

Annex G

Report of the Conservation Committee

Friday 7 September 2018, Florianopolis, Brazil

SUMMARY OF MAIN OUTCOMES

Agenda Item	Main outcomes
3.2 Workplan for the 2018-2020 Biennium and beyond	The CC requested the Secretariat to update the CC Workplan after IWC67 and maintain it as a living document on the IWC website.
4.1 Working Methods of the Conservation Committee	Working methods (IWC/67/CC/03) were endorsed by the CC and will be updated after IWC67 and posted on the IWC website.
4.2 Timing of Conservation Committee meetings	The proposal to hold annual CC meetings was endorsed and referred to the F&A Committee for further consideration.
4.3 Voluntary Conservation Reports	A proposal to revise the template for Voluntary Conservation Reports (IWC/67/CC/10) through an integrated database was endorsed and an application will be made to the Voluntary Conservation Fund.
4.4 IWC Governance Review	The CC agreed that its comments on recommendations in the governance review relating to the CC should be forwarded to the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness. These are attached as Appendix 4.
5 Joint Working Group of the Conservation Committee and the Scientific Committee	<p>The Committee endorsed the actions proposed in IWC/67/CC/15 as follows:</p> <p>(1) The Commission is asked to endorse the overarching aims and principles of the database as outlined in Document IWC/67/CC/15.</p> <p>(2) The Commission is asked to instruct the Secretariat to populate the database and facilitate its use by the relevant (Sub) Committees, including through the development of a data entry template for use by convenors.</p> <p>(3) The Commission is asked to endorse the above review process and request that the Scientific and Conservation Committees begin to implement this into their standard working practices and report back at IWC68.</p> <p>(4) The F&A Committee and its subsidiary body the Working Group on Organizational Effectiveness is asked to consider and advise on the value in developing a formal process for reviewing the wider effectiveness of the organisation, drawing on the outputs of the database and work of the Committees in considering and reporting their own progress towards implementation.</p> <p>(5) The Commission is asked to agree to the resource requirements necessary to operationalise the database.</p>
6. Whale Sanctuaries	The CC endorsed the draft SOS Management Plan contained in IWC/67/CC/06.
7. Bycatch	The CC endorsed all the recommendations of the SWG-Bycatch including (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 Committee urged Contracting Governments to support the BMI through the development of appropriate national legislation and plans to tackle bycatch; and reporting of experiences and plans on bycatch into the BMI and through Conservation Committee Reports.
8. Whale Watching	The CC endorsed the recommendations of the SWG-WW in IWC/67/CC/04, including the revised Strategic Plan and the work plan for the next intersessional period.

	The CC endorsed the Whale Watching Handbook, the communications strategy to promote it, and agreed the budget for its maintenance including an application to the Voluntary Conservation Fund.
9. Conservation Management Plans	<p>The CC endorsed the revised CMP Work Plan 2014-2020 and the recommendations of the SWG-CMP, and agreed that the SWG-CMP develop a thematic strategic plan for CMPs during the next intersessional period, to be submitted to the Commission for endorsement.</p> <p>The CC thanked the coordinators of the four current CMPs for their ongoing commitment and excellent work to protect vulnerable populations of cetaceans. The CC endorsed the 2019-2020 implementation strategy for the South Pacific Southern Right Whale for submission to the Commission. It recommended approval of an allocation of £10,000 from the CMP Voluntary Fund, to support stranding and entanglement response training under the Eastern Southern Pacific Southern Right Whale CMP.</p> <p>The CC noted progress made with regards priority species for CMP and encouraged further efforts during the next intersessional period.</p>
10. Ship Strikes	The CC endorsed the WG-SS Strategic Plan and adopted its work programme as set out in IWC/67/CC/12. The CC also supported the request for funds for a workshop as elaborated in Annex 1 of the document and an application will be made to the Voluntary Conservation Fund.
11. Marine Debris	The Committee endorsed the proposals for further work on marine debris including the establishment of the Intersessional Correspondence Group to further scope this work.
12. Anthropogenic Underwater Noise	<p>The Committee endorsed the proposals for further work on Anthropogenic Underwater noise including the establishment of an intersessional correspondence group to further scope this work and engagement with other organisations.</p> <p>The Committee supported the draft Resolution on Anthropogenic Underwater noise available as IWC/67/05.</p>
13. Cetaceans and Ecosystem Functioning	The CC endorsed the proposals for future work outlined in IWC/67/CC/16 in principle subject to consideration of budget implications.
14. Small Cetaceans	<p>The CC welcomed the work of the Small Cetaceans Fund and thanked donors for their contributions.</p> <p>The CC recommended that the Secretariat be requested to write to Chinese authorities to forward concerns on the proposed transfer of finless porpoises from an <i>ex situ</i> population to commercial aquaria.</p>
15. Species of urgent or emerging concern	The CC agreed to work intersessionally on how the IWC can take action for species of urgent or critical concern. They recommended this should also be discussed as part of the governance review process.
16. Engagement with other organisations	The CC endorsed the recommendations in IWC/67/19 on engaging other organisations.
17. Funding	<p>The Committee endorsed the continuation of the work of the ICG-SF and the activities proposed in IWC/67/FA/13.</p> <p>The Committee endorsed the proposed allocation process for the Voluntary Conservation Fund outlined in IWC/67/FA/04. Funding priorities endorsed by the CC would be forward to the Voluntary Conservation Steering Group for consideration.</p>

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. The list of participants is given as Appendix 1.

1.1. Appointment of Chair

2. Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho (Mexico) was appointed Chair.

1.2. Appointment of Rapporteurs

3. Patricia Cremona, Harriet Gillett, Martin Jenkins, Sara Oldfield and Pablo Sinovas were appointed rapporteurs.

1.3. Review of Documents

4. A list of documents is given as Appendix 2.

1.4. Observer Participation

5. The Chair noted that, in agreement with the Rules of Procedure and Rules of Debate, observers would be invited to speak after Contracting Governments.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

6. The adopted agenda is given in Appendix 3.

3. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN AND WORKPLAN

3.1. Updates to the Strategic Plan

7. At IWC66 in 2016 the Commission endorsed the Conservation Strategic Plan. The updated version of the Conservation Strategic Plan incorporating amendments adopted at IWC66 was **noted** by the CC. It is available on the IWC website.

3.2. Work Plan for the 2018-2020 Biennium and beyond

8. The CC Chair introduced a draft work plan for 2018-2020, available to the Committee as IWC/67/CC/23 (*Conservation Committee - Work Plan for the intersessional period 2018-2020*). He **requested** that the Secretariat would update the work plan after the present meeting and encouraged Standing Working Group chairs to send their updates to the Secretariat. The work plan will be maintained as a living document on the IWC website.
9. The Chair thanked Brazil and Spain for their offer to lead the development of work on chemical pollution. Financial or other resource implications for the 2018-2020 biennium were further discussed under item 17.

4. STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

4.1. Working Methods of the Conservation Committee

10. The CC Chair informed the CC that, at the request of the Conservation Committee Planning Group, an intersessional group comprising the Chair and Vice Chair of the CC, the Secretariat, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Norway and Chile had developed draft CC Working Methods for consideration by the Committee.
11. The draft Working Methods document, available as IWC/67/CC/03 (*Conservation Committee Working Methods*) was introduced by the Secretariat. The Secretariat noted that the document contains a number of provisions that relate to existing practices as well as some new proposals, including: establishment of CC focal points for intersessional updates; terms for officers of the CC; a new deadline for submission of primary documents in advance of CC meetings; and proposals regarding the nature and accessibility of meeting documents. There are also several areas which relate to other proposals that have been submitted to the Commission at IWC67, and these changes can either be adopted or amended depending on the outcome of discussions on these items. The Secretariat can make those changes on conclusion of IWC67.
12. In addition, the document covers several areas that have been raised as issues in the Governance Review. Some future amendments may therefore be required to ensure coherence with the

Governance review process and outcomes. It is thus proposed that these Working Methods are a living document and can be submitted for review and amendment, if necessary, at IWC68.

13. The UK expressed its support for the draft Working Methods and the proposal to review and update the document as needed going forward.
14. The draft Working Methods were **endorsed** by the CC and will be updated by the Secretariat at the close of IWC67 and posted on the IWC website. The CC Chair noted that, since the Working Methods introduce terms for chairs, the CC should be ready to propose new chairs or reconfirm existing chairs at IWC68.

4.2. Timing of Conservation Committee Meetings

15. At its 2016 meeting, the CC agreed to prepare a proposal to hold annual CC meetings. The proposal, available to the Committee as IWC/67/FA/01 (*Proposal for annual meetings of the Conservation Committee including a proposed change to Rule of Procedure B.3*), was introduced by the CC Vice Chair. He noted that the proposal had already been presented at the meeting of the Budgetary Sub-Committee the previous day and would subsequently be considered by both the Finance and Administration Committee and the Commission.
16. Support for the proposal was expressed by Australia, Belgium and Chile. Switzerland supported the proposal in principle, however, expressed concern about the budgetary implications and if it would have an adverse impact on the Scientific Committee.
17. The proposal was **endorsed** by the CC and referred to F&A for further consideration.

