

# Draft Scientific Committee Agenda

Agadir, Morocco, 30<sup>th</sup> May – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010

[N] = CHAIR'S ANNOTATIONS

## 1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS [N]

- 1.1 Chair's welcome and opening remarks
- 1.2 Appointment of rapporteurs
- 1.3 Meeting procedures and time schedule [N]
- 1.4 Establishment of sub-committees and working groups [N]
- 1.5 Computing arrangements

## 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA [N]

## 3. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

- 3.1 Documents submitted [N]
- 3.2 National Progress Reports on research [N]
- 3.3 Data collection, storage and manipulation
  - 3.3.1 Catch data and other statistical material
  - 3.3.2 Progress of data coding projects
  - 3.3.3 Progress on program verification projects
  - 3.3.4 Archiving of simulated datasets to test abundance estimation methods [N]

## 4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS [N]

### 4.1 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)

- 4.1.1 Scientific Council
- 4.1.2 Conference of Parties
- 4.1.3 Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)
- 4.1.4 Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)
- 4.1.5 Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of the Manatees and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macronesia
- 4.1.6 Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region (MoU for Pacific Islands Cetaceans)

### 4.2 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

### 4.3 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

### 4.4 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

### 4.5 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

### 4.6 Southern Ocean GLOBEC

### 4.7 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)

### 4.8 World Conservation Union (IUCN)

### 4.9 FAO – Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

### 4.10 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)

### 4.11 North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES)

### 4.12 Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Commission (ECCO)

### 4.13 Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean

### 4.15 Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

### 4.16 Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)

### 4.17 International Maritime Organization (IMO)

### 4.18 Other

## 5. REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP) – GENERAL ISSUES

- 5.1 Review MSY rates [N]
- 5.2 Version of CLA to be used in trials (N)
- 5.3 Finalise the approach for evaluating proposed amendments to the CLA [N]
- 5.4 Work plan

## **6. RMP – PREPARATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

### **6.1 Western North Pacific Bryde's whales**

*6.1.1 Complete Implementation*

*6.1.2 Recommendations*

### **6.2 North Atlantic fin whales**

*6.2.1 Complete Implementation*

*6.2.2 Recommendations*

### **6.3 North Pacific common minke whales (NPM) [N]**

*6.3.1 Initiate Pre-Implementation*

*6.3.2 Recommendations*

### **6.4 Work plan**

## **7. ESTIMATION OF BYCATCH AND OTHER HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY (BC)**

### **7.1 Collaboration with FAO on collation of relevant fisheries data**

### **7.2 Progress on joining the Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS) [N]**

### **7.3 Estimation of bycatch mortality of large whales**

### **7.4 Estimation of risk and rates of entanglement**

### **7.5 Review progress on including information in National Progress Reports**

### **7.6 Review methods to estimate mortality from ship strikes**

### **7.7 Continue to develop global database of ship strike incidents [N]**

### **7.8 Other issues**

*7.8.1 Continue to consider methods for assessing mortality from acoustic sources*

*7.8.2 Continue to consider methods for assessing mortality from marine debris*

### **7.9 Work plan**

## **8. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (AWMP)**

### **8.1 Complete work on sex ratio methods for common minke whales off West Greenland**

### **8.2 Conduct *Implementation Review* for eastern North Pacific gray whales**

### **8.4 Continue work on developing SLAs for the Greenland fisheries [N]**

### **8.5 Consider lessons learned from the bowhead whale *Implementation Review***

### **8.6 Work plan**

## **9. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT ADVICE [N]**

### **9.1 Eastern Canada and West Greenland bowhead whales (BRG)**

*9.1.1 Assess stock structure and abundance of Eastern Canada and West Greenland bowhead whales*

*9.1.2 Review recent catch information*

*9.1.3 Management advice*

### **9.2 Eastern North Pacific gray whales (BRG)**

*9.2.1 Provide information to the SWG on AWMP for Implementation Review*

*9.2.2 Review of recent catch information*

*9.2.3 Management advice*

### **9.3 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas Bowhead whale (BRG)**

*9.3.1 Review catch information and new scientific information*

*9.3.2 Management advice*

### **9.4 Common minke whale stocks off Greenland (AWMP)**

*9.4.1 New information*

*9.4.2 Sex-ratio based assessment of common minke whales*

*9.4.3 Management advice*

### **9.5 Fin whales off West Greenland (AWMP)**

*9.5.1 New information*

*9.5.2 Management advice*

### **9.6 Humpback whales off West Greenland (AWMP)**

*9.6.1 New information*

*9.6.2 Management advice*

### **9.7 Humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines (AWMP)**

*9.7.1 New information*

*9.7.2 Management advice*

### **9.8 Work plan**

## **10. WHALE STOCKS [N]**

### **10.1 Antarctic minke whales (IA)**

*10.1.1 Produce agreed abundance estimates of Antarctic minke whales using IDCR/SOWER data [N]*

