

Summary of Scientific Committee tasks identified for intersessional period 2003-2004

Item	Task	SC Report + Annex Item	Responsibility (Annex U No.)	Timescale	Funding allocated
National Progress Reports					
Clarification of data	Progress Reports should, wherever possible, clearly identify data obtained from whalewatching vessels under item 2.1.2 (Opportunistic, Platforms of Opportunity). Clarification of whether data are collected by scientists or operators/crews is encouraged.	3.2	Secretariat to update Guidelines; Member Governments to provide information.		
Glossary of gear types	Produce an illustrated glossary of gear types which will enable compilers of National Progress reports to specify gear types involved in bycatch.	7.1.1 (J:5.1)	Not specified		
Data Collection, Storage and Manipulation					
Catch data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to encode the basic individual records from the revised Soviet catch data and document inconsistencies. • Produce summary of the best data available for each expedition and time period. Review summary and provide direction on resolution of non-individual data and methods of interpolation. • Following completion of previous task, a small intersessional technical group will meet to consider how to fill in the gaps. • Investigate whether historic blue whale catch data can be amended to distinguish between blue and pygmy blue whales 	20	Secretariat computing	Intersessionally	£2,300
		3.3.2	Allison + Steering Group (24)	Intersessional workshop in Cambridge	
		20	Allison, Brownell, Donovan, Mikhalev, Tormosov + interpreter Secretariat	Intersessionally	
List of available datasets	Develop a list of the datasets held by the Secretariat, together with their access conditions.	3.3.2	Allison	Completed for SC/56	
Revised Management Procedure (RMP) Annex D					
<i>General Issues</i>	Adjustment of the convergence criteria for the CATCHLIMIT programme.	5.1 (D: 5.1)	Allison	Intersessionally	
	Draw up an updated version of the Requirements and Guidelines for Conducting Surveys and Analysing Data within the Revised Management Scheme.	6.2.2.3 (D:6.2.2.3)	Donovan and Hammond	Completed for SC/56	

Preparations for Implementation Western North Pacific Bryde's whales	Progress work on the Pre-Implementation Assessment. In particular, identify data and analysis needs as specified under Item 5.3 with a view to completion as soon as possible.	6.3.3	Steering Group (3)	Intersessionally	
Plan for In-Depth Assessment of North Pacific minke whales	(1) Identify what needs to be included; (2) facilitate preparation of material; and (3) through the Chair of the Committee determine whether there is sufficient information to proceed with an assessment at the 2004 meeting.	6.4 (D: 6.4)	Steering Group (2)	Intersessionally	
North Atlantic fin whales	Recommend to the Committee whether the available data are sufficient to allow a <i>pre-implementation assessment</i> to occur.	10.6.4	Steering Group (27)	Intersessionally	
Bycatch (BC) Annex J					
Collaboration with FAO	Visit FAO office in Rome to investigate available information on fisheries, gear and effort for consideration at SC/56.	7.1.1 (J:5.1)	Northridge	Intersessional visit	£800
Glossary of gear types	See Progress Reports above	7.1.1 (J:5.1)	Not specified		
Preparation for Workshop	Send a letter to market sampling specialists explaining the issues and objectives of the bycatch workshop. Ask whether: (1) they can assist in determining the nature and level of information that would be needed to design a sampling programme to provide estimates of bycatch; (2) they can participate in a planning meeting; and (3) participate in the workshop (if recommended), and develop detailed methods and approaches. Continue preparations for workshop based on advice from planning meeting.	7.2.1 (J:6.1)	Secretary in conjunction with Berggren Steering Group (11)	Intersessionally – 1 st stage of 5-stage approach. Intersessionally	
Aboriginal Whaling Management Procedure (AWMP) Annex E					
Computing tasks	(1) Amend control program to implement modifications to GE trials, condition trials and circulate to developers; (2) create input files for and condition GR trials, produce population trajectories; (3) Run GE trials for candidate <i>SLAs</i> and prepare comparison plots and tables for intersessional meeting.	20	Secretariat computing	Intersessionally	
Greenlandic Research Programme	Address issues of stock structure and movement using satellite tagging	8.3.1 & 21 (E:3.1)	Associated researchers		£18,000
Simulation studies for Greenlandic fisheries	Exploratory simulation studies and future approaches	8.3.3 (E:3.4)	Steering Group (25)	Intersessionally	
Intersessional Workshop	Prepare for intersessional workshop to finalise gray whale trial specifications	8.6 & 21 (E:9)	Steering Group (1)	Intersessional – early January likely	£12,000
Developer's fund	Continue progress with development of trials	8.6 & 21 (E:9)	Developers	Intersessionally	£8,400

Whale Stocks (IA) Annex G					
DESS	Maintenance, improvements and work related to recent cruises	10.1.1 & 21	RUWPA	Intersessionally	£10,000
SOWER Cruise	Suggestions to planning meeting for contingency plans in case the Ross Sea is again closed to survey vessels.	10.1.2.2 (G:2.2.2)	IA members	Suggestions for both to Secretariat by 1 September 2003 (secretariat@iwcoffice.org)	£80,000
	Produce a paper for SC/56 to facilitate discussion of possible future cruises, including suggestions from IA members	10.1.2.2 (G:2.3)	Steering Group (26) + IA members		
	Provision of funds to support the 2003/04 SOWER cruise.	10.1.2.2 (G:2.2.2)			
	Validation of the 2002/03 cruise data and incorporation into the sightings database.	20	Secretariat computing	Intersessionally	
Evaluation of abundance estimators against simulated datasets	Discuss analytical issues related to abundance estimates, in particular, SH minke whales. Design simulation datasets used to investigate robustness of abundance estimators.	10.1.3 (G:2.4)	Working Group (4)	Intersessionally	
Collection of sea ice and environmental variables	Identify ice-edge and other environmental explanatory variables (e.g. shelf break, coastlines, southern boundary, the ACC) that are likely to influence whale distribution	10.2.3.1.2 (G:3.4.1.2)	Working Group (