4.3. Voluntary Conservation Reports

18. Contracting Governments may submit voluntary national reports on cetacean conservation to the CC. The CC welcomes these reports and has encouraged more countries to submit them. At its meeting in October 2016 the CC established an intersessional group, comprising the Secretariat, Australia, Mexico, New Zealand and the UK, to review and develop the report template and align it with the new CC Strategic Plan.

4.3.1. Contracting member reports

19. The CC **welcomed** the voluntary national reports on cetacean conservation submitted by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, UK and USA (available as IWC/67/CC/24, IWC/67/CC/19, IWC/67/CC/25, IWC/67/CC/21, IWC/67/CC/26, IWC/67/CC/09, IWC/67/CC/22 and IWC/67/CC/20 respectively).

4.3.2. Review of the Voluntary Conservation Reporting Template

20. A proposal to revise the template for Voluntary Conservation Reports, available as IWC/67/CC/10 (*IWC Voluntary Conservation Reports refresh: Proposal for a Conservation Database*), was introduced by New Zealand. They noted that the proposal represents a shift from static written reports to a publicly-accessible online database, which could be updated as required and would be searchable by country or conservation theme. Governments would receive annual reminders to submit relevant information to the database and would need to provide updates only for those sections where information had changed. They indicated that several costed options for development of the database were included in Annex 3 of IWC/67/CC/10, noting that a database integrated with the existing IWC website would be subject to additional costs compared to a stand-alone database.
21. New Zealand indicated that they had made a donation of GBP 20,000 to the Voluntary Conservation Fund (VCF) some of which could be used towards the development of the proposed database, or other areas of work depending on priorities identified by the VCF Steering Group
22. Argentina, Belgium, Costa Rica, UK and USA expressed their support for the proposal; the UK stressed that an integrated database would have potential future benefits in facilitating

harmonisation with other reporting requirements which they believed would justify the additional costs relative to a stand-alone database.

23. The CC **endorsed** the proposal to develop the integrated database. The Chair indicated that a funding application would be submitted to the VCF Steering Group.

4.4. IWC Governance Review

24. The CC Chair reminded the CC that Resolution 2016-1 adopted at IWC66 had agreed to a comprehensive independent review of the Commission's Institutional and Governance arrangements. The review was conducted by a panel of three independent reviewers and submitted in April 2018 (IWC/67/18 - *IWC Review – Final Report 8 April 2018*). It contained a number of recommendations relevant to the CC. These are included in table form in IWC/67/CC/05 Rev 1 (*IWC Governance Review - Review and Response by the Conservation Committee*), along with notes from the CC Chair. The Chair proposed that countries provide some general remarks on these recommendations and then can submit more detailed comments to the Secretariat for inclusion in the report

4.4.1. Introduction to the Governance Review process and report

25. In introducing the Governance Review and its report Lisa Phelps (US), Chair of the Operational Effectiveness Working Group noted that the review had in part been based on a stakeholder survey which had received a low (ca 6%) response rate and might therefore not represent all views of those engaged with the Commission. In view of this, the Working Group was recommending that further work on this issue should use inputs from the various Committees as well as the review's conclusions and recommendations.

4.4.2. Discussion of findings and recommendations

26. Australia and the United Kingdom, generally supported the review's recommendations that applied to the CC, noting that they would be addressed in further detail as the process continued. The UK supported the recommendation to move to annual meetings and believed that the CC merited support from the core budget. They stressed the importance of improving external communication and cooperation with other bodies.
27. The CC Chair noted that many of the recommendation regarding the CC in the independent review had already been acted on, and that others were currently being addressed. Comments made during the CC and those sent after the meeting, will be incorporated into the document. This updated report (Appendix 4) would be circulated to CC participants with the CC report, then finalised for forwarding to the Operational Effectiveness Working Group and for presentation to the Commission.

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

5.1. Database of recommendations

5.2. Review of implementation of recommendations

5.3. Guidance for drafting recommendations

28. The CC Chair noted that at IWC66 in October 2016, the Commission had endorsed a CC proposal 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 (SC). The Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group had addressed this issue at its 2017 and 2018 meetings, and a small working meeting on the database had been held in 2017.
29. The CC Vice Chair, Jamie Rendell (UK) introduced IWC67/CC/15 (*IWC Database of Recommendations*) and its annexes, noting that these addressed Agenda items 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3. Annex 1 of the document contained detailed features of the recommendations database, Annex 2 guidance on drafting recommendations and Annex 3 a proposed process for reviewing the implementation of recommendations. He noted that now the database had been delivered, the

task was to embed it into working practices. He acknowledged that its implementation imposed a small resource burden on the Secretariat but believed that this was a sound investment which would improve efficiency.

30. Australia, Belgium and the Netherlands all congratulated the CC Vice Chair and others for their work and fully supported the proposals and recommendations in the document.
31. The Scientific Committee Chair, Caterina Fortuna also fully supported implementation of the database. She stated that the SC was working on refining style and improving consistency in drafting recommendations, whilst noting the challenge this presented given the number of different groups that worked in the SC.
32. The Committee **endorsed** the actions proposed in IWC67/CC/15 be forwarded to the Commission as follows:
 - (1) The Commission is asked to endorse the overarching aims and principles of the database as outlined in Document IWC/67/CC/15
 - (2) The Commission is asked to instruct the Secretariat to populate the database and facilitate its use by the relevant (Sub) Committees, including through the development of a data entry template for use by convenors.
 - (3) The Commission is asked to endorse the above review process and request that the Scientific and Conservation Committees begin to implement this into their standard working practices and report back at IWC68.
 - (4) The F&A Committee and its subsidiary body the Working Group on Organizational Effectiveness is asked to consider and advise on the value in developing a formal process for reviewing the wider effectiveness of the organisation, drawing on the outputs of the database and work of the Committees in considering and reporting their own progress towards implementation.
 - (5) The Commission is asked to agree to the resource requirements necessary to operationalise the database.

6. WHALE SANCTUARIES

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

6.1. Southern Ocean Sanctuary

34. The Southern Ocean Sanctuary was adopted in 1994. Australia introduced the most recent revision of the Draft Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SOS) Management Plan, available as IWC/67/CC06 (*Draft Southern Ocean Sanctuary Management Plan*), noting that the Plan had been first reviewed in 2004, with a second review completed in 2016. They noted that the SC had deferred consideration of Objectives 1 and 8 and the chapeau text of Objective 5, which relate to policy matters, to the Commission.
35. In its 2016 review, the Scientific Committee made the several recommendations of which the most important were:
 - *Each SOS objective should be linked to an appropriate performance measure.*
 - *Appropriate performance measures for the SOS should be developed. These should link the objectives of the SOS with field monitoring programmes.*
36. In accordance with the advice of the Scientific Committee, Australia developed a draft management plan which included operational objectives and performance measures (IWC/67/CC/06).
37. The SC Chair drew the Committee's attention to the Review of the SOS Management Plan undertaken by the SC Working Group on Whale Sanctuaries and contained in Annex R of IWC/67/REP/01 (*Reports of the Scientific Committee SC67a (2017) and SC67b (2018)*). She reported that the SC had endorsed the measurable objectives, actions and performance

measures of Objectives 2 to 7 of the SOS, as contained in the draft Management Plan. The SC had also agreed to include a new standing item on the agendas of all of the SC's relevant sub-committees and working groups to evaluate new information relevant to the Management Plan in order to assist the Commission in monitoring and measuring progress towards the scientific objectives of the Plan. She drew attention to a statement from the Government of Japan on the draft Management Plan included as Appendix 3 to Annex R of IWC/67/REP/01.

6.2. Committee discussions and recommendations

38. Brazil, New Zealand and Senegal supported the draft Management Plan and thanked Australia for its work on the plan. Brazil noted that this was a robust management plan applied to an existing Sanctuary and believed that this represented the way forward for the Commission. Senegal emphasised the importance of linking objectives to robust performance indicators.

39. The CC **endorsed** the draft SOS Management Plan as contained in IWC/67/CC/06.

7. BYCATCH

40. At IWC66 the Commission endorsed recommendations from the SC and CC on bycatch and agreed to establish a Standing Working Group on Bycatch (SWG-Bycatch). It also endorsed the establishment of a Bycatch Mitigation Initiative (BMI) supported by an Expert Panel and a Bycatch Coordinator.

7.1. Report from the Bycatch Standing Working Group

7.1.1. Strategic Plan for Bycatch

41. The SWG-Bycatch Chair (Stephanie Langerock) presented IWC/67/CC/11/Rev1 (*Report on the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative 2016-2018*). She noted that the SWG-Bycatch was formed in 2017 and includes representatives from 15 Contracting Governments and seven observer organisations.