*10.1.2 Conduct an analysis of ageing errors that could be used in catch-at-age analyses*

*10.1.3 Continue development of the catch-at-age models*

*10.1.4 Continue to examine the difference between abundance estimates from CPII and CPIII [N]*

*10.1.5 Work plan*

### **10.2 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales (SH) [N]**

*10.2.1 Complete assessment of Breeding stock B*

*10.2.2 Review new information on other breeding stocks*

*10.2.3 Work plan*

### **10.3 Southern Hemisphere blue whales (SH) [N]**

*10.3.1 Review new information*

*10.3.2 Work plan*

### **10.4 Western North Pacific gray whales (BRG) [N]**

*10.4.1 Review any new information*

*10.4.2 Work plan*

### **10.5 Southern Hemisphere right whales (BRG) [N]**

*10.5.1 Review any new information*

*10.5.2 Work plan*

### **10.6 Other stocks of right whales and small stock of bowhead whales (BRG)**

*10.6.1 Review any new information*

*10.6.2 Work plan*

### **10.7 SOWER cruises (IA)**

*10.7.1 General review of 2009/10 cruise*

*10.7.2 Review results from previous cruises*

### **10.8 North Pacific cruise (IA) [N]**

*10.8.1 Recommendations for 2010 cruise and short-term objectives*

*10.8.2 Mid- to long-term plans for the North Pacific Survey Programme*

### **10.9 Other**

*10.9.1 Planning of in-depth assessment of sei whales (IA) [N]*

## **11. STOCK DEFINITION (SD)**

### **11.1 Statistical and genetic issues related to stock definition**

### **11.2 Progress on the TOSSM project [N]**

### **11.3 Criteria for unit-to-serve**

### **11.4 Work plan**

## **12. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (E)**

### **12.1 Receive the State of the Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER [N]**

### **12.2 Review progress in planning for the POLLUTION 2000+ Phase II [N]**

### **12.3 Review report from CERD working group [N]**

**12.4 Review new information on anthropogenic sound and cetaceans, focusing on masking sounds (e.g. noise from shipping and other low frequency sources)**

