

Summary of Scientific Committee Activities 2002/03

Item	Description of tasks identified at SC/54	SC Report + Annex Item No.	Responsibility (Working Group/Steering Group Number)	Timescale	Funding (SC54 budget)
National Progress Reports					
Recommendations to the Commission	(1) Encourage member nations to report details about the type of fishing gear involved in large whale bycatches. (2) Encourage member nations to submit more complete records of ship strikes.	3.2	Commission	Intersessional	
Cooperation with other Organisations					
UNEP	Send a letter providing IWC advise and guidelines on plans to create a World Digital Atlas on Marine Mammals.	4.9	Secretariat	Intersessional	
Revised Management Procedure (RMP) Annex D					
General Issues	(1) Adjust the convergence criteria for the CATCHLIMIT program to be robust when less precise integration is needed (possibly optimising the two-level convergence criteria). (2) Perform calculations related to the population component to which MSYR, MSYL and density-dependence should apply. (3) Continue work under the Intersessional Working Group on Abundance Estimation: expand the existing set of simulated datasets with the features	5.1 (D 5.1) 5.2 (D 5.2) 5.4 (D 5.4)	Allison (Skaug, Smith) Allison (Punt) Palka (Chair) and WG 2	Intersessional Intersessional Intersessional	

	needed to evaluate the new methods being developed to estimate the abundance of Southern Hemisphere minke whales using IDCR/SOWER data (Annex G, App. 5). Existing simulated datasets and associated documentation should be archived with the Secretariat.				
Preparations for Implementation	(1) Hold intersessional Workshop to continue work on North Pacific minke <i>ISTs</i> , with TORs: (1) specify final trials in the light of discussions at the 2002 meeting and the results of trials run intersessionally, and decide upon which combinations of <i>Small Area</i> definitions and RMP variants to run the final trials; (2) initiate discussion on approaches to advise on the relative plausibility of trials and their application in this instance, to facilitate discussion at the 2003 SC meeting; (3) specify TORs for continued work under the intersessional e-mail group until the 2003 meeting.	6.1.4 (D 6.3.3)	Butterworth (Chair) and SG 3	Intersessional Workshop	£7,000
	(2) Consider the initial results from the conditioning of <i>Baseline-A</i> trials and find a solution to the technical problems experienced (Allison and Punt). Circulate solutions to full Working Group for comments and suggestions.	6.1.4 (D 6.3.3)	Allison (Chair) and WG 4	Before intersessional Workshop	
	(3) Consider and improve suggested outline (Annex D, Appendix 13) as to how plausibility discussions could be structured at SC/55. TORs include developing general approaches to all elements of plausibility arising in the Schedule for <i>Implementation</i> as identified in the outline in Appendix 13.	6.2 (D 6.2.2)	Smith (Chair) and SG 7	Intersessional	
	(4) Continue preparations for the North Atlantic minke whale <i>Implementation</i>	6.3.3 (D 6.3.3)	Cooke (Chair) and SG 8	Intersessional	

	<p><i>Review.</i> TORs are to: (i) compile abundance estimates and catch data for use in conditioning possible <i>Implementation Simulation Trials</i>; (ii) ensure that appropriate further analyses of genetic data are conducted; (iii) prepare an appropriate set of fully-specified stock structure hypotheses, consistent with the available data and analyses, for the 2003 Annual Meeting; (iv) review any other relevant material on plausible scenarios for <i>ISTs</i>; and (v) report on progress prior to 2003 Annual Meeting.</p> <p>(5) Investigate the quality and nature of Bryde's whale past catch data by requesting data from additional whaling companies, and suggesting methods for its use in the <i>Implementation Trials</i>. The group should seek advice from, and as necessary co-opt, someone from outside the Committee with relevant expertise.</p> <p>(6) Under the issue of data availability, continue work to address: (1) data access and safeguards to protect the rights of data providers; and (2) arrangements for analysis.</p>	<p>6.4.1.1 (D 6.5.1)</p> <p>6.5.4 (D 6.6.4)</p>	<p>Brownell (Chair) and WG 5</p> <p>Donovan (Chair) and SG 6</p>	<p>Intersessional</p> <p>Intersessional</p>	
Bycatch (BC) Annex M					
Recommendations to the Commission	<p>(1) Write a letter to the relevant authorities in each member country requesting a list of fisheries, broken down by gear type, target species and geographical area, to the extent to which this is routinely done in each country.</p> <p>(2) Member nations are urged to include more specific information on large whale bycatches in the National Progress Reports, such that they ideally include not only gear type, but the way in which</p>	<p>7.1.4</p> <p>7.1.4</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary (?)</p>	<p>Intersessional</p> <p>Intersessional</p>	

