

Summary of Scientific Committee Activities 2001/02

Category	Description of tasks identified at SC/53	SC Report Item No.	Responsibility	Timescale	Funding (SC53 budget)
Revised Management Procedure (RMP) Annex D					
General Issues	<p>(1) Adjust the convergence criteria for the CATCHLIMIT program;</p> <p>(2) Perform calculations related to the population component to which MSYR, MSYL and density-dependence should apply.</p> <p>(3) Complete tasks identified for the Intersessional Working Group on Abundance Estimation:</p> <p>Expand the existing set of simulated datasets to evaluate performance over a wider range of potential survey and biological conditions, including the following five priority areas:</p> <p>(i) school size based models;</p> <p>(ii) surfacing rates;</p> <p>(iii) movement effects;</p> <p>(iv) Southern Hemisphere IDCR/SOWER minke whale abundance estimation;</p> <p>(iv) simulations related to abundance estimation of North Pacific minke whales and of North Pacific Bryde's whales.</p>	<p>5.1 (D 5.1)</p> <p>5.2 (D 5.2)</p> <p>5.3.3 (D 5.3.3)</p>	<p>Allison (Skaug, Smith)</p> <p>Allison (Punt)</p> <p>Palka (Chair) Annex U6</p>	<p>Intersessional before Japan</p> <p>Intersessional before Japan</p> <p>Intersessional before Japan</p>	

Other	(1) Undertake a review of the effects of environmental stochasticity on cetacean population dynamics.	5.6 (D 5.6)	RMP members	Intersessional before Japan	
Preparations for Implementation	(1) Modify and run the <i>ISTs</i> for North Pacific minke whales.	6.2.1.2 (D 6.2.1.3)	Allison plus Steering Group: Butterworth (Chair) Annex U7	Intersessional before Japan	£2,600
	(2) Hold an intersessional meeting to provide oversight for the <i>ISTs</i> for North Pacific minke whales and the associated analyses (including genetic spatial analyses to be investigated by Taylor, Goto and Pastene).	6.2.1.2 (D 6.2.1.3)	Steering Group: Butterworth (Chair) Annex U7 (Donovan to Chair meeting)	Intersessional meeting	
	(3) Complete preparations for the North Atlantic <i>Implementation Review</i> . (Prepare and circulate a bibliography of new information developed since the <i>Implementation</i> to assist in preparing for the Review.)	6.4.3 (D 6.4.3)	Smith (Chair) Annex U5.	Intersessional before Japan	
	(4) Code the initial North Pacific Bryde's whale <i>ISTs</i> .	6.3.1 (D 6.3.1)	Allison plus Steering Group: Butterworth (Chair) Annex U8.	Intersessional before Japan	
Bycatch (BC) Annex M					
	(1) Working Group established to investigate collation of information from fisheries.	7.1 (M 5)	Northridge (Chair) Annex U18.	Progress to be reviewed at SC/54 as part of agenda	
	(2) Steering Group established to investigate the feasibility of holding a workshop on methods to estimate bycatch based on genetic data.	7.1.2 (M 5.5)	Berggren (Chair) Annex U19	Progress to be reviewed at SC/54 as part of agenda	
Aboriginal Whaling Management Procedure (AWMP) Annex E					
BCB bowhead <i>SLA</i> development and selection	(1) Incorporate feedback from the Commission. Run any necessary	8.2.3 (E 5)	Allison/Developers	Post SC/53	£8,200

	additional or revised trials. (2) Review intersessional work. Select preferred candidate <i>SLA</i> and advise on tuning options for presentation to the Commission.	8.2.3 (E 5)	AWMP members	Intersessional Workshop	£12,000
Eastern North Pacific gray whale <i>SLAs</i>	(1) Finalise specifications of all trials. (2) Candidate <i>SLAs</i> coded and sent to Secretariat; Evaluation trials coded, run and results circulated.	8.3 (E 6) 8.3 (E 6)	Developers Allison	Post SC/53 Intersessional Workshop	
Ongoing contacts:	(1) Greenland Research Programme	8.4	Relevant scientists		£28,000
Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Stock Assessments (AS) Annex F					
Eastern North Pacific gray whales	(1) Continue preparation for in-depth assessment in 2002 (status of western stock to be reviewed in parallel).	9.1.2.4 (F 4.1.4)	Brownell (Chair) Annex U2	Intersessional before Japan	
Whale Stocks (IA) Annex G					
General	(1) Conduct SOWER 2001/2002 circumpolar cruises.	10.1.2.2 (G App. 3)	Associated researchers	December 01 – February 02	£85,000
Southern Hemisphere minke whale abundance estimates	(1) Progress with tasks identified in Annex G (Appendix 10) with substantial progress to be made on all tasks listed as HIGH priority (includes validation of outstanding SOWER survey datasets) (2) Evaluate JARPA estimates of abundance in a similar way to the IDCR/SOWER survey results (3) Hold two-day workshop to address methods and results relating to	10.2.4.2 (G App. 10) Secretariat 10.2.3.2 (G 6.3.2) 10.2.4.2 (G 6.4.2)	IA members IA members Invited Participants	Intersessional before Japan Intersessional before Japan Immediately prior to the	£16,000 £4,000