42. The Chair highlighted the appointment of the Bycatch Coordinator, Marguerite Tarzia, in January 2018, with extension of this appointment subject to approval by IWC67.

43. The SWG-Bycatch Chair introduced IWC/67/CC01 (*Bycatch Mitigation Initiative Strategic Plan 2018-2020*). This was informed by a strategic assessment of bycatch undertaken by the Bycatch Coordinator together with the SWG-Bycatch using a Theory of Change process framework to evaluate the role of the IWC in contributing towards tackling this issue. The results were presented to the CC planning group (CCPG) and SC earlier in 2018.

44. The Strategic Plan has six objectives: (i) Programme coordination; (ii) Identification of specific fisheries, cetacean species or populations where achievable bycatch mitigation strategies could be tested and/or introduced; (iii) Development, testing and demonstration of effective bycatch mitigation and monitoring solutions; (iv) Bring about change in attitudes within fishing communities towards cetacean mitigation; (v) Raise awareness and capacity within national governments to tackle cetacean bycatch; (vi) Raise awareness of cetacean bycatch and available solutions within regional and international fisheries management organisations.

7.1.2. Bycatch Mitigation Initiative workplan

45. The SWG-Bycatch Chair presented IWC/67/CC02 (*IWC Bycatch Mitigation Initiative Workplan 2018-2020*). This identifies tasks to be undertaken in 2018-2020 in support of the above objectives. The proposed activities are prioritised and costed, with potential funding sources noted.

46. The Chair noted the proposal for a two-year extension for the contract of the Bycatch Coordinator. To date, this position has been supported by voluntary donations from France, UK and observers with New Zealand and USA recently providing additional funds. Belgium has provisionally approved funding of £18,000 for the next intersessional period. An application to the Voluntary Conservation Fund will also be required.

47. The Chair thanked Mark Simmonds who acted as interim Bycatch Coordinator, members of the SWG-Bycatch, the Expert Panel, and Marguerite Tarzia for their excellent work.

48. Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, Senegal, UK, and USA expressed their thanks to the SWG-Bycatch Chair, the Bycatch Coordinator and all involved in the successful work of the BMI and supported continuation of this work. In doing so Costa Rica noted that bycatch is the biggest killer of cetaceans and that this is just the start of an important programme of work that will require long term engagement. Germany concurred with the previous expressions of support and reported on its use of second generation pingers for bycatch mitigation in the Baltic Sea. Argentina also expressed thanks and support noting that in 2015 it had implemented a National Action Plan to reduce the interaction of marine mammals with fisheries (PAN Mammals). New Zealand considered the BMI to be complex and robust, and that it represented a significant opportunity for the IWC to improve conservation outcomes for cetaceans.
49. Humane Society International, WWF, the Brazilian Humpback Whale Institute, ProWildlife, IFAW, NRDC, OceanCare, Greenpeace, AWI, EIA, CSI, Dolphin Connection, el Instituto de Conservacion de Ballenas (ICB) and the Danish Society for the conservation of marine mammals expressed strong support for the BMI, drawing attention to a letter of support signed by 36 civil society organisations. This had been sent to the Chair of the SWG-Bycatch with a request to annex it to the SWG's Strategic Plan.

7.2. Report from the Scientific Committee

50. The Chair of the SC reported on SC discussions and recommendations on bycatch contained in sections 13 of 2017 (SC67a) *Report of the 2017 Scientific Committee* and section 12 of 2018 (SC67b) *Report of the 2018 Scientific Committee*.
51. The SC Chair highlighted that the SC had identified five criteria for prioritising pilot projects on bycatch and bycatch baselines. These are: urgent conservation risk or lack of data; likelihood of success; opportunity for IWC to monitor; ability to monitor effectiveness of mitigation actions and potential to contribute to mitigation in other areas. Priorities for work, which appear to fit the criteria are Republic of Congo, Ecuador, India, Pakistan and Peru.
52. She further explained that there is serious concern about the Burmeister porpoise in Peruvian waters. There is also continuing concern about Franciscana bycatch in Brazil despite the new Government fishing regulation.
53. Concerning bycatch and strandings data there were concerns about stranded dolphins along the Bay of Biscay coastline in 2016. She noted limitations in the use of strandings data for bycatch estimates and hence that it is also important to use observer programmes and electronic monitoring.
54. Referring to bycatch in the Indian Ocean, the SC Chair noted the SC's willingness to collaborate with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) on this issue and encouraged the Secretariat to work with the IOTC Secretariat.
55. The SC welcomed progress with the BMI and agreed to incorporate the five priority areas of work within the SC workplan. The SC recommended to the Commission that the BMI should be further supported and the Bycatch Coordinator role continued.

7.3. Conservation Committee recommendations on bycatch

56. The CC **endorsed** all the recommendations of the SWG-Bycatch including (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. It also noted the funding needs for the BMI and encouraged financial contributions and wider fund raising efforts. The Committee urged Contracting Governments to support the BMI through the development of appropriate national legislation and plans to tackle bycatch; and reporting of experiences and plans on bycatch to the BMI and through Conservation Committee Reports.

8. WHALE WATCHING

57. 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 SC. 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.

8.1. Report from the Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Whale Watching

58. The Chair of the Standing Working Group on Whale Watching (SWG-WW) (Ryan Wulff) introduced the Working Group's report, IWC/67/CC/04 (*Report of the Standing Working Group on Whale Watching*), which contained a summary of progress with the online Whale Watching Handbook, a proposed communications strategy for the Handbook, a budget for its maintenance, a revised Strategic Plan and the work plan for the next intersessional period.
59. The CC **endorsed** the recommendations of the SWG-WW in IWC/67/CC/04, including the work plan for the next intersessional period.

8.1.1. Progress with the online Whale Watching Handbook

60. The Chair of the SWG-WW presented the online Whale Watching Handbook, noting that translation of the web pages by the CMS into French and Spanish was underway and thanking the CMS for their contributions. He noted that development of the Handbook resulted from a long-term recommendation of both the SC and CC. He thanked the UK and USA for their contributions to the Voluntary Fund, the contractor Gianna Minton, the Secretariat and the CMS for their work on the project. He noted that IWC/67/CC/04 includes Annex C: Whale Watching Handbook Communications Plan and Annex D: Project Proposal and Budget – Whale Watching Handbook.
61. Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, France, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Senegal and UK thanked the SWG-WW Chair for the demonstration of the Handbook, commended the excellent work involved and noted that this work should continue. Argentina noted it was many years since the Handbook was first discussed but considered the result well worth the wait. Australia thought the Handbook demonstrated the maturity of the CC, and recommended that it be actively promoted particularly to the whale watching industry. Belgium, supported by Argentina and Monaco, considered the work gave IWC a major lead in the world on whale watching issues. New Zealand provided a voluntary contribution to support the development of outreach materials such as stickers and bookmarks, to promote the tool to non-member countries, which might provide further data, and asked for a further presentation to be given in plenary. Senegal suggested that more basic level information could be included for people with little knowledge of whales. UK stressed the need for a communication strategy and involvement of industry.
62. In response to a query from Dolphin Connection, the SWG-WW Chair noted that numerous whale watching companies had provided input to the early stages of the Handbook development and there were also industry representatives on the Standing Working Group.
63. Centro de Conservación Cetacea queried whether the Handbook included annual revenue data, resulting from whale watching since that related to non-lethal use of cetaceans; and if not, suggested this information be included in the website in the future. Humane Society International offered to help publicise the handbook through their links with the travel industry.
64. The Chair noted that the Handbook was currently on a development site, and would be made live pending approval in Plenary. In response to a query, he agreed to ask the developer to make the site live as soon as possible, to enable participants to test the site. He confirmed a lunchtime session would be held during Plenary to enable delegates to explore the Handbook and would discuss with the Chair of Plenary the possibility of a further presentation in Plenary.

65. The SC Chair noted that the SC agreed that the Handbook is comprehensive, scientifically substantive, user-friendly and well designed. The SC Chair noted two recommendations relating to the Handbook made by the SC in 2018 (SC67b) *Report of the 2018 Scientific Committee*:
- a. To ensure the IWC Whale Watching Handbook comes to the attention of the international whale watching community, including managers, operators and the public, the Committee **recommends** that all Contracting Governments provide a link to the Handbook on the relevant pages of their own governments' websites once the Handbook goes 'live'.
 - b. The Committee also **recommends** that the CC and the Commission develop a plan for identifying and securing long-term funding for the further development (e.g. translations into additional languages, writing additional case studies or country profiles) and the ongoing maintenance (e.g. periodic reviews of content) of the IWC Whale Watching Handbook. The Handbook must be updated regularly to remain a vibrant, living document.
66. The SC Chair welcomed the Handbook, noting that it is a living document and the need for a plan for its long-term maintenance.
67. The CC **endorsed** the Whale Watching Handbook and the communications strategy to promote it. It agreed the budget for its maintenance and that an application would be made to the Voluntary Conservation Fund.