	this gear is being used and the target species.				
General	<p>(1) Write to Chinese authorities to request whether written documentation on a proposed cetacean strandings scheme could be submitted to a future IWC meeting.</p> <p>(2) Continue intersessional work to progress towards producing a draft proposal at SC 55 for a Bycatch Feasibility Workshop.</p> <p>(3) Collect information on amount of high-speed ferry/fast-moving vessel traffic operating in, particularly, the Northeast Atlantic and the western North Pacific, but also the western North Atlantic, South America and Southeast Asia.</p>	<p>7.1.3 (M 8)</p> <p>7.2.1 (M 5.5.1)</p> <p>7.3 (M 6.2)</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Berggren (Chair) and SG 9</p> <p>An intersessional group under Weinrich</p>	<p>Intersessional</p> <p>Intersessional</p> <p>Intersessional</p>	
Aboriginal Whaling Management Procedure (AWMP) Annex E					
Intersessional Workshop	<p>(1) selection of an <i>SLA</i> for eastern North Pacific gray whales;</p> <p>(2) review results from Greenlandic Research Programme and revise programme;</p> <p>(3) progress on development of potential SLAs for Greenland fisheries;</p> <p>(4) annual review of catch data and management advice for minke and fin whales off Greenland;</p> <p>(5) annual review of catch data and management advice for humpback whales off St Vincent and the Grenadines.</p>	8.7 (E 9)	AWMP members	December 2002	£9,000

Computing tasks before Workshop	(1) Amend control program to implement any additions to GE trials (except inertia model), condition trials and circulate to developers. (2) Condition GE inertia trials and circulate to e-mail correspondence group for selection of statistic to use in defining 'fast', 'medium' and 'slow' dynamics. (3) Circulate inertia model data file to developers. (4) Develop <i>SLAs</i> and submit to Secretariat for testing. (5) Create input files for and condition GR trials; produce population trajectories. (6) Run BE trials for candidate <i>SLAs</i> and prepare comparison plots and tables.	(E 9)	Allison Allison Allison Developers Allison Allison	August 2002 September 2002 10 days prior to Intersessional Workshop Intersessional Workshop Intersessional Workshop	£8,400
Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Stock Assessments (AS) Annex F					
Gray whale Workshop	Co-sponsor a Workshop to bring together the most recent and historical data with which to examine process error in gray whale abundance, including: mother/calf counts; pregnancy rates in catch data; and seasonal distribution at the end of the southbound census. Also, review relative habitat information (e.g. prey base) for examination and analysis relevant to the dynamics of the population. The report should be available for the 2003 meeting.	9.1.2.3 (F 4.1.3)		Intersessional Workshop	
Whale Stocks (IA) Annex G					
General	(1) Conduct SOWER 2002/2003 circumpolar cruises.	10.1.2.2 (G 5.2.2)	Associated researchers		£68,000
Southern Hemisphere minke whales	(1) Developmental support.		Bravington and Hedley	Intersessional	£5,000
	(2) Develop/apply BBM model/spatial	10.2.3.1.3	Bravington	Intersessional	£6,000

	<p>models.</p> <p>(3) Evaluate standard methods/other analyses</p> <p>(4) Address concerns relating to VPA analysis:</p> <p>(a) request the required summary data following the established data policies;</p> <p>(b) make a list of the concepts that need to be addressed in further analyses;</p> <p>(c) coordinate individuals to pursue analyses to address these concerns.</p> <p>The following items were recommended to facilitate progress on identifying available data sources and to encourage the collection of new data within the pack ice region:</p> <p>(1) The Secretariat should make an official request to the APIS coordinators inquiring about availability and access to any cetacean data that their member countries may have collected within and outside the pack ice.</p> <p>(2) Relevant members of the SC should approach individuals whom they know to have been involved with the APIS surveys with the same inquiry as in (1).</p> <p>(3) Requests should be made to countries that use icebreakers in the Antarctic to conduct dedicated cetacean observations from their vessels (e.g. Australia, France, Germany, Japan, South Africa, UK, USA).</p>	<p>10.2.3.1.3</p> <p>10.2.3.5</p> <p>10.2.3.7</p> <p>10.2.3.6</p>	<p>Butterworth</p> <p>Polacheck (Chair) and WG 10</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Thiele, Gales</p> <p>Thiele</p>	<p>Intersessional</p> <p>Intersessional</p> <p>Intersessional</p> <p>Intersessional</p> <p>Intersessional</p>	<p>£2,000</p>
Southern Hemisphere blue whales	Convene Workshop on blue whale acoustics to: (1) review the sounds recorded on SOWER cruises in the context of known blue whale sounds; (2) reappraise the value of	10.3.2.2 (G 7.2.2)	Invited participants	Summer 2002	