### **12.5 Review progress on work from the Second Climate Change workshop [N]**

### **12.6 Other habitat related issues**

### **12.7 Work plan**

## **13. ECOSYSTEM MODELLING (EM) [N]**

### **13.1 Review ecosystem models relevant to the Committee's work**

### **13.2 Review issues related to functional responses**

### **13.3 Recommendations on the role of this working group within the Committee**

### **13.4 Work plan**

## **14. SMALL CETACEANS (SM)**

### **14.1 Review taxonomy, population structure and status of small cetaceans in the eastern tropical Atlantic [N]**

### **14.2 Review report from the working group on climate change and small cetaceans [N]**

### **14.3 Review progress on previous recommendations [N]**

- 14.4 Review takes of small cetaceans [N]**
- 14.5 Work plan**
- 15. WHALEWATCHING (WW)**
  - 15.1 Discuss the proposal for a large-scale whalewatching experiment (LaWE) [N]**
  - 15.2 Review whalewatching off North Africa**
  - 15.3 Assess the impact of whalewatching on cetaceans**
  - 15.4 Review reports of intersessional working groups**
  - 15.5 Other issues**
    - 15.5.1 Consider information from platforms of opportunity of potential value to the Scientific Committee*
    - 15.5.2 Review of whalewatching guidelines and regulations*
    - 15.5.3 Review risks to cetaceans from collisions with whalewatching vessels*
  - 15.6 Work plan**
- 16. DNA TESTING (DNA) [N]**
  - 16.1 Review genetic methods for species, stock and individual identification**
  - 16.2 Review results of the ‘amendments’ of sequences deposited in GenBank**
  - 16.3 Collection and archiving of tissue samples from catches and bycatches**
  - 16.4 Reference databases and standards for diagnostic DNA registries**
  - 16.5 Work plan**
- 17. SCIENTIFIC PERMITS (SP) [N]**
  - 17.1 Review of results from existing permits [N]**
    - 17.1.1 JARPN II*
    - 17.1.2 JARPA II*
    - 17.1.3 Planning for a final review of results from Iceland – North Atlantic common minke whales*
  - 17.2 Review of new or continuing proposals [N]**
    - 17.2.1 JARPA II*
    - 17.2.2 JARPN II*
  - 17.3 Procedure for reviewing scientific permit proposals [N]**
  - 17.4 Work plan**
- 18. WHALE SANCTUARIES (S) [N]**
- 19. SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP [N]**
- 20. ACTIONS ARISING FROM INTERSESSIONAL REQUESTS FROM THE COMMISSION [N]**
- 21. RESEARCH AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AND RESULTS**
  - 21.1 Review results from previously funded research proposals**
  - 21.2 Review proposals for 2010/11 [N]**
- 22. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR THE 2011 MEETING [N]**
- 23. DATA PROCESSING AND COMPUTING NEEDS FOR 2010/11 [N]**
- 24. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2010/11 [N]**
- 25. WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE [N]**
- 26. ELECTION OF OFFICERS [N]**
- 27. PUBLICATIONS**
- 28. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 29. ADOPTION OF REPORT [N]**

## CHAIR'S ANNOTATIONS [N]

### ITEM 1: INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The Scientific Committee (SC/62) will meet in Agadir, Morocco, from Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010. It will be preceded on Friday and Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May by a pre-meeting of the RMP/NPM sub-committee to start the *Pre-Implementation Assessment* of North Pacific common minke whales and a concurrent pre-meeting for the correspondence working group on abundance analysis methods for Southern Hemisphere minke whales.

General information can be found at:

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/meetings/meeting2010.htm>

The website containing a list of the work agreed to be attempted during the 2009/2010 intersessional period is at:

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/sctasks.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/sctasks.htm)

and the list of intersessional correspondence groups and terms of reference (Annex Q):

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/screport.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/screport.htm)

I have referred to some, but not all of these intersessional groups in the notes to the Agenda.

### Item 1.3: Meeting procedures and time schedule

At the Scientific Committee meeting in 2009 we had 105 sessions available for sub-committee deliberations over a seven-day period, based on three concurrent sub-committee meetings for each of five work sessions per day, starting at approximately 08:30 and ending typically at 18:00. This schedule allowed for several *ad hoc* working groups to meet in the evening, typically from 18:15 to approximately 21:00, and for occasional longer sessions of sub-committees beyond the scheduled 18:00 finish time.

The Special Permit (SP) working group will meet during two evening sessions early in the sub-committee week to complete its agenda. The Sanctuaries working group (SAN) will only be established if there is a new formal proposal for sanctuaries submitted according to the guidelines for review by the Committee. As was done last year, one evening session will be used to 'communicate' a key theme of the Committees work: the 'Comprehensive Assessment' and 'the AWMP' are candidate themes.

Last year's schedule proved efficient as it allowed for rapporteurs and *ad hoc* working groups to work during the evening. The Scientific Committee agreed to continue this schedule at the 2010 Annual Meeting (SC/62).

Time schedule at SC/62		
Date	Items	Comments
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 09:00	Plenary session, then read documents	Items 1-4
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 09:00	Initial meetings of sub-committees and working groups (about 15 minutes each)	To elect chairs and adopt agenda, identify documents, etc
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> June Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Predominantly sub-committees (possibly some short plenary meetings)	To complete agenda and agree report
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	<i>Tentative</i> rest day	Subject to cancellation if insufficient progress is made....
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Plenary sessions. Intention to finish no later than 5pm on Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	To complete agenda and agree report, including work plan and draft initial agenda for 2011
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	09:00-12:00 Convenors to complete editorial work on sub-committee and plenary reports; 12:00 Convenors meeting to, if necessary, consider refinements of the draft initial agenda, priorities, and changes in organisational structure implied by the draft initial agenda or by discussions during the meeting.	