8.1.2. Revision of the Five Year Strategic Plan

68. The Chair noted IWC/67/CC/04 *Annex B: Whale Watching Strategic Plan (2018-2024)*, the updated strategic plan which was developed over the intersessional period.
69. The CC **endorsed** the revised Strategic Plan.

8.1.3. Engagement with the Indian Ocean Rim Association

70. Australia provided a progress update on the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Sustainable Whale and Dolphin Watching Tourism Network, which aims to foster regional cooperation on the topic through information sharing, capacity building, and providing access to expertise. Australia noted that only eight out of the 21 IORA members states are members of IWC and the IORA Network provides a good opportunity to broaden the use of the Handbook.
71. Australia invited the Conservation Committee to provide content such as details of training and workshops, opportunities for collaboration between Network members and the Commission, and opportunities for capacity building for the IORA newsletter.

8.2. Report from the Scientific Committee

72. The SC Chair noted other progress in relation to whale watching given in item 17 in SC67a *Report of the 2017 Scientific Committee* and item 17.1 in SC67b *Report of the 2018 Scientific Committee*. This included: assessing the impacts of whale watching and swim-with-whale operations on cetaceans; and whale watching in East Africa and the wider Indian Ocean

9. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

9.1 Progress Report by the SWG-CMP

73. 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.
74. The CC Chair indicated that the Chair of the SWG-CMP (Suzi Heaton, Australia) could not attend IWC67 and invited Adam Clark (Australia) to give the report of the SWG-CMP on her behalf.
75. Australia introduced IWC/67/CC/08 (*Report of the Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans*) and noted that one of the biggest priorities for the SWG during the previous intersessional period was the mid-term review of the CMP Work Plan. The review found that: CMP

templates, guidelines and other supporting documents were easy to access and understand; more face-to-face support would be useful in the early stages of CMP development; lack of funding and buy-in from stakeholders resulted in difficulties in maintaining momentum during CMP implementation; better promotion of the CMP initiative and its achievements would be desirable; and there was a need to improve the CMP funding process.

76. Revisions to the CMP Work Plan included updates to the CMP guidelines and funding principles, amendments to the CMP development process to ensure it is more timely and flexible in light of the move to biennial Commission meetings, and new and revised action items for the final two years of the plan (see IWC/67/CC/08).
77. The SWG-CMP recommended developing a CMP thematic strategic plan during the next intersessional period, to take the place of the work plan from 2020 onwards.
78. The Chair of the Standing Working Group on Bycatch expressed support for the continued collaboration between the SWG-Bycatch and the SWG-CMP.
79. The CC noted the outcomes of the mid-term review of the CMP Work Plan 2014-2020, **endorsed** the revised CMP Work Plan 2014-2020 and the recommendations of the SWG-CMP, and **agreed** that the SWG-CMP develop a thematic strategic plan for CMPs during the next intersessional period, to be submitted to the Commission for endorsement at IWC68.

9.2 Progress on current CMPs

80. 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.
81. Australia thanked the coordinators of the four current CMPs for their ongoing commitment and excellent work to protect vulnerable populations of cetaceans.

9.2.1 Western North Pacific Gray Whale CMP

9.2.1.1 Update from range States

82. The USA noted that the Western North Pacific Gray Whale CMP was endorsed by the Commission in 2010. At the 2014 Commission meeting, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed by three range states: Japan, the Russian Federation and the USA. Two further range states, Republic of Korea and Mexico, signed the Memorandum in 2016.
83. Results of monitoring programmes indicated that the population structure of gray whales in the North Pacific is complex. The SC began a range-wide review of North Pacific gray whales in 2014 and the fifth range-wide Workshop on the Status of North Pacific Gray Whales was held in March 2018. The Workshop recommended that the Scientific Committee establish a small drafting group, to include IUCN and the IWC Head of Science, to update the CMP in light of new information and develop conservation questions that can be assessed using the new modelling framework for gray whales rangewide. Furthermore, there are plans for a stakeholder workshop to be co-convened by IWC and IUCN.
84. The Russian Federation spoke in support of the ongoing work and expressed an interest in participating in relevant workshops and training courses.

9.2.1.2 Scientific Committee update

85. The SC Chair referred to item 10.1 of the 2017 and 2018 Scientific Committee Reports (67a and 67a) and in particular to recommendations under item 10.1.3 in both reports. The SC reiterated the importance of long-term monitoring of gray whales and recommended that range states support such work. It welcomed the information provided this year, recognising the valuable

work undertaken in the rangewide assessment and the value of the modelling framework developed. The SC also reiterated concern at the risk of whales becoming entangled in gear placed by the salmon trap-net fishery off Sakhalin Island, and recommended that measures to be taken to reduce risk. The Committee reiterated the importance of the CMP (and its updating) for the conservation of western gray whales.

9.2.2 South Atlantic Southern Right Whale CMP

9.2.2.1 Update from range States

86. Brazil introduced this item as coordinator for the South Atlantic Southern Right Whale CMP. It noted that whale entanglement in the country is mitigated through a protocol developed in 2006 by the Southern Right Whale Protected Area Management Council that provides assistance and guidelines to coordinate actions and a contingency plan involving institutions of Santa Catarina State. In 2016, the Council organised a training course that was part of the disentanglement programme conducted by the Global Whale Entanglement Response Network. Brazil also noted that boat-based whale watching of the southern right whale has been prohibited in the country since 2015, but that a government management plan for whale watching is now in place to allow activities to resume. Organisations within Brazil are also conducting environmental education activities to tourists and local communities focused on informing individuals about southern right whales.

9.2.2.2 Scientific Committee update

87. The SC Chair referred to item 10.1.2 of the 2017 and 2018 Scientific Committee Reports. The SC reiterated the importance of continued monitoring of this population of southern right whales and research into threats that it may face. It welcomed information on progress with the actions of the CMP from Argentina and Brazil.

9.2.3 South Pacific Southern Right Whale CMP

9.2.3.1 Update from range States

88. Chile introduced this item as coordinator for the South Pacific Southern Right Whale CMP. It referred to IWC/67/CC/17, which provides a report of the Second International Coordination Meeting for the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan of the Eastern South Pacific Southern Right Whale Population (August 2018, Lima, Peru). During the August coordination meeting, the CMP Steering Committee reviewed progress against the 2016-2018 implementation strategy, concluding that most actions were completed successfully. Approximately GBP 200,000 was received for the implementation of activities under the 2016-2018 strategy.

89. Chile noted that the CMP Steering Committee had proposed a new implementation strategy for 2019-2020 in order to make further progress with the implementation of the CMP objectives. This strategy is presented in IWC/67/CC/18 Eastern South Pacific Southern Right Whale Conservation Management Plan Implementation Strategy 2019-2020, for endorsement by the Commission. The CMP Steering Committee considered that the CMP was in the early stages of implementation and that country participation must be consolidated. The implementation strategy for 2019-2020 has an estimated budget of GBP 213,000 which would be sought through a variety of means.

• Scientific Committee update

90. The SC Chair reported that the SC welcomed information on progress in implementing priority actions of the CMP including deployment of Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) devices in two locations along the coast of Chile and Peru; additional capacity-building and awareness efforts; and additional training towards increasing the capacity of range states to respond to entanglements. The SC commended the scientific work and international co-operation being undertaken for the PAM project and looked forward to receiving the results; it also advised that satellite imagery be explored as an additional means to inform the design of sighting surveys.

91. The CC **endorsed** the 2019-2020 implementation strategy for submission to the Commission. It **recommended** approval of an allocation of £10,000 from the CMP Voluntary Fund, to support

stranding and entanglement response training under the Eastern Southern Pacific Southern Right Whale CMP.

9.2.4 Franciscana CMP

9.2.4.1 Update from range States

92. Argentina introduced this item as coordinator for the Franciscana CMP and observed that bycatch was the main threat to the species. Argentina summarised progress with implementation of the Franciscana CMP, which had been endorsed by the Commission in 2016. The CMP contained seven priority actions for the next intersessional period. Section 10.1.4 of SC67a and SC67b contained information on progress with implementation of the CMP and provided an update on actions since the 2018 SC meeting, including a new stock abundance study in 2019, funded by Argentina and the Commission, and a productive meeting between Argentina and Uruguay held in June 2018 in Montevideo, Uruguay. Argentina acknowledged funding for the CMP from the Voluntary Fund, WDC, WWF and the Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust.
93. Argentina and Brazil remembered Pablo Bordino who had recently died, and noted that his death was a major blow to Franciscana research and conservation. The Chair of the CC noted that Pablo was a champion of Franciscana conservation, and that he inspired a generation of conservation biologists in Latin America and world-wide.
94. Brazil noted that since 2016 they had allocated some USD 4 million to conservation of the Franciscana, principally for monitoring projects in Management areas Ia, Ib and III. They were preparing a proposal for work in Management Area II.

9.2.4.2 Scientific Committee update

95. The SC Chair noted that the Government of Italy had contributed to the IWC Small Cetacean Fund to fund surveys of the Franciscana in Management areas Ia and Ib, thought to have the lowest abundance. A summary of the findings was included in Section 10.1.4.1 of SC67a. The SC considered that estimating abundance off Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, remained a high priority.

