

Structure of the Commission and Intersessional Working Groups for the period 2021-2022

An organigram illustrating the Commission's structure is available [here](#).

International Whaling Commission

The Chair's reports from Commission meetings are available [here](#).

Chair: Mr Andrej Bibic (Slovenia)
Vice-chair: Mr Amadou Télivel Diallo (Republic of Guinea)

The Commission has a membership of 88 Contracting Governments as at 20 July 2021, and it meets every two years. However, due to the pandemic, the 2020 meeting was cancelled, and a Virtual Special Meeting of the Commission took place 8-10 September 2021. The Government of Slovenia has kindly offered to host the next in-person meeting, IWC68, which will take place 13-21 October 2022.

Bureau

Chair: Mr Andrej Bibic (Slovenia)
Vice-chair: Mr Amadou Diallo (Rep. of Guinea)
Chair of the F&A Committee: Mr Ryan Wulff (USA)
Members: Ambassador Holger Federico Martinsen (Argentina)
Prof. Francis Nunoo (Ghana)
Mr Horace Walters (St Lucia)
Mr James Smith (UK)

The Commission constituted the Bureau through Rule of Procedure M.9 for administrative support during the intersessional period. Reports of Bureau meetings are publicly available [here](#) but the sessions themselves are not open to observers.

Finance and Administration Committee (F&A)

The report this Committee presented to IWC67 is available as paper IWC/67/Rep 06 [here](#)

Chair: Mr Ryan Wulff (USA)

Intersessional groups reporting to the F&A Committee:

i. Budgetary Sub-committee (BSC)

The report this Committee presented to IWC67 is available as paper SC/67/FA/25 [here](#)

Chair: Ms Paula Perrett, Australia (Chair)
Vice-chair: Mr Martin Krebs (Switzerland)
Members: Group 1: Kiribati, Laos
Group 2: Senegal, South Africa
Group 3: Oman, Portugal
Group 4: France, United Kingdom and USA.

Membership of the Budgetary Sub-Committee rotates alphabetically at each meeting according to the Capacity to Pay Groups listed above.

ii. Working Group on operational effectiveness and cost savings measures (WG-OE)

The Report of the Workshop held in London, 17-18 July 2019 is available [here](#)

Co-Chairs: Ms Lisa Phelps (USA) and Catherine Bell (United Kingdom)
Members: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Chile, Denmark, France, Grenada, Guinea, Rep. of, Mali, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Palau, Rep. of, Peru, Sao Tome & Principe, Slovenia, St. Lucia, Suriname, Switzerland, Togo, United Kingdom, United States.
Membership remains open.

Accredited observers: Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, Animal Welfare Institute, Brazilian Humpback Whale Institute, Chile, Centro de Conservacion Cetacea, COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO, Environmental Investigation Agency, Fundacion Cethus, Global Law Alliance for Animals and the Environment (GLA), Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, IWMC World Conservation Trust, Japan, Makah Indian Tribe.

iii. Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strengthening IWC Financing (ICG-SF)

Chair: Ms Stephanie Langerock (Belgium)
Members: Australia, Belgium, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Mexico, Monaco, United Kingdom, United States.
Membership remains open.

Accredited Observers: Environmental Investigation Agency, Natural Resources Defense Council.

iv. Voluntary Conservation Fund Steering Group (VCFSG)

Chair: Ms. Catherine Bell (UK and Vice-chair of the Conservation Committee)
Members: Australia, Belgium, New Zealand, USA, UK, Chair and Vice-chair of the Scientific Committee, Chair of the Conservation Committee.
Membership remains open.

Conservation Committee (CC)

The Report of the virtual Conservation Committee Meeting held 28 September-2 October 2020 is available [here](#)

Chair: Dr Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho (Mexico)
Vice-chair: Ms Catherine Bell (United Kingdom)

Intersessional groups reporting to the Conservation Committee:

i. Ship Strikes Working Group (SSWG)

Chair: Ms Sharon Livermore (UK)
Members: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Italy, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, USA.
Membership remains open.

Collaborating IGOs: UNEP/CMS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS.

Accredited Observers: Environmental Investigation Agency, International Fund for Animal Welfare, WWF.