	<p>acoustics for distinguishing between the two sub-species; and (3) make recommendations on future acoustic work to address the sub-species issue.</p> <p>A list of important tasks to be addressed before the 2005 in-depth blue whale assessment is given in Annex G.</p>	10.4.5 (G 7.4)	IA members	Before 2005	
Comprehensive Assessment of Humpback Whales (Annex H)					
Southern Hemisphere humpback whales	<p>(1) Continue work to review the current state of knowledge on SH humpbacks. TORs to: (1) summarise current knowledge regarding SH humpback whales, by population or management area; (2) identify major gaps in knowledge; and (3) establish priorities for research to fill these gaps.</p> <p>(2) To the extent possible, run the humpback population dynamics model for breeding stock E with three sub-populations, for which individual population estimates are available.</p> <p>(3) Conduct a sensitivity analysis for breeding ground C using the combined Mozambique and low-latitude abundance estimates as reported in Rosenbaum et al. (2000).</p> <p>(4) Investigate use of a population dynamics model disaggregated by sex for stocks D and E.</p> <p>(5) Investigate use of a model with depensation.</p> <p>(6) Investigate the data from whaling operations from a time shortly after</p>	<p>10.4.4 (H 6.3)</p> <p>10.4.6 (H 6.3.1)</p>	<p>Bannister (Chair) and WG 11</p> <p>H members</p>	<p>Intersessional</p> <p>Intersessional</p>	

	<p>blue/humpback whales were protected that are held by the IWC Secretariat, with a view to using them to provide relative abundance estimates.</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) Further investigate the use of the abundance estimates from IDCR/SOWER and JARPA survey data in the population dynamic model.</p> <p>(9) Update the Antarctic humpback whale photo-identification catalogue.</p> <p>(10) Investigate the issue of correlation between minke and humpback whale distribution on IDCR/SOWER and JARPA surveys.</p>				£5,100
Bowhead, Right and Gray whales (BRG) Annex F					
Western North Pacific gray whales	Hold intersessional Workshop to: (1) assess the current status of the population; (2) develop the foundation for range-wide research; update the 10-year research and monitoring programme presented to the Committee in 1999.	10.6.5 (F 4.2)	Brownell (Chair) and SG 12	October 2002	£34,245 contribution from USA
Other					
Sperm whales	Begin collecting information for a future in-depth assessment.	10.7.2.2	Smith (Chair) and SG 13	Begin in 2003	
Status of abundance estimates	Prepare proposal for next year's meeting suggesting categories that could be used to clarify abundance estimates submitted to the Committee (e.g. acceptable for RMP, acceptable for RMP trials, acceptable for inclusion on the IWC website, noted without any details review etc).	10.7.3	Donovan	Submitted to Germany meeting	

Stock Definition (SD) Annex I					
	<p>(1) Continuation of Testing of Spatial Structure Models (TOSSM) Working Group with TORs to: (1) Design simulation models consistent with minke whale biology, that cover several types of population structure. These should eventually include at least: (i) no structure; (ii) stepping stones; (iii) overlapping stepping stones; (iv) isolation-by-distance; and (v) complex two-dimensional structure with behaviour dependent on age, sex, reproductive condition and year-to-year fluctuations; (2) Choose several sampling schemes that replicate the approximate timing and number of existing samples; (3) distribute simulated datasets to analysts, who will try various methods of estimating/placing biological, management and simulation stock boundaries; (4) Evaluate performance of the different methods in (3) across the range of hypotheses in (1).</p> <p>(2) Hold intersessional Workshop on the testing of spatial structure models with TORs to: (1) Outline a set of simulations that capture the types of population structure likely to be encountered in migratory baleen whales; (2) Outline a set of realistic sampling schemes that reflect the types and sizes of samples likely to be available for migratory baleen whale species (e.g. sampling on feeding grounds, breeding grounds, migratory routes, or some combinations); (3) Design performance measures that reflect the likely</p>	<p>11.4 (I 5)</p> <p>11.4 (I 5)</p>	<p>Taylor (Chair) and WG 14</p> <p>Invited Participants</p>	<p>Intersessional</p> <p>Before November 2002</p>	<p>£7,000</p>