9.3 Priority species for future CMPS

9.3.1 Arabian Sea Humpback whales

96. Australia drew attention to progress towards the development of a CMP for Arabian Sea humpback whales as outlined in IWC/67/CC/08. They noted that in October 2017 the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) had agreed a Concerted Action for the population. In December 2017, the CMP SWG Chair and the Secretariat had jointly written to Oman and India asking them to consider leading the development of a CMP, in collaboration with other range states, the Commission, and CMS. India had responded in April 2018 indicating their support for the process. The CMP SWG would continue to build on developments and engage with relevant range States to support the development of a CMP during the next intersessional period.
97. The SC Chair noted that the SC welcomed important new information on this critically endangered population at their 2017 and 2018 meetings. A comparative study on humpback whale songs recorded off India, Oman, Reunion Island and Comoros Islands in the southwest Indian Ocean highlighted (a) the distinct nature of the Arabian Sea population and (b) that SW Indian Ocean whales may move into the Arabian Sea more commonly than previously thought. A humpback whale tagged off Oman showing the first recorded movement of a whale across the Arabian Sea (to the southern tip of India and back). Four additional satellite tags were deployed where the whales remained over the continental shelf of central and southern Oman.
98. The SC commended progress made by the Arabian Sea Whale Network noting, however, that the population remained in a very parlous state.

9.3.2 Mediterranean Fin whales

99. Australia observed that the Mediterranean population of fin whales was subject to a high rate of ship strikes. Australia noted that the Commission and the parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) had a joint work plan to address ship strikes in the Mediterranean. ACCOBAMS had endorsed the concept of a CMP for the population in 2016.

100. The SC Chair noted that the group tasked with drafting a CMP for this population, referred to in IWC/67/CC/08, would meet in September 2018.

9.3.3 Populations requiring further research

101. Australia noted that several action plans for the South American River Dolphin had been endorsed by range states, and advice had been sought from the Scientific Committee regarding the suitability of the population for a CMP.

102. The Chair of the SC noted that the Committee advised the applicable range states work towards developing a draft CMP for South American river dolphins for presentation at SC/68a, noting that several national action plans have been endorsed.

103. The CC **noted** progress made with regards priority species for CMPs. It encouraged further efforts during the next intersessional period.

9.4 CMP financial update

104. Australia provided a brief update on budget allocation of Voluntary Funds for individual CMPs. During the intersessional period, the CMP Fund has supported coordination of the South Pacific Southern Right Whale CMP for 24 months (£60,000), and coordination of the Franciscana CMP for 24 months (£38,400). There is approximately £96,000 remaining in the fund as at September 2018.

105. Australia noted that there are a number of expected calls on these remaining funds, including the Western North Pacific Gray Whale CMP workshop, coordination support for the South Atlantic Southern Right Whale CMP and the South Pacific Southern Right Whale CMP, and potential support for a workshop to start the development of a CMP for the Arabian Sea Humpback. These would need to be considered through the application process of the Fund.

106. Australia also noted that the Steering Group for the Voluntary Conservation Fund will put forward a proposal later in the meeting, which would see the CMP Fund brought under the umbrella of the Voluntary Conservation Fund. Under the proposal, CMP funding proposals would follow the same allocation process as the Voluntary Conservation Fund, but the Chair of the CMP Standing Working Group would retain control over the final approval. The Standing Working Group is supportive of this proposal.

10. SHIP STRIKES

107. 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 Working Group on Ship Strikes (WG-SS) which has reported progress regularly since 2006.

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

109. The Chair noted that Doug DeMaster had stepped down as Chair of the WG-SS and thanked Doug for his leadership of this group. Dave Weller (USA) had volunteered to take on the Chair's role.

10.1 Report from the Scientific Committee

110. The SC Chair summarised the SC's recent work and recommendations on this issue, as contained in Section 14 of the SC67a and SC67b. She reiterated the importance of the global ship strikes database.

10.2 Report from the Ship Strikes Working Group

111. Dave Weller (USA), Chair of the Working Group on Ship Strikes (WG-SS) introduced the group's report (IWC/67/CC/12), and thanked the outgoing Chair of the Working Group (Doug DeMaster) for all his hard work over the years. He noted that the Strategic Plan to Mitigate the Impacts of Ship Strikes on Cetacean Populations: 2017-20 had been finalised and posted online in March 2017.

112. He drew attention to the proposed WG-SS work plan contained in IWC/67/CC/12. In accordance with the Strategic Plan, a joint IWC-IUCN Marine Mammals Protected Areas Task Force workshop was proposed to examine how the data and process used to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) could assist the IWC to identify areas of high risk for ship strikes. A draft budget for the proposed workshop was included in Annex 1 of the document. The budget would be finalised after IWC67 and it was proposed that funds be sought from the Voluntary Conservation Fund.

10.3 Committee discussions and recommendations

113. Belgium supported the WG-SS strategic plan and emphasised the importance of coordinating activities on this issue with IMO and other relevant organisations. They were keen to see progress with the ship-strike database. In response to a question from Senegal, they reported that there had been no dedicated studies of ship strikes on cetaceans in the Eastern North Atlantic.

114. The Instituto Baleia Jubarte drew the CC's attention to an information document (IWC/67/CC/FORINFO/01) describing their work on preventing ship strikes on humpback whales in Brazilian waters. They emphasised the importance of engaging with industry stakeholders. Monaco concurred and suggested that a catalogue of best practice derived from cooperation with the industrial sector be developed.

115. The CC **endorsed** the WG-SS Strategic Plan, and adopted its work programme as set out in IWC/67/CC/12. The CC also supported the request for funds for the workshop as elaborated in Annex 1 of the document and that an application should be made to the Voluntary Conservation Fund once the final budget is determined.

11. MARINE DEBRIS

116. 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, including on the need for improved data collection and research on the impacts of marine debris on cetaceans and potential mitigation approaches. At IWC66 the Committee welcomed progress on engaging other organisations on this topic and encouraged this to continue.

117. 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

118. The SC Chair noted that this was a standing topic on the SC agenda but had not been addressed in detail at the SC's two recent meetings.

119. Belgium summarised actions taken under the IWC to date, noting that workshops had been held in 2013 and 2014, the first focussing on known impacts of marine debris on cetaceans and the

second concentrating on international liaison. The primary identified role of the IWC was to ensure that issues related to cetaceans were adequately reflected in other initiatives. The SC was in the pre-planning stage for a workshop on marine litter and plastics to coincide with the World Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals to be held in Barcelona, Spain, in 2019.

11.2 Future work by the Conservation Committee

120. The Netherlands introduced IWC/67/CC/13 Rev01 Progressing the work of the IWC on the impacts of marine debris on cetaceans which presents draft terms of reference for a proposed Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Debris. Establishment of this group was not expected to have any cost implications.

121. Australia supported the proposal by the Netherlands, whilst noting that the IWC should seek to add value to the existing work of other organisations on this topic. It expressed its wish to join the Intersessional Group.

122. Costa Rica noted that Decision XIII/10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Impacts of marine debris and anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity), specifically mentioned the IWC. They believed this presented an opportunity for synergy and possibly for funding.

123. Monaco and Senegal emphasised the recent scientific findings that microplastics were major vectors for marine pathogens. Belgium responded that the proposed 2019 workshop would have a focus on pathology.

124. The Committee **endorsed** the proposals for further work on marine debris including the establishment of the Intersessional Correspondence Group to further scope this work.

11.3 Draft Resolution on Ghost Gear Entanglement among Cetaceans

125. A draft resolution on Ghost Gear Entanglement Among Cetaceans (submitted by Brazil) was available as IWC/67/11. Brazil introduced the draft resolution, acknowledging the co-sponsors (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and New Zealand). They highlighted the increasingly significant threat to cetacean welfare posed by abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and drew attention to key aspects of the resolution, including measures to locate and clean up ghost gear and promote trans-boundary cooperation.

126. Australia expressed their support for the draft Resolution, noting that certain operative paragraphs may have significant resource implications and if that were the case, the Resolution should be considered by the F&A Committee; the Chair indicated that the F&A Committee would be informed.

12. ANTHROPOGENIC UNDERWATER NOISE

127. The Chair noted that 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.

12.1. Report from the Scientific Committee

128. The SC Chair presented an update on consideration of this issue by the SC, highlighting the Convention on Migratory Species Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-Generating Activities, and relevant research in this area including modelling cetacean communication space and use of marine soundscape planning strategies to reduce interference between hydroacoustic instrumentation and marine mammals. She noted that the SC had recommended that levels of anthropogenic noise and its effects on marine species be explicitly considered in the management of marine protected areas, and had proposed that a pre-meeting on this issue be organised prior to SC/68 subject to available funds.