- ii. Standing Working Group on whale watching (SWG-WW)*
 Chair: Mr Ryan Wulff (USA)
 Members: Australia, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA, Chair/Vice chair of the IWC Scientific Committee. Industry representatives: Rafael Benegas (Argentina).
 Membership remains open.
 Collaborating IGOs: UNEP/CMS
 Accredited Observers: Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), Fundacion Cethus, Greenpeace, Orcalab.
- iii. Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (SWG-CMP)*
 Chair: Ms Annie Robinson (Australia)
 Members: Australia, Argentina, Ghana, Italy, Mexico, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA, Chair/Vice chair of the IWC Scientific Committee. Membership remains open.
 Accredited Observers: Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Fundacion Cethus, OceanCare, WWF.
- iv. Standing Working Group on bycatch (SWG-BC)*
 Chair: Ms Stephanie Langerock (Belgium)
 Members: Australia, Argentina, France, Italy, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, USA, UK, IWC Bycatch Coordinator, Chair/Vice-chair of the Scientific Committee.
 Membership remains open.
 Collaborating IGOs: UNEP/CMS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS
 Accredited Observers: CSI, EIA, WWF, WDC
- v. Conservation Committee Planning Group (CCPG)*
 Chair: Chair of the Conservation Committee
 Membership: Vice-chair of the Conservation Committee, Chairs of the Committee's Standing Working Groups, nominees from Contracting Governments.
 Additional expertise may be included as appropriate at the discretion of the Conservation Committee Chairs.

Scientific Committee (SC)

Chair: Dr Alexandre Zerbini (Brazil)
 Vice-chair: Dr Lindsay Porter (UK)

The Scientific Committee meets annually. The next meeting will meet in Bled, Slovenia, from 26 April – 8 May 2022 (tbc). The Report from the 2021 Virtual Scientific Committee Meeting is available [here](#).

The Committee currently operates 16 Subgroups.
 The 2021 Sub-groups were:

1. ASI - Standing Working Group on Abundance estimates, stock status and international cruises
2. ASW - Sub-committee on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling
3. CMP - Sub-Committee on Conservation Management Plans
4. E - Sub-Committee on Environmental Concerns
5. EM - Standing Working Group on Ecosystem Modelling
6. GDR - Ad hoc Working Group on Databases and related issues
7. HIM - Sub-Committee on Non-deliberate Human-Induced Mortality of cetaceans
8. IA - Sub-Committee on In-depth Assessments
9. IST - Sub-committee on Implementation Reviews and Simulation Trials

10. NH - Sub-Committee on the other Northern Hemisphere whale stocks
11. PH - Ad hoc Working group on Photo-id
12. SAN - Ad hoc Working Group on Sanctuaries
13. SD&DNA - Working Group on Stock Definition and DNA testing
14. SH - Sub-Committee on the other Southern Hemisphere whale stocks
15. SM - Sub-Committee on Small Cetaceans
16. WW - Sub-Committee on Whale watching

Joint Working Group between the Conservation and Scientific Committees (CC/SC WG)

The Commission established this Working Group under Resolution 2014-4 to propose a procedure to facilitate the implementation and follow up of conservation recommendations. It usually meets annually. The Report from the April 2021 Meeting is available [here](#).

Chairs:	Chairs of the Scientific and Conservation Committees.
Vice-chairs:	Vice-chairs of the Scientific and Conservation Committees.
Membership:	The Joint Working Group between the Conservation and Scientific Committees is comprised of nominees from the Scientific Committee, Conservation Committee and Contracting Governments. Additional expertise may be included as appropriate at the discretion of the Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee Chairs.

Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee (ASW)

The report this Sub-Committee presented to IWC67 is available as paper IWC/67/Rep 02 [here](#)

Chair: Mr Bruno Mainini (Switzerland)

Credentials Committee

[Rule of Procedure](#) D requires that contracting governments provide credentials for their delegation prior to any meeting of the Commission. There are a number of requirements for these credentials, and some documents submitted may require review to ensure they are in conformity with the RoP. This review is traditionally carried out by a small *ad hoc* Committee composed of two contracting government Commissioners (or their designee) and a member of the Secretariat.

Infractions Sub-committee (INF)

The report this Committee presented to IWC67 is available as paper IWC/67/Rep 03 [here](#)

Chair: Ms Hild Ynnesdal (Norway)

Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues (WG on WKM&WI)

The report this Committee presented to IWC67 is available as paper IWC/67/Rep 04 [here](#)

Chair: Ms Jan Henderson (New Zealand)

Intersessional groups reporting to the Working Group:

- i. *Intersessional Working Group on Welfare (IWGW)*

Chair:	United Kingdom
Members:	Argentina, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, United Kingdom, USA.
	Membership remains open.
Accredited Observers:	Humane Society International, World Animal Protection