

PROPOSAL FOR A WORKSHOP ON WHALE KILLING METHODS AND ASSOCIATED WELFARE ISSUES AT IWC58

RECALLING that the scientific Workshop on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues held prior to IWC55 in 2003, adopted a Revised Action Plan that encourages the IWC to hold a further scientific and technical workshop in 3-5 years;

NOTING that the Revised Action Plan on Whale Killing Methods, as noted in the Chair's report of the 2003 Workshop, recommends continued improvements in data collection and reporting; technical development of killing methods, and criteria and methods to determine death;

RECOGNISING that the Chair's report of the 2003 Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues scientific workshop surmises that penthrith grenade technology represents the current state of 'best practice' for a primary killing method;

RECOGNISING the inherent importance of safety for whaling vessel crews in all proposals to improve whale killing methods;

NOTING that the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues agreed to convene a workshop meeting at IWC 58;

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:

AGREES the following Terms of Reference for the Workshop on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues at IWC 58;

The Workshop shall build on advances from previous years to consider the following issues and make recommendations as appropriate:

1. Practical criteria for determining the onset of irreversible insensibility and death;
2. Means of improving the efficiency of whale killing methods;
3. Reducing times to death and other associated welfare issues;
4. Means for reducing struck and lost rates in whaling operations;
5. The welfare implications of methods used to kill whales caught in nets where they are not released alive; and
6. Practicable methods of reviewing and collecting data from aboriginal hunts

Safety issues for the crew members of whaling vessels shall be taken into account in all proposals regarding improvements to existing and new methods, and gear, e.g. killing methods for whales caught in nets. Cost issues for aboriginal subsistence hunters shall also be taken into account.

In considering these issues the Workshop shall have regard, inter alia, to data furnished to the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues and also to relevant comparative data from the killing of other large mammals.