### Item 1.4: Establishment of sub-committees and working groups

The following groups were identified by the Convenors immediately after SC/61 (see table below). In the hopes of training more people to be chairs for future years, a co-convenors position (see table below) was developed to assist some sub-committee chairs by attend the convenors group meetings and chairing some sessions. Although each group has a tentative annex number, some reports may be incorporated directly into the Scientific Committee's report. PLEASE NOTE: this year you are asked to sign up for sub-committees and working groups in advance. Details can be found in circular IWC.SC.153. It is important that you consult the registration and document submission details that can be found on the website:

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/2010categories.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/2010categories.htm)

We intend to establish 14 sub-committees (including standing Working Groups and *ad hoc* Working Groups). Also this year we have seven days available for sub-committees, and the number of sessions for sub-committees is again scheduled to 105 based on three concurrent sub-committee meetings for each of five work sessions per day, starting at approximately 08:30 and ending typically at 18:00. Because of the inability to schedule certain sub-committees opposite other sub-committees, we will, if necessary, convene some evening sessions. However, if possible, I will avoid evening sessions to allow: (1) rapporteurs to draft reports and (2) more time for small break out groups (e.g. to do simulation runs and testing) during the annual meeting.

The draft Agenda developed by the Convenors at last year's meeting (IWC/61/Rep1, Item 22) identified priority items for each sub-committee and items that would only be discussed if time is available. Chairs will adhere closely to this. I have included items in the latter category as sub-items under the heading 'Other issues' where appropriate, to emphasise this.

<b>Sub-committees, standing and <i>ad hoc</i> working groups at SC/62</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Convenor</b>	<b>Co-convenor</b>	<b>Annex</b>
Revised Management Procedure, <b>RMP</b>	Bannister		<b>D</b>
<i>Pre-Implementation Assessment</i> of western North Pacific common minke whales, <b>NPM</b>	Hammond		<b>D1</b>
Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure, <b>AWMP</b>	Donovan		<b>E</b>
Bowhead, Right and Gray Whales, <b>BRG</b>	Kitakado		<b>F</b>
In-depth Assessment, <b>IA</b>	Walløe	Skaug	<b>G</b>
Southern Hemisphere whale stocks other than Antarctic minke and right whales, <b>SH</b>	Zerbini	Robbins	<b>H</b>
Stock Definition, <b>SD</b>	Bravington		<b>I</b>
Estimation of bycatch and other human-induced mortality, <b>BC</b>	Perrin		<b>J</b>
Environmental Concerns, <b>E</b>	Moore		<b>K</b>
Ecosystem Modelling, <b>EM</b>	Ferguson		<b>K1</b>
Small Cetaceans, <b>SM</b>	Fortuna		<b>L</b>
Whalewatching, <b>WW</b>	Kato	Bejder	<b>M</b>
DNA, <b>DNA</b>	Pastene		<b>N</b>
Special Permits, <b>SP</b>	Bjørge		<b>P</b>

## **ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The order of the Agenda is based on that of last year, but amended *inter alia* to take account of our work plan and Commission mandates. The Commission accepted our priorities and initial Agenda, and adopted the budget as given under Items 22 and 24 of the last year's report.

I again recognise that some Contracting Governments do not believe that certain topics should be on the Commission and/or Scientific Committee Agendas. The appropriate forum to discuss such views is in the Commission. It is not within my mandate as Chair to exclude items specifically requested for inclusion by the Commission (e.g. by Resolution). To facilitate plenary and sub-committee discussions, I will follow the practice of past years and **strongly request** that any objections to specific items or particular topics on the Agenda be raised briefly under this Agenda Item and then provided in writing to the rapporteur for inclusion in our report. It is not acceptable for these objections to be repeated during discussions of the items themselves in the plenary sessions or during sub-committee meetings. A written reference in the relevant reports to the statements made here under Item 2 will be sufficient.

## **ITEM 3: REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS**

### **Item 3.1: Documents submitted**

PLEASE NOTE: the system we used the last couple years will again be used this year for document distribution, in order to save both paper and energy. The details can be found on the IWC website:

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/2010categories.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/2010categories.htm)

and in circular IWC.SC.153.

### **Item 3.2: National Progress Reports on research**

The template for National Progress Reports has been updated and the **latest version must be used**. It can be downloaded from the website:

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/scprogress.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/scprogress.htm)

Under this Item we will also discuss progress made and difficulties encountered with respect to online data entry of progress reports as raised last year (Items 3.2, 7.4 and 14.3).