	abundance.			2002 meeting	
Southern Hemisphere blue whales	(1) Continue towards an assessment, including the following important tasks: (a) acoustic species identification; (b) address, as appropriate, issues of methodology which have not already been considered; (c) access historic catch data for use in the stock assessment (coding of Soviet catch data); (d) prepare for a stock assessment (including possible interactions with other species); (e) consider feasibility of satellite-tagging Antarctic blue whales to establish location of breeding grounds; (f) continue sub-specific differentiation by genetic markers, using morphological keys.	10.3 (G 7)	IA members	Intersessional (ongoing)	
Southern Hemisphere humpback whales	(1) Obtain estimates of ROI, abundance and stock structure data relating to breeding grounds or migration corridors, especially for stocks for which no reliable information is currently available. (2) Run the humpback population dynamics model for breeding stock E with three sub-populations, for which individual population estimates are available. (3) Conduct a sensitivity analysis for breeding ground C, using the combined Mozambique and low-latitude Madagascar estimates, as reported in SC/52/IA10. (4) Investigate use of a population dynamics model disaggregated by sex for stocks D and E.	10.4.4 (G 8.2) 10.4.4 (G 8.2) 10.4.4 (G App.13) 10.4.4 (G App.13) 10.4.4	IA members	Intersessional before Japan and ongoing	

	<p>(5) Investigate use of a model with some depensation.</p> <p>(6) Investigate the data from whaling operations from a time shortly after blue/humpback whales were protected held by the Secretariat, with a view to using them to provide relative abundance indices.</p> <p>(7) Investigate the feasibility of using a model that incorporates information on biological parameters, similar to that being developed for the North Atlantic.</p> <p>(8) Investigate the use of abundance estimates from IDCR/SOWER and JARPA survey data in the population dynamics model.</p> <p>(9) Update the Antarctic humpback photo catalogue.</p> <p>(10) Investigate the issue of correlation between minke and humpback whale distributions on IDCR/SOWER and JARPA surveys.</p>	<p>(G App.13)</p> <p>10.4.4 (G App.13)</p> <p>10.4.4 (G App.13)</p> <p>10.4.4 (G App.13)</p> <p>10.4.3 (G 8.3)</p> <p>10.4.1 (G 8.1)</p>			
Ongoing contracts:	<p>(1) DESS rolling contract (Contact 14)</p> <p>(2) Southern Hemisphere humpback catalogue</p>	<p>10.1 and 21 (5)</p> <p>10.4.3</p>	<p>RUWPA</p> <p>Judy Allen (contact)</p>		<p>£30,600</p> <p>£5,000</p>
North Atlantic humpback whales (NAH) Annex H					
Completion of the Comprehensive Assessment	<p>(1) Model development allowance for:</p> <p>(a) different MSYR rates in different feeding grounds (constrained not to vary dramatically among such grounds);</p> <p>(b) temporary movement of animals</p>	<p>10.6.7.1 (H 12.1)</p>	<p>Hammond (Chair) Annex U3. Punt funded as analyst.</p>	<p>Intersessionally before Japan</p>	<p>£3,000</p>

	<p>between feeding grounds (i.e. an overlap hypothesis);</p> <p>(c) differences in survival rate among feeding grounds;</p> <p>(d) three breeding stocks.</p> <p>(2) Model testing examination of:</p> <p>(a) the impact of depensation;</p> <p>(b) the impact of removing each data source in turn;</p> <p>(c) the effects of where density-dependence is assumed to act.</p> <p>(3) Improved catch data needed to facilitate completion of the assessment. Several areas that would benefit from further work are listed in Item 10.6.7.2.</p> <p>(4) Obtain additional photographic and genetic samples from the Cape Verde Islands to elucidate stock structure.</p>	<p>10.6.7.2 (H 12.2)</p> <p>10.6.7.3 (H App.6)</p>	<p>NAH members</p> <p>Jaan, Allen, Palsbøll (plus associated researchers)</p>	<p>Intersessional before Japan</p> <p>Intersessional before Japan</p>	<p>£2,400</p>
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Bowhead, Right and Gray whales (BRG) Annex F					
Western North Pacific gray whales	(1) Assessment of the western stock of gray whales to be conducted in 2002 in parallel with the review of the eastern stock.	10.7.5 (F 4.2)	Brownell (Chair) Annex U2	Intersessional before Japan	
Stock Definition (SD) Annex I					
Stock structure models	Working Group established to investigate testing of spatial stock models, with the following aims:	11.5 (I 9)	Taylor (Chair) Annex U4	Intersessional before Japan	