12.2. Update on engagement with other organisations

129. The Secretariat provided an update on engagement with other organisations in relation to this issue, as presented in IWC/67/19 (Update on IWC Cooperation with other Organisations), including contribution to a UN report on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise submitted to the Open Ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea at its meeting on 18-22 June 2018, participation as a panellist at the same meeting and provision of a paper to the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee on the extent and impacts of underwater noise from shipping. The Secretariat indicated that it would continue to seek other such opportunities to engage on this issue. The USA commended the Secretariat's efforts in this regard.

130. The Committee **endorsed** continued cooperation with other organisations on this issue.

12.3. Draft Resolution on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise

131. Austria, on behalf of the EU, introduced the draft resolution on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise (IWC/67/05) which recommends several courses of action to reduce and eliminate anthropogenic underwater noise.

132. The Committee **supported** the draft Resolution on Anthropogenic Underwater noise available as IWC/05.

12.4. Discussion of future work

133. Argentina presented the proposal outlined in IWC/67/CC/14 (*Progressing the Work of the IWC on the Impacts of Marine Noise on Cetaceans*), which they had submitted with Brazil on the basis of discussions within an intersessional working group established at the 2018 meeting of the Conservation Committee Planning Group (CCPG) to identify initial steps in progressing work on noise under the CC Strategic Plan and Work Plan. They proposed formalising the role of the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Noise with the suggested terms of reference outlined in IWC/67/CC/14, and highlighted that additional members would be welcome.

134. Ocean Care, speaking also on behalf of Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC), welcomed the proposal in IWC/67/CC/14 and suggested that the proposed terms of reference for the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Noise specifically mention the IMO in addition to other named organisations with which engagement is encouraged. They also expressed their interest in joining an Intersessional Correspondence Group.

135. The Committee **endorsed** the proposals for further work on Anthropogenic Underwater noise including the establishment of the Intersessional Correspondence Group to further scope this work.

13. CETACEANS AND ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING

136. At its 2018 meeting the CC Planning Group considered how the CC could address Resolution 2016-3 related to Cetaceans and their Contribution to Ecosystem Functioning and established an intersessional working group to develop further proposals.

13.1. Report from the Scientific Committee

137. The SC Chair presented an update on consideration of this issue by the SC, noting that determining the contribution of cetaceans to ecosystem functioning is unlikely to be achieved in under a decade, given the complexity of the issue and the data gaps; and that the short-term priority is to undertake a gap analysis to identify knowledge gaps and develop a plan to address them. She indicated that, to further this work, the SC had agreed to hold a workshop to (a) define short- and medium-term objectives to be addressed and (b) to identify what further research is required in order to begin initial modelling of the contribution of cetaceans to ecosystem function; and requested the Secretariat in conjunction with the workshop steering group to contact CMS to determine their interest in participating in such a workshop.

13.2. Discussion of future work

138. Chile presented the report of the intersessional working group, available as IWC/67/CC/16, which proposes next steps for future work on this topic. She noted that a key proposal of the Working Group was to hold a specialized workshop in 2020 to assess the socio-economic values of the contribution of cetaceans to ecosystem functioning and report these advances to IWC68. She indicated that the Working Group would continue to work intersessionally and encouraged other interested parties to join.
139. Chile introduced the draft resolution on Advancing the Commission's Work on the Role of Cetaceans in the Ecosystem Functioning, which is available as IWC/67/17. They noted that key aspects of the draft resolution were to promote continued collaboration with other international organisations on this issue, in particular CMS, and encourage Members to ensure that the ecological value of cetaceans is taken into consideration in relevant local, regional and global decision-making processes.
140. Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas and Centro de Conservación Cetacea expressed their support for the proposals outlined in IWC/67/CC/16 as well as the draft resolution submitted by Chile.
141. The CC **endorsed** the proposals for future work outlined in IWC/67/CC/16 in principle, subject to consideration of budget implications.

14. SMALL CETACEANS

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

142. 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.
143. The co-convenor of the Small Cetaceans subcommittee of the Scientific Committee updates on the fund since 2016, noting that in the period 2016-2018 contributions of £90,122 had been received, the main donors being France, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland and UK.
144. The funds are used for invited participant (IP) attendance at SC meetings and supporting projects that focus on committee recommendations, include an aspect of capacity building and stakeholder involvement, are in cooperation with governments and NGOs, and have the potential to catalyse longer term conservation research, management and conservation goals.
145. As an example, the Fund has provided support for the first region-wide estimates of population size and status of endemic Chilean dolphins (*Cephalorhynchus eutropia*) in southern Chile. Results will inform the work of the SC on a little studied species, as well as providing data for an IUCN Species Red List assessment for the species and contributing to national and regional conservation and management strategies.
146. Monaco and Switzerland noted that the IWC had a lot to say on the status and conservation of small cetaceans and expressed strong support for the voluntary fund. Monaco stressed that the absence of any other competent global agency paved the way for a major role to take by IWC.
147. The SC Chair highlighted that cooperation with local and national authorities and building local capacity were important characteristics of the fund and urged Members and observers to donate.
148. UK highlighted the precarious situation of the Yangtze finless porpoise and the continued advice of the Scientific Committee in support of China's efforts to implement protective measures. In this context, it expressed deep concern on the proposed transfer of 14 Yangtze finless porpoises from two *ex situ* populations to commercial aquaria. It proposed that the Secretariat be

requested to write to the Chinese authorities to re-iterate the advice of the Scientific Committee and stress concerns over the consequences of the removal of individuals from *ex situ* populations.

149.Pro Wildlife announced a donation of 2,000 EUR to the voluntary fund.

150.The CC welcomed the work of the Small Cetaceans Fund and thanked donors for their contributions.

151.The Whaleman Foundation congratulated the Scientific Committee for its successful use of voluntary funds to effect critical conservation and management goals for small cetaceans. The Foundation will continue to contribute to the Fund and will make a further announcement the following week.

152.The CC **recommended** that the Secretariat be requested to write to the Chinese authorities to forward concerns on the proposed transfer of finless porpoises from an *ex situ* population to commercial aquaria.

14.2.Small Cetaceans Task Team

153.At its 2014 meeting, the SC 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 SC developed the Terms of Reference for a Small Cetaceans Task Team Initiative to assist the SC 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.

154.The SC Chair noted that a Task Team is being formed for the South Asian river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) and it is hoped that the first meeting will be held before the 2019 SC meeting, subject to available funds. She drew attention to the SC recommendations on small cetaceans in item 17.9 of the SC's 2018 (SC67b) report.

15. SPECIES OF URGENT OR EMERGING CONCERN

155.At their meetings in 2017 and 2018, the CC Planning Group (CCPG) and the joint Working Group of the CC and SC (CC-SC WG) discussed potential ways in which the CC could help with species of critical conservation concern for which urgent action was required. The groups agreed to develop proposals on this issue. In addition, the CCPG proposed that the CC recommend species of emergent and urgent concern as a new standing item on the Commission agenda.

156.The CC Vice Chair introduced IWC/67/CC/07 (*Outreach and Advocacy – An opportunity to enhance the conservation and management impact of International Whaling Committee advice?*), a document intended to promote discussion on how the conservation and management impact of the CC and the IWC in general can be extended, posing a series of broad suggestions and questions for further consideration.

157.Australia, Belgium, Monaco and USA thanked the CC Vice Chair and supported further consideration of options to extend IWC's international outreach and impact in the intersessional period. Australia, Monaco and USA considered that these issues should form part of the Governance Review.

158.The CC agreed to continue the discussion on this issue intersessionally and the CC Vice Chair encouraged CC members to join the intersessional working group on this subject. The CC **recommended** this should also be discussed as part of the governance review process.

16. ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

159.The Secretariat presented IWC/67/19 (*Update on IWC Cooperation with Other Organisations*), highlighting strengthened engagement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the

United Nations (FAO) and its Committee on Fisheries (COFI); Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs); International Maritime Organization (IMO); the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and other UN bodies such as UN Environment and the UN Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). They welcomed suggestions for further collaboration and requested Members to facilitate liaison.

160. Recommendations included in IWC/67/19 were **endorsed** by the CC.

17. FUNDING

17.1. Funding opportunities

161. At IWC65, the Commission endorsed a series of recommendations from the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening IWC Financing (ICGSF). 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 ICGSF agreed its work plan for the intersessional period.

162. The ICGSF Chair provided an update on the work of the ICGSF including the development of a draft IWC Ethical Fundraising Code (IWC/67/FA/12) and a project proposal template. She noted that once a list of costed work plans and priorities developed by Standing Working Groups and other groups had been approved by IWC67, support could be provided for the development of funding proposals and/or applications. She proposed the continuation of the work of the ICGSF and outlined proposed activities for the forthcoming biennium.