	<p>performance of the analytical methods with respect to management under both the RMP and the AWMP; (4) Specify format of simulated datasets to be made available to developers.</p> <p>(3) Develop a glossary of terms relevant to the management framework of the RMP and AWMP (along the lines of the existing AWMP glossary). It should include some indication of what harvesting scenarios are likely to be contemplated.</p>	11.4 (I 5)	Donovan and Hammond	Intersessional	
Environmental Concerns (E) Annex J					
Recommendations to the Commission	<p>(1) Request information from the Government of Mexico on the specific locations and types of construction that comprise the development referred to as Nautical Steps.</p> <p>(2) Request that the Government of Mexico take steps to ensure the maintenance of habitat importance to cetaceans.</p>	12.4	Commission	Intersessional	
SO-GLOBEC	Continuation of cruise programme, planning meeting and results analysis	12.1.2 (J 5.2 & App.2)	Thiele (Chair) and SG 21	Ongoing	£15,000
POLLUTION 2000+	Complete Phase 1 of Programme	12.2 (J 6)	Reijnders (Chair) and SG 16 + associated researchers and labs	Intersessional	£5,000
State of the Cetacean Environment report	Produce a draft SOCER for submission to 2003, intended as a preliminary attempt that will be developed over the years.	12.3.1 (J 7.1)	Perry/Stachowitsch (Chairs and WG 17)	Intersessional	
Other	<p>(1) Develop a standardised data collection system for sea-ice observations.</p> <p>(2) Prepare for mini-symposium on high latitude climate change research and the effects of such changes on cetacean populations (to be held at SC 55).</p> <p>(3) The Committee recommends that</p>	12.1.2 (J 5.2 & App.3) (J 8.2) 12.4	Thiele (Chair) and WG 15 Thiele (Chair) and WG 22 BRG/E members and	Intersessional Intersessional	

	scientific experts on the western gray whale and oil and gas industry experts hold one or more workshops to identify specific potential risks to gray whales from oil and gas exploration off Sakhalin Island, and identify alternative methodologies to mitigate any potentially harmful effects.		relevant experts		
Small Cetaceans (SM) Annex K					
Research to address topics on SC/55 agenda	<p>(1) Review the status of small cetaceans in the Black Sea.</p> <p>(2) Review the existence of directed and incidental takes of small cetaceans in member countries, with a view to requesting data in the future.</p> <p>(3) Review of progress of previous recommendations.</p>	13.4 (K 9)	SM members		
Whalewatching (WW) Annex L					
Data collection	<p>(1) Collate data forms from whalewatching operations and research groups around the world, as well as the scientific question(s) the forms attempt to address.</p> <p>(2) Review and further develop the Data recording System (DRS) as set out in Annex L, Appendix 2.</p>	14.1.1 (L 5.1)	Carlson	Present as a report to SC 55	
		14.1.1 (L 5.1)	Simmonds (Chair) and WG 23	Intersessional	
Management	Continue to plan for the workshop on the development of scientifically-based whale and dolphin watching management, using advice from the group set up under 5.2 (Annex L).	14.1.2 (L 5.2)	Oosthuizen (Chair) and WG 24 + Carlson (Chair) and Advisory Group 25	Intersessional	
Other	Collate information in conjunction with Bycatch group on areas of occurrence of high-speed whalewatching vessels, and collisions.	(J 9)	Group under Weinrich (see Bycatch above)	Intersessional	

Sanctuaries					
	<p>(1) Further develop generic criteria for reviewing sanctuaries (i.e. based on the criteria used in the IOS review), given feedback and clarification from the Commission.</p> <p>(2) Initiate the Review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary based on instructions from the Commission, by beginning to collate the information required to follow the instructions.</p> <p>(3) Develop some mechanisms by which sanctuary proposals and the review process would benefit, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) reviewing IWC sanctuaries in combination, where biologically relevant. (ii) introducing Marine Protected Area (MPA) scientific concepts into sanctuaries and sanctuary proposals (iii) assisting member countries in developing sanctuary proposals. In particular, identifying the objectives of the sanctuary and establishing a scientific monitoring programme. 	17.3 (N 9)	Zerbini (Chair) and SG 26	Intersessional	