*Item 3.3.4: Archiving of simulated datasets to test abundance estimation methods*

It had been agreed in 2002 that such datasets be archived with the Secretariat and relevant members are asked to ensure that the most recent updates have been provided to the Secretariat.

**ITEM 4: COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

Most of the organisations on this list are ones that have met since our last meeting and with which we have a formal exchange of observers. Observers' reports should therefore be available. **Observers, please, send your reports to the Secretariat no later than 14<sup>th</sup> May.** I would like to be able to discuss these on Day 1. In order to save time, there will be no presentation of observer's reports. Any directly relevant scientific matters will be dealt with under appropriate Agenda Items on our Agenda. I will assume that Committee members have read these, and I will ask members whether there are any questions that should be addressed under this Agenda Item.

**ITEMS: 5-17**

These items have been prepared in consultation with the Convenors to take specifically into account relevant Commission resolutions and Agenda Items. Note that the Committee Agenda here does not repeat the detailed sub-committee Agenda Items, but only highlights the major areas of discussion. Sub-items can more appropriately be added later (as is our usual practice).

**ITEM 5: REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP) – GENERAL ISSUES**

**Item 5.1: Review MSY rates**

Based on the preparatory work of a steering group (Annex Q3) we expect that a decision can be made regarding the range of plausible MSYR for use in RMP *Implementation Simulation Trials*.

**Item 5.2: Version of the CLA to be used in trials**

During work being undertaken on behalf of the Chair of the Commission with respect to the 'Future of the IWC', a problem was discovered with respect to which version of the CLA should be used when running trials. A paper will be presented on this. Any implications for *Implementations* already undertaken with be discussed under Item 6.

**Item 5.3: Finalise the approach for evaluating proposed amendments to the CLA [N]**

You will recall that at SC/56, the Committee was informed that Norway intended to propose changes to the CLA for baleen whales on their feeding grounds. The scientific reasons for this proposal are given in *J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 7 (SUPPL.):79-80. One of the reasons for undertaking the MSYR review was to assist in finalising the trial structure for the consideration of proposals to amend the CLA of the RMP. It is hoped that this can be achieved at this meeting.

**ITEM 6: RMP – PREPARATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

**Item 6.3: North Pacific common minke whales**

In 2009, the Commission agreed that for the western North Pacific common minke whales, the Scientific Committee should follow the option in the Scientific Committee report (Item 20.2.2 (2) – pages 93-4 of the version on the website) that specifies completing a full *Implementation Review* as soon as possible, ideally by the 2012 Annual Meeting. This will be possible if the *pre-Implementation Assessment* can be completed this year. The *pre-Implementation Assessment* will start during the pre-meetings (28-29 May 2010) and continue on during the sub-committee meetings. This will be conducted under the work of the NPM *ad hoc* working group, convened by Hammond, and their report will be part of RMP sub-committee's report.

**ITEM 7: ESTIMATION OF BYCATCH AND OTHER HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY**

**Item 7.2: Progress on joining the Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS)**

In 2005, the Committee recommended that the collaboration with FAO be formalised and that IWC should join the Fishery Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS). It was noted that the information flow should be a two-way process, with bycatch records held by the IWC being provided to the FAO, and FAO should provide detailed information on the nature and scale of fisheries in areas where large whale bycatch might be an issue of concern. We will review progress of this collaboration.

**Item 7.7: Continue to develop global database of ship strike incidents**

I draw your attention to the activity of the Conservation Committee and its intersessional working group (SSWG/CC). The SC established an intersessional group (Annex Q20) to further develop a process by which data provided from a range of sources could be stored in a database. We will review progress made by this group.

## **ITEM 8: ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE**

### **Item 8.4: Continue work on developing SLAs for the Greenlandic fisheries**

The Committee will review progress of an intersessional steering group (Annex Q1) and Workshop as the basis for its further work.

## **ITEM 9: ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT ADVICE**

In 2007 the Commission adopted new catch limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling that in several cases requires annual review, *inter alia* common minke whales and bowhead whales off West Greenland.

## **ITEM 10: WHALE STOCKS**

The title of this item now corresponds to that in the Commission's draft Agenda. Individual items will be dealt with by appropriate sub-committees, as indicated in the Draft Agenda.