163. The Committee endorsed the continuation of the work of the ICGSF and the activities proposed IWC/67/FA/13.

17.2. Progress under the Voluntary Conservation Fund

164. The Chair of the Voluntary Conservation Fund Steering Group presented an update on the Voluntary Conservation Fund which was established at IWC65 in 2014 and has played a critical role in supporting priorities of the Conservation Committee for example in supporting work on bycatch and whale watching. They introduced a proposed process for allocation of funding, set out in IWC/67/FA/04 Annex A, which will also be presented to the F&A Committee. The Chair noted that several priority activities had been endorsed at the meeting, and that these priorities would now be forwarded to the Voluntary Conservation Fund

165. The Committee endorsed the proposed allocation process for the Voluntary Conservation Fund outlined in IWC/67/FA/04. Funding priorities endorsed by the CC would be forwarded to the Voluntary Conservation Steering Group for consideration.

18. ADOPTION OF REPORT

166. The meeting finished at 17:18 on 7 September 2018. The report was adopted by correspondence.

Appendix 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Argentina

Miguel Iñíguez

Australia

Nick Gales
Mike Double
Paula Perrett
Adam Clark
Frank LaMacchia
Nicola Beynon

Austria

Andrea Nouak
Moritz Schwarz
Michael Stachowitsch

Belgium

Stephanie Langerock
Fabian Ritter
Mark Simmonds

Brazil

Hermano Ribeiro
Rodrigo Almeida
Alexandre Zerbini
Camila Domit
Fabia Luna
Pedro Fruet
Marilia Marini

Chile

Barbara Galletti

Costa Rica

Eugenia Arguedas
Javier Rodriquez Fonseca

Cote D'Ivoire

Mel EG Soukou Emmanuel
Bakayoko Konabe Vame

Denmark

Peter Linde

France

Nadia Deckert
Vincent Ridoux

Germany

Walter Duebner
Nicole Hielscher

Guinea, Republic of

Balla Moussa Keita

Italy

Caterina Fortuna

Japan

Joji Morishita

Korea, Republic of

Hawsun Sohn
Kyum Joon Park

Liberia

Augustine Manoballah

Luxembourg

Pierre Gallego

Netherlands

Anne-Marie Svoboda

New Zealand

Amy Laurenson
Dave Lindquist
Jonathan Martin
Megan Addis

Panama

Lisette Trejos-Lasso

Portugal

Luis Freitas

Russian Federation

Irina Fominykh
Kirill Zharikov
Denis Litovka
Natalia Slugina
Vladimir Piny
Gulnara Rudionova

Senegal

Manadou Goudiaby
Modou Mbengue

Slovenia

Andrej Bibic

Solomon Islands

Ferral Lasi

Switzerland

Bruno Mainini
Martin Krebs

UK

Jemma Harper
Jamie Rendell
Catherine Bell
Gerlinde Schaeffer
Lindsay Porter
Jennifer Lonsdale

USA

Ryan Wulff
Roger Eckert
Lisa Phelps
Carolyn Doherty
Crawford Patkotak
Dave Weller
Doug DeMaster
Grace Ferrera
Harry Brower Jr.
Michael Tillman
Robert Suydam

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION**OBSERVERS****NAMMCO**

Charlotte Winsnes

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION**OBSERVERS****Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission**

J. Craig George
Bill Hess
Nicole Kanayurak
Taquilik Hepa
Lucia Johnston
Geof Givens
Julius Rexford
George Noongwook
Stephen Braund
Eliseo Valenzuela
Mariam Valenzuela
Arnold Brower Jr.
Cheryl Brower

Brazilian Right Whale Project

Karina Groch
Cristiana Kolesnikovas

Animal Welfare Institute

DJ Schubert
Kate O'Connell

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Appendix 2

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

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	08 Report of the Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans	9.1
	09 Spain Voluntary Cetacean Conservation Report 2018	4.3
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	12 Report of the Working Group on Ship Strikes	10
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	17 ESPSRW CMP - Report of the 2nd Coordination Meeting, Lima, Peru, 22-23 August 2018	9.2
	18 ESPSRW CMP - Implementation Strategy 2019-2020	9.2
	19 Australia Voluntary Cetacean Conservation Report 2018	4.3
	20 United States Voluntary Cetacean Conservation Report 2018	4.3
	21 Mexico Voluntary National Conservation Report 2016-18	4.3
	22 United Kingdom Voluntary Cetacean Conservation Report 2018	
	23 Conservation Committee – Work Plan for the intersessional period 2016-20	3
	24 Argentina Voluntary Cetacean Report 2018	
	25 Brazil Voluntary Cetacean Report 2018	
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IWC/67/CC/Rep	01 Report of the Conservation Committee Planning Group Meeting 2017	4, 15
	02 Report of the Conservation Committee Planning Group (CCPG) Meeting 2018	4, 13, 15
	03 Report of the Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group 2017	5
	04 Report of the Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group Meeting 2018	5
IWC/67/CC/GEN	01 Conservation Committee Agenda	
	01Rev1 Conservation Committee Agenda	
	02 List of documents	
	03 List of participants (to come)	
	04 French translation of CC Agenda	
	05 Spanish translation of CC Agenda	
IWC/67/CC/FOR INFO	01 A Collaborative Approach towards Preventing Ship Strikes in Brazil	
	02 Spanish translation of IWC/67/CC/17 ESPSRW CMP Report of 2nd Coordination Meeting, August 2018	

Appendix 3

AGENDA

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS
 - 1.1 Appointment of Chair
 - 1.2 Appointment of Rapporteurs
 - 1.3 Review of Documents
 - 1.4 Observer Participation
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
3. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN AND WORKPLAN
 - 3.1 Updates to the Strategic Plan
 - 3.2 Workplan for the 2018-2020 Biennium and beyond
4. STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
 - 4.1 Working Methods of the Conservation Committee
 - 4.2 Timing of Conservation Committee Meetings
 - 4.3 Voluntary Conservation Reports
 - 4.3.1 Contracting member reports
 - 4.3.2 Review of the Voluntary Conservation Reporting Template
 - 4.4 IWC Governance Review
 - 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
 - 5.2 Review of implementation of recommendations
 - 5.3 Guidance for drafting recommendations
6. WHALE SANCTUARIES
 - 6.1 Southern Ocean Sanctuary
 - 6.2 Committee discussions and recommendations
7. BYCATCH
 - 7.1 Report from the Bycatch Standing Working Group
 - 7.1.1 Strategic Plan for Bycatch
 - 7.1.2 Bycatch Mitigation Initiative workplan
 - 7.2 Report from the Scientific Committee
8. WHALE WATCHING
 - 8.1 Report from the Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Whale Watching
 - 8.1.1 Progress with the online Whale Watching Handbook
 - 8.1.2 Revision of the Five Year Strategic Plan
 - 8.1.3 Engagement with the Indian Ocean Rim Association
 - 8.2 Report from the Scientific Committee

9. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS
 - 9.1 Progress Report by the SWG-CMP
 - 9.1.1 CMP Work Plan 2014-2020 mid-term review
 - 9.1.2 Development of a thematic strategic plan
 - 9.2 Progress on current CMPs
 - 9.2.1 Western Pacific Gray Whale CMP
 - 9.2.1.1 Update from range States
 - 9.2.1.2 Scientific Committee update
 - 9.2.2 Southwest Atlantic Southern Right Whale CMP
 - 9.2.2.1 Update from range States
 - 9.2.2.2 Scientific Committee update
 - 9.2.3 South-east Pacific Southern Right Whale CMP
 - 9.2.3.1 Update from range States
 - 9.2.3.2 Scientific Committee update
 - 9.2.4 Franciscana CMP
 - 9.2.4.1 Update from range States
 - 9.2.4.2 Scientific Committee update
 - 9.2.5 Priority species for future CMPS
 - 9.2.5.1 Arabian Sea Humpback whales
 - 9.2.5.2 Mediterranean Fin whales
 - 9.2.5.3 Populations requiring further research
 - 9.3 CMP financial update
10. SHIP STRIKES
 - 10.1 Report from the Scientific Committee
 - 10.2 Report from the Ship Strikes Working Group
 - Ship strikes strategic plan
 - Engagement with IMO
 - 10.3 Committee discussions and recommendations
11. MARINE DEBRIS
 - 11.1 Report from the Scientific Committee
 - 11.2 Future work by the Conservation Committee
 - 11.3 Draft Resolution on Ghost Gear Entanglement among Cetaceans
12. ANTHROPOGENIC UNDERWATER NOISE
 - 12.1 Report from the Scientific Committee
 - 12.2 Update on engagement with other organisations
 - 12.3 Draft Resolution on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise
 - 12.4 Discussion of future work
13. CETACEANS AND ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING
 - 13.1 Report from the Scientific Committee
 - 13.2 Discussion of future work

- 14. SMALL CETACEANS
 - 14.1 Progress under the voluntary fund for small cetacean conservation research
 - 14.2 Small Cetaceans Task Team
- 15. SPECIES OF URGENT OR EMERGING CONCERN
- 16. ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS
- 17. FUNDING
 - 17.1 Funding opportunities
 - 17.2 Progress under the Voluntary Conservation Fund
 - 17.2.1 Update on contributions and funding
 - 17.2.2 Process for funding allocation
- 18. ADOPTION OF REPORT

Appendix 4

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS ON GOVERNANCE REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS OF RELEVANCE TO THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The table below summarizes views expressed at the Conservation Committee on Friday 7th September 2018 and in comments sent to the Secretariat following the meeting, which relate to the recommendations Governance Review that are of relevance to the Conservation Committee.