	<p>(1) Design simulation models consistent with minke whale biology that cover several types of population structure, eventually including at least:</p> <p>(a) no structure;</p> <p>(b) stepping stones;</p> <p>(c) overlapping stepping stones;</p> <p>(d) isolation-by-distance; and</p> <p>(e) complex two-dimensional structure with behaviour dependent on age, sex, reproductive condition and year-to-year fluctuations.</p> <p>(2) Choose several sampling schemes that replicate the approximate timing and number of existing samples.</p> <p>(3) Distribute simulated datasets to analysts, who will try various methods of estimating/placing biological, management and simulation stock boundaries.</p> <p>(4) Evaluate the performance of the different methods in (3) across the range of hypotheses in (1).</p>				
Environmental Concerns (E) Annex J					
POLLUTION 2000+	<p>(1) Finish calibration study and field collections for Phase 1.</p> <p>(2) Refine planning and execution of Phase 2.</p> <p>(3) Review fieldwork progress and results of sampling and analyses.</p>	12.5 (J App.2)	Reijnders (Chair) Annex U11 plus participating scientists and labs	Ongoing	£8,200
SO-GLOBEC	Continuation of cruise programme, planning meeting and results analysis	12.2.2 (J 6.2)	Thiele (Chair) Annex U12 + Allison (Chair)	Intersessional	£60,000

			Annex U24		
IWC-CCAMLR research	Validation of CCAMLR 2000 Krill Synoptic Survey data	12.2.1 (J 6.1)	Allison (Chair) Annex U24 + Moore (Chair) Annex U15	Intersessional	
Habitat degradation workshop	Continue preparations for this workshop	12.3.2 (J 7.2 + Apps 3, 4)	Simmonds (Chair) Annex U14	Intersessional	
State of the Cetacean Environment Report (SOCER)	Progress towards finalising the structure, editorial process and development of this initiative	12.3.1 (J 7.1)	Perry/Stachowitsch (Chairs) Annex U13	Intersessional	
Marine mammal/fisheries interaction workshop	Investigate feasibility of convening this workshop during the intersessional period	12.3.4 (J 7.4.1)	Northridge (Chair) Annex U10	Intersessional (decision required in October)	£10,000
Small Cetaceans (SM) Annex K					
Research to address topics on SC/54 agenda	(1) Review of the status of humpbacked dolphins (2) Review of the existence of directed and incidental takes of small cetaceans in member countries	13.4 (K 10)	SM members	Intersessional	
Whalewatching (WW) Annex L					
Data collection	(1) Develop instructions for, and further develop data collection forms. (2) Receive information from any pilot projects using the forms. (3) Report back on revisions arising from field-testing.	14.1 (L 5)	Simmonds (Chair) Annex U16	Intersessional	
Management guidelines	Investigate developing whale and dolphin watching management plan guidelines.	14.5 (L 10)	Oosthuizen (Chair) Annex U17	Intersessional	
Scientific Permits					

Review procedure	Develop a proposal to improve the review of Scientific Permits within the Committee.	15	Walløe (Chair) Annex U22	Report to be received by the end 2001 for circulation to Committee	
Permit evaluation	Generate a list of approaches potentially useful for quantifying the scientific benefit of research catches, and the features of a proposal needed for such analyses.	15.3.1	Givens (Chair) Annex U23	Intersessional	
Sanctuaries					
Reviews	(1) Develop a process by which the Committee will develop a sanctuary review. (2) Develop evaluation criteria for the reviews, taking into account the Commission's previous comments and any further advice that might be offered this year.	16.2	Zerbini (Chair) Annex U21	Intersessional (to be used next year in the Committee's review of the Indian Ocean Sanctuary)	
Whale Research Methods Workshop					
USA/Japan joint-funded workshop into methods of whale research	Prepare for this workshop	18.3	Read (Chair) Annex U20	Intersessional	