively towards the development of best practices to avoid ALDFG, and consequently to reduce the entanglement of whales and dolphins in ghost fishing gear and to develop techniques to locate it and to clean up what is already accumulated in the ocean.

DIRECTS the Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee to continue their work on ghost fishing gear and its impacts to cetaceans in its work, including assessing the risk of each gear's propensity to become ALDFG and to pose a threat to harm cetaceans and which species or regions are most affected.

URGES Contracting Governments to report any relevant information on ghost gear in their voluntary conservation report.

AGREES to increase collaboration and co-operation with governmental, regional and other international organizations and NGOs, including cross-sectoral coalitions, such as the Global Ghost Gear Initiative and the Global

Partnership on Marine Litter, working on the development and implementation of best practices as well as the development of innovations to prevent and mitigate ALDFG.

INVITES Parties to join the IWC Global Whale Entanglement Response Network to professionally train and form teams for entanglement responders.

AGREES that any provisions of this Resolution should not duplicate work of other organisations in this regard.

Resolution 2018-4

Resolution on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise

Recognising the increased understanding of environmental stressors to cetaceans since the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) was concluded in 1946;

Noting that cetaceans fundamentally depend on sound for their survival and that exposure to certain anthropogenic underwater noise can have both physiological and behavioral consequences for cetaceans;

Further noting that noise can travel over long ranges in the marine environment across and beyond areas of national jurisdiction;

Recognising the rapid growth during recent decades of anthropogenic underwater noise generated by human activities, as evidenced from locations where such data are available, such as shipping, seismic exploration, drilling, construction etc.;

Noting the advice of the Scientific Committee, presented in its 2016 report that there is evidence indicating that chronic anthropogenic underwater noise is affecting the marine acoustic environment in many regions, and that there is emerging evidence that compromised acoustic habitat may adversely affect some cetacean populations;

Noting that emerging research indicates there may be effects of anthropogenic underwater noise at lower trophic levels;

Recalling the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, that sets out the obligation on States to protect and preserve the marine environment and, to assess the potential effects of activities that may cause substantial pollution or significant and harmful changes to the marine environment, including marine mammals;

Further recalling Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development "Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Sea and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development" and its Target 14.1 to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds by 2025;

Noting that anthropogenic underwater noise is not persistent and can be reduced in the marine environment immediately by reducing the emissions of noise at the source;

Gratefully acknowledging the significant body of work accomplished to date by the Scientific Committee on the issue of anthropogenic underwater noise;

Welcoming the inclusion of anthropogenic underwater noise as a priority threat to address in the Conservation Committee's Strategic Plan 2016-2026;

Further welcoming the increased attention being given to the issue of anthropogenic underwater noise by international bodies including: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its daughter agreements; the International Maritime Organization (IMO); and the United Nations General Assembly, and Regional bodies such as the Regional Seas Conventions;

Further noting examination of the issue of anthropogenic underwater noise by the UN Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, in June 2018 to which the IWC contributed extensively;

Now, therefore the Commission:

1. **Agrees** that considering anthropogenic underwater noise will contribute towards achieving Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development "Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Sea and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development"

2. **Further agrees** that, in line with the precautionary approach, the lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost effective measures to address the effects of anthropogenic underwater noise (or other potential threats);
3. **Recommends** contracting governments to:
 - a. Incentivize the development, adoption and voluntary transfer, on mutually agreed terms, of technologies and strategies that mitigate the impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on cetaceans from various activities that produce the noise; If appropriate, this could be carried out through regulatory measures;
 - b. Consider working with appropriate stakeholders to establish national and regional anthropogenic noise registers and monitoring programmes, as appropriate, to support the assessment of anthropogenic underwater noise impacts on cetaceans;
 - c. Engage with industries, academia, NGOs, and other stakeholders to support the development and implementation of mitigation strategies and best practices that protect cetaceans in line with an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach;
 - d. Take into account best practice guidelines to ensure robust, comprehensive, and transparent assessment and to facilitate mitigation of adverse effects of anthropogenic underwater noise, such as the *IMO Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life* (circular MEPC.1/Circ.833) and the *CMS guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities* (CMS, 2017);
 - e. Consider that cetacean research and conservation management efforts include the protection of the acoustic habitat and the impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on lower trophic levels, including fish, invertebrates and other marine mammal prey species;
 - f. Support the adoption of measures, such as noise standards, by relevant national and international authorities that reduce the risk of harmful impacts occurring on cetaceans from the introduction of anthropogenic underwater noise;
4. **Instructs** the Scientific Committee to continue its work regarding anthropogenic underwater noise and cetaceans, with a particular focus on: (1) evaluation of the extent and degree of exposure of cetaceans to different types of noise; (2) obtaining a better understanding of the effects of noise on cetaceans at the individual and population level, including chronic and acute effects; (3) reviewing the effectiveness of different approaches to reducing cetacean exposure to noise; and (4) reviewing work on the impacts of noise on cetacean prey and considering any implications of this for cetacean populations via the food-chain;
5. **Instructs** the Conservation Committee to review progress in implementing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of anthropogenic underwater noise and, based on this review, develop advice on priority actions to implement to address the impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on cetaceans;
6. **Agrees** that the provisions in this Resolution should not duplicate the work of other organizations in addressing this matter;
7. **Requests** the IWC Secretariat to:
 - a. forward a copy of this Resolution to the Secretariats of the CBD, CMS, IMO, FAO and other relevant specialized agencies and programs of the UN, including the Division on Oceans and Law of the Sea;
 - b. bring information relating to anthropogenic underwater noise impacts on cetaceans to the attention of these forums; and
 - c. encourage actions by and promote cooperation between these forums, consistent with their mandates, to address anthropogenic underwater noise in recognition of the impacts it can have on cetaceans.