### **Item 10.1: Antarctic minke whales**

#### *Item 10.1.1: Produce agreed abundance estimates of Antarctic minke whales using SOWER data*

An intersessional working group (Annex Q11) has been set up to prepare and document abundance estimates, diagnostics, results from analysing simulated datasets and differences between the two methods. The Committee will review their progress. The data from JARPA will be considered at SC/63.

#### *Item 10.1.4: Continue to examine the differences between abundance estimates from CPII and CPIII*

Reasons for the observed differences in abundance estimated from CPII and CPIII are not yet fully understood. Three groups have been working intersessionally towards the completion of this long standing task. The intersessional work has addressed: the relationship between the abundance of Antarctic minke whales and variables related to sea ice (Annex Q16); Catch-at-age analyses (Annex Q12); and continuation of the methodological aspects of abundance (Annex Q11). The Committee will review intersessional progress as basis for its continued work.

### **Item 10.2: Southern Hemisphere humpback whales**

The Committee will complete the assessment of breeding stock B (Annex Q5).

### **Item 10.3: Southern Hemisphere blue whales**

The Committee will review new information and the report of the intersessional email group that was established last year to coordinate among researchers in multiple regions to compute abundance estimates of Southern Hemisphere blue whales outside of the Antarctic.

### **Item 10.4: Western North Pacific gray whales**

The Commission is particularly concerned about the status of the endangered western North Pacific gray whale, whose feeding grounds coincide with oil and gas operations off Sakhalin Island, Russian Federation. The population numbers only about 120 animals and although there is evidence that it has been increasing at perhaps 3% per year over the last decade, any additional deaths, for example in fishing gear as has recently occurred, put the survival of the population in doubt. The Commission agreed to work together to try to mitigate anthropogenic threats to this endangered population. The Committee will review new information, e.g. on bycatch mortality and any mitigation measures to reduce risk of bycatches. The Committee will also receive a report from the intersessional working group (Annex Q31) that is reviewing contributions that genetic studies can make to western gray whale conservation. Finally, the Committee will receive a proposed draft Conservation Plan for this population and information on the telemetry programme that has been discussed in recent years.

### **Item 10.5: Southern Hemisphere right whales**

Intersessional working groups have been set up to plan the assessment of Southern Hemisphere right whale populations (Annex Q8) and to consider reasons for the recent die-off of Southern Hemisphere right whales off of Argentina (Annex Q9). The Committee will review progress of these two groups and decide on further steps.

### **Item 10.8: North Pacific cruise**

During 2009, there was a proposal to conduct a North Pacific sighting survey programme. The report from an intersessional meeting that further explored this idea will be reviewed this year and the Committee will decide on further steps.

#### *Item 10.9.1: Planning of in-depth assessment of sei whales*

Data inventories are being compiled for an in-depth assessment of North Pacific sei whales. The Committee will review progress and decide on further steps.

## **ITEM 11: STOCK DEFINITION**

### **Item 11.2: Progress on the TOSSM project**

The main aim is to develop simulation tools that can be used to examine the performance of current and future genetic population structure techniques. Since several sub-committees are currently trying to evaluate results from the application of STRUCTURE and BayesAss, it is appropriate to give priority to obtaining results from these methods.

## **ITEM 12: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS**

### **Item 12.1: Receive the State of Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER**

Committee members are encouraged to make submissions to the co-Convenors of the intersessional working group (Annex Q22). Use the standardised form for data entry, which can be downloaded from:

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/socer2010.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/socer2010.htm)

### **Item 12.2: Review progress in planning for the POLLUTION 2000+ Phase II**

A steering group (Annex Q23) was set up to: (1) develop a framework for evaluating cause and effect relationships between pollutants and cetaceans; (2) evaluate existing models; (3) assess model characteristics; (4) develop a prioritisation framework to evaluate the broad number of environmental pollutants; and (5) identify data needs and available datasets. An intersessional workshop to develop a potential programme was held in California and the Committee will review this and decide on further steps.

### **Item 12.3: Review report from CERD working group**

A working group (Appendix Q24) has been set up to: (1) participate in the “pathogens of concern” work; (2) utilise the fields developed for diagnostic labs and identify regional experts who will be willing to provide the information and complete the 1<sup>st</sup> round of diagnostic labs by region, ocean basin or country; and (3) develop standardised lesion descriptions and characteristics. The Committee will review progress on these tasks then decide on further steps.