The Committee expressed general support for the recommendations of relevance to the Conservation Committee, as listed below, and any detailed comments are summarized below.

Table 1 Conservation Committee comments on Governance review recommendations of relevance to the Committee

Governance Review Recommendation or Comment	Section/Paragraph	CC Chair Note/CC Observations
Theme 1 – Strategic Direction		
The IWC should ensure greater scrutiny and assessment of reports from subsidiary bodies and provide clearer directions for their inter-sessional work.	Recommendation 2	Support was expressed for this recommendation
The IWC should develop and adopt a Strategic Plan and a multi-year work programme setting strategic directions and clear priorities for the work of IWC and its subsidiary bodies in line with best practice of other treaty bodies. Ideally, “what”, “why”, by “whom” and by “when” should be clearly defined for each task agreed in the strategic plan.	Recommendation 6	The Conservation Committee supports this recommendation. The Conservation Committee strategic plan was adopted at IWC66 in 2016 and can be found at https://iwc.int/conservation-committee . Work is ongoing to develop thematic strategic plans and clear, costed work plans to support the CC’s strategic plan. The CC has strategic plans for Ship Strikes and Whale Watching, and recommends a Strategic Plan on Bycatch for adoption at IWC67.
Theme 2 – Progressing the CC work programme		
The IWC’s inter-sessional process should be strengthened, including through having a well-structured and effective subsidiary body system.	Recommendation 1	Support was expressed for this recommendation
Effective involvement of States in decision making during the inter-sessional period is needed, particularly in the case of developing States which should be supported to attend IWC	Recommendation 1 and Paragraph 57	At IWC67 four delegates from countries of limited means will be supported to attend the CC meeting through the Voluntary Assistance Fund. But this does

meetings including those of the scientific and conservation committees.		not necessarily support active participation in decision making and support was expressed for further efforts in this regard.
IWC Scientific Committee and other committees should provide information to Commission Members in a format and structure that allows effective consideration of scientific and policy issues and their implications for Commission decision making.	Recommendation 3	Support was expressed for this recommendation, and it was noted that the Chair of the CC makes a presentation early in the Commission Plenary including an update and progress report on items of interest on the plenary agenda and summary of its recommendations.
All IWC Commission decisions should be properly reflected in the work programme, in a prioritized manner, with the human and/or financial resources needed to ensure their implementation clearly identified and allocated. They should be taken up by Subsidiary Bodies, including the Scientific Committee, with a clear follow-up mechanism put in place. At the very least, in the report of the SC and other bodies, a clear and specific response on progress achieved on every recommendation/ request presented by the Commission should be given.	Recommendation 7	The CC is supportive of this recommendation. It notes relevant existing efforts including development of costed programmes of work and the ongoing improvements led by the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening Finance; as well as progress on the database of recommendations and on its potential use to facilitate the review of implementation of recommendations.
Better use should be made in the Conservation Committee of existing expertise on cetacean conservation.	Recommendation 24 and Paragraph 58	As a general principle, the CC considers that this recommendation should apply to all of the Commissions committees – that is all of the Committees established by the Commission should endeavour to utilise existing expertise wherever possible.
Theme 3 – Funding, Administration, and structure		
All IWC Committees, sub-committees and Working Groups should ensure the submission of written reports at a minimum, annually, in a way that avoids duplication and the overburdening of the Chair of the IWC and the Executive Secretary.	Recommendation 15	Support was expressed for this recommendation
All IWC Committees, sub-committees and Working Groups should have clear and consistent Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, including for the selection of the Chair and a sunset clause with a clear end date, or, alternatively, a clear recognition of their permanent nature.	Recommendation 15	The CC is supportive of this recommendation. At this meeting the CC recommends Conservation Committee Working methods for adoption by the Commission (IWC/67/CC/03). This includes Terms for

		the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee and Chairs of Standing Working Groups.
Mechanisms for better communication, collaboration and coordination between the different IWC subsidiary bodies should be established, to enable them to better address instructions from the Commission and to avoid overlapping. Such mechanisms could include, inter alia: (i) joint meetings; (ii) common membership of different bodies; (iii) joint projects; and (iv) regular and effective communication of meeting minutes, key outcomes and products.	Recommendation 16, Paragraph 57, and Paragraph 58	The CC supports this recommendation and draws attention to ongoing efforts including the work of the Joint Conservation Committee-Scientific Committee Working Group, and collaborative work on several topics including recent SC input to the revision of the Whale Watching Strategic Plan.
IWC should make papers available in advance of Committee and Working Group Meetings	Recommendation 17	The CC supports this recommendation and notes that all meeting papers are made available on advance of Conservation Committee meetings. The CC has developed Working Methods for the Conservation Committee and recommends these for adoption at IWC67.
The Conservation Committee should be allocated resources from the core budget.	Recommendation 24, Paragraph 57, and Paragraph 58	Support was expressed for this recommendation.
A Head of Conservation to mirror the Head of Science position should be created	Recommendation 24 and Paragraph 58	Support was expressed for this recommendation.
Increased Secretariat support for the Committee should be provided.	Recommendation 24 and Paragraph 58	It was noted that the Head of Programme Development position, as well as the Bycatch Coordinator are good steps forward.
The frequency and timing of CC meetings should be revised.	Recommendation 24	The CC supports this recommendation and has forwarded a proposal for annual CC for endorsement by the Commission at IWC67.

Wider Commission Recommendations to note		
A clearer and more logical structure should be established for the IWC Committee and Working Group system, setting out: (i) the roles of, and the distinction between, committees, sub-committees and Working Groups; (ii) which current groups fit into which category; and (iii) opportunities for reducing duplication and ensuring better reporting arrangements between the different groups. The development of this structure should be led by the Commission and should be included in the strategic plan, referred to in Recommendation 6.	Recommendation 14, Paragraph 57, and Paragraph 58	Support was expressed for this recommendation.
IWC should continue and expand its cooperation with external organisations to enhance the achievement of IWC objectives. This outreach effort and cooperation should be embedded in the new IWC Strategic Plan and multi-year work programme and should include: (i) continuing its membership on the BLG and increase cooperation with BLG Members and other relevant treaty bodies on areas of mutual interest, supported by the development of MoUs where relevant and necessary; (ii) considering implementation of a joint workshop between CITES, IWC, and CMS to discuss and agree on joint areas of work; (iii) increasing cooperation with the FAO and RFMOs on the prevention of entanglement and bycatch of cetaceans; and (iv) continuing its involvement in global ocean management cooperation in the context of UN Sustainable Development Goal 14.	Recommendation 36	<p>The Committee noted existing efforts (summarised in IWC67/17) to engage other organisations including strengthened engagement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and its Committee on Fisheries (COFI); Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs); International Maritime Organization (IMO); the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and other UN bodies such as UN Environment and the UN Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The CC encourages this to continue and has requested Contracting Members to facilitate liaison.</p> <p>In addition, at its most recent meeting the Conservation Committee discussed potential ways in which the Committee could help with species of critical conservation concern for which urgent action was required, including through options to extend IWC's international outreach and impact in the intersessional period. It recommends that further exploration of this issue is included in the Governance Review Process.</p>

The Rules of Procedure (RoP) should be a standing item for Commission meetings and should be comprehensively reviewed. This review should address, at a minimum:(v) requiring RoP for all IWC subsidiary bodies.	Recommendation 39	CC Working Methods are recommended for endorsement by the Commission at this meeting.
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Table 2 – Additional observations made by the Governance Review Panel.

Section/Paragraph	Governance Review Panel Recommendation or Comment
Paragraph 56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work of the Conservation Committee was slow initially but has accelerated with more Secretariat support - Positive comments on the work of the Conservation Committee, in terms of the work undertaken and also of the role of the Conservation Committee in encouraging greater cooperation within the IWC - Some remaining diverging views on the utility and relevance of the CC
Paragraph 57	<p>CC still faces many challenges including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Imbalance between the work of the SC and CC including disparity in resources (no core budget) and meeting time - Role clarity. Need for better coordination and synergy with SC and other subsidiary bodies - Limited budget. Sole reliance on voluntary contributions - Recognition of CC. Some governments do not attend which provides challenges for effectiveness and legitimacy
Paragraph 58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater focus on the work of the Conservation Committee is warranted, but should not detract from the work of the Scientific Committee - Strong case to increase the number of dedicated staff to support the CC and to enhance the time and funds available, from the core budget, for it to undertake its work. - Potential for better use of expertise on cetacean conservation within Contracting Governments, and the Scientific Committee, within the work of the Conservation Committee. - Need to upgrade the contact group between the Scientific and Conservation Committees from its current rather marginal role.