Resolution 2018-5

RESOLUTION: THE FLORIANÓPOLIS DECLARATION ON THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION IN THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WHALES IN THE 21st CENTURY

WHEREAS the International Whaling Commission has been widely recognised as the main international body directly charged with the conservation of cetaceans and the management of whaling;

RECOGNISING that the evolution of whale research methods, management alternatives and the sustainable use of whale resources, as well as that of international law since the adoption of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) in 1946 has led the role of the Commission to evolve through the adoption of more than a hundred conservation-oriented resolutions, as well as through various Schedule amendments to include, *inter alia*, the management of non-lethal appropriation of whale resources, as well as the maintenance of healthy cetacean populations to fulfill the vital ecological and carbon cycling roles these animals play in the global marine ecosystem functioning;

ACKNOWLEDGING that there are diverging views among Member States of the Commission regarding how the IWC's mandate should be adequately implemented, in a manner that would satisfy the broadest interest of all humankind in the conservation of cetaceans and their habitats, while recognizing the importance of accommodating the needs of indigenous people who are dependent upon whales for subsistence and cultural purposes;

RECALLING Resolution 2007-3 on the non-lethal use of cetaceans and **FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING** that cetaceans make significant contributions to ecosystem functioning and are beneficial for the natural environment and people, and that the sustainable, non-lethal and non-extractive use of whales is a rapidly growing activity deserving of recognition that provides significant socio-economic benefits for coastal communities around the world, particularly in developing countries;

REAFFIRMING that the moratorium on commercial whaling, which has been in effect since 1986, has contributed to the recovery of some cetacean populations, and **AWARE** of the cumulative effects of multiple, existing and emerging threats to cetacean populations such as entanglement, bycatch, underwater noise, ship strikes, marine debris and climate change;

NOTING that Whale Sanctuaries have been repeatedly proposed by member States under Article V of the ICRW with the support of a majority of the Contracting governments in areas where non-lethal activities have provided relevant scientific results, jobs and income for coastal communities,

FURTHER NOTING Resolution [2018-1] on the Response to the Independence Review of the International Whaling Commission;

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:

AGREES that the role of the International Whaling Commission in the 21st Century includes *inter alia* its responsibility to ensure the recovery of cetacean populations to their pre-industrial levels, and in this context **REAFFIRMS** the importance in maintaining the moratorium on commercial whaling;

ACKNOWLEDGES the existence of an abundance of contemporary non-lethal cetacean research methods and therefore **AGREES** that the use of lethal research methods is unnecessary;

SEEKS TO ENSURE that aboriginal subsistence whaling for the benefit of indigenous communities should meet the Commission's management and conservation objectives, taking into account the safety of hunters and the welfare of cetaceans;

INSTRUCTS the Commission's relevant subsidiary bodies to take into account the need to adequately fund

conservation and non-lethal management issues when implementing the plan to be developed by the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness according to Resolution [2018-1];

TAKES NOTE of the Resolution on the Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region (UNEP/CMS/Resolution 12.17) adopted by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals at its 12th Conference of the Parties in 2017 and **ENCOURAGES** Range States of the South Atlantic to cooperate in its implementation as appropriate;

REQUESTS the Secretariat to seek further cooperation with other relevant international agreements and organizations, such as, inter alia, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animal, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and the World Tourism Organization, to coordinate actions for the conservation of cetaceans, including the promotion of sustainable non-lethal use; and

FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to forward this Declaration to the United Nations' Secretary-General, the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other relevant international agreements with which the Commission maintains regular communication and cooperation.