### **Item 12.5: Review progress on work from the Second Climate Change workshop**

The report of the second workshop to review effects on climate change on cetaceans was reviewed by the Committee last year. A number of recommendations for future research were made and sub-groups were formed to take these forward; the Committee will review reports from these sub-groups and then decide on further steps (and see Item 14.2).

## **ITEM 13: ECOSYSTEM MODELLING**

Ecosystem modelling has been subject to discussion in several of the sub-committees in recent years. To further this topic, we have established a separate working group under E as a forum for this discussion. At SC/62 the working group will *inter alia* consider models that are relevant to the Committee’s evaluation of special permit whaling, as well as other relevant ecosystem models; discuss issues surrounding functional response models; and discuss the role of the EM in the Committee.

## **ITEM 14: SMALL CETACEANS**

### **Item 14.1: Review taxonomy, population structure and status of small cetaceans in the eastern tropical Atlantic**

Given that SC/62 will be held in Morocco, the small cetacean sub-committee agreed to review the systematics, population structure and status of small cetaceans in the eastern tropical Atlantic as its priority topic for this year.

### **Item 14.2: Review report from the working group on climate change and small cetaceans**

A working group (Annex Q21) has been set up to: (1) collate and review existing research, taking into account the IWC climate change workshop report; (2) identify key studies, species and areas and opportunities for further research; and (3) develop recommendations for future research. The Committee will review progress on these tasks then decide on further steps.

### **Item 14.3: Review progress on previous recommendations**

IWC Resolution 2001-13 urges contracting governments to respond to Scientific Committee requests for information and recommendations for action regarding conservation of small cetaceans. This resolution also instructs the Committee to continue to review progress on previous recommendations on a regular basis.

### **Item 14.4: Review takes of small cetaceans**

As in previous years, I request Heads of Delegation to arrange for such information to be included in the National Progress Reports (re. Annotations to Item 3.2).

## **ITEM 15: WHALEWATCHING**

### **Item 15.1: Discuss the proposal for a large-scale whalewatching experiment (LaWE)**

A Workshop held in Bunbury, Australia, 30 March – 3 April, 2008 developed the outline of a large-scale whalewatching experiment (LaWE). At SC/60 the report was reviewed and established two intersessional groups (Annex Q27 and Q28) to further develop the research proposal. SC/62 will review progress in this work then decide on further steps.

## **ITEM 16: DNA TESTING**

Under this Agenda Item, we will provide the report to the Commission required by IWC Resolution 1999-8. I will again refer you to the Committee's recommendation that sequences to be used in published reports should be deposited in GenBank, and that the GenBank accession number is included in the publication, whether or not this is required by the journal. This is incorporated in the policy of the *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*, and its guide for authors. The Committee recommended that similar practices be established for public archiving of non-sequence genetic data, where feasible. In addition, as part of the work being undertaken on the Future of the IWC, the Committee will review possible Schedule amendments related to the topic of DNA registries and market sampling.

## **ITEM 17: SCIENTIFIC PERMITS**

At SC/61 a working group (SP) was created to entertain the discussion of special permit programmes and associated procedural questions. The scientific results of the special permit programmes will be discussed in the relevant sub-committees and standing working groups (*inter alia* IA, NPM, E and EM).

### **Item 17.1: Review of results from existing permits**

There are two existing ongoing Special Permit programmes (JARPN II on North Pacific common minke, sei, Bryde's and sperm whales and JARPA II on fin and Antarctic minke whales). In addition, there is one existing programme where the scientific whaling operations have finished, but final review of results is pending (the Icelandic programme on North Atlantic common minke whales).

### **Item 17.2: Review of new or continuing proposals**

I have not been informed about any new proposal, and I do not anticipate any discussion of new Special Permit proposals at SC/62.

### **Item 17.3: Procedure for reviewing scientific permit proposals**

You will recall that during 2008 the Scientific Committee agreed on a new procedure for review of new proposals for Special Permit whaling, and for periodic and final review of existing Special Permit programmes (Rep. SC/60 Annex P). The new procedure included an independent review by an expert workshop. Some general issues arose out of the discussion of the report of that workshop last year and the Committee agreed to discuss further whether any modifications to Annex P are needed this year.

The next programme to be scheduled for review following the new procedure is likely to be the Icelandic Special Permit programme on North Atlantic common minke whales, where the expert workshop will review the final results.

## **ITEM 18: SANCTUARIES**

In the major discussion about sanctuaries in 2004, the Committee recommended procedures to facilitate the review of future proposals and future sanctuary reviews (*J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 7 (Suppl.):50-1). I have not been informed about any new proposals for Sanctuaries that we have not already thoroughly reviewed. Therefore, I do not foresee any major discussion regarding this Agenda Item. Nonetheless, I have left the item on our draft Agenda for final consideration at the time of our meeting.

## **ITEM 19: SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP**

The Government of Australia hosted a workshop in Sydney 23 – 26 March 2009 to discuss plans for a five-year non-lethal research effort in the Southern Ocean. The workshop used IWC Scientific Committee research recommendations as a starting point for its deliberations. A workshop report was submitted to SC/61. The Committee endorsed the general approach developed for this program. At this year's Annual Meeting we look forward to receiving further reports on progress, in particular with respect to further defined objectives and proposed actions. The Committee will review progress on this topic and then decide on further steps.

## **ITEM 20: ACTIONS ARISING FROM INTERSESSIONAL REQUESTS FROM THE COMMISSION**

The Commission has been embarking upon a series of meetings related to the topic of the 'Future of the IWC'. It is working on text for requesting advice on a number of matters. This text should become available towards the end of

March. Once it is available we will decide upon the best way to handle the items, including adding them to the Agendas of relevant sub-committees or dealing with them in Plenary.

#### **ITEM 21: RESEARCH AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AND RESULTS**

##### **Item 21.2: Review proposals for 2010/11**

This item will be handled, as usual, by a review group chaired by the Vice Chair and appointed from the sub-committee chairs. However, I have been informed by the Secretariat that it is unlikely that we will be able to support any outside proposals and none have been received thus far. I also draw your attention to the discussion of appropriate procedures for funding research discussed under Items 19 and 22 of SC60's Committee report.

#### **ITEM 22: COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR THE 2011 MEETING**

Our priorities are largely determined by the Commission and should not require a great deal of discussion. The work plan specified by each sub-committee/working group will provide a basis for the draft Agenda for the next meeting. I will prepare a draft initial Agenda for review before the end of the meeting so that it can appear in our report and will reflect our view of priorities for 2010/11. This Agenda will, of course, be subject to revision as a result of Commission decisions. Any revisions will be sent to you in an Outcome Report shortly after the Commission meeting.

#### **ITEM 23: DATA PROCESSING AND COMPUTING NEEDS FOR 2010/11**

To facilitate discussion of this item, which necessarily occurs relatively late in the meeting, sub-committee chairs will, as usual, be asked to keep a running tally of needs arising in their sub-committee deliberations.

#### **ITEM 24: FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2010/11**

To facilitate discussion of this item, which necessarily occurs relatively late in the meeting, sub-committee Convenors will, as usual, be asked to keep a running tally of requirements arising in their sub-committee deliberations. Sub-committee chairs will try to ensure that a summary document is available as soon as possible after the sub-committees have completed their business. Where necessary, small groups will be appointed by sub-committee chairs to work out details for presentation in the plenary sessions under this item. As was done last year, we will use a standard form that should help in ensuring that the appropriate information is easily available.

#### **ITEM 25: WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee has agreed to keep this item on the Agenda to allow for discussion of possible proposals to improve the working methods of the Committee.

We are expecting papers on a number of topics including: approaches for reviewing funding requests related to e.g. Conservation Management Plans and SORP; and priorities for Conservation Management Plans.

The Scientific Committee Handbook has been on the website for several months and we will consider suggestions for additions/modifications under this Agenda Item.

The ongoing discussion within the Commission regarding the future of IWC may entail changes in the structure, timing and agenda of the Committee. I will keep you informed on any developments when appropriate.

#### **ITEM 26: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The elected officers (Chair Palka and Vice Chair Kitakado) of the Scientific Committee are in their first year of their three year terms. Unless one decides to step down, the next election is scheduled for 2012. However, this agenda item traditionally remains on our agenda each year. Our Rules of Procedure can be found on the website:

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/commission/procedure.htm#scientific>

#### **ITEM 29: ADOPTION OF REPORT**

I will do my best to ensure that we finish before 5pm on the final day with a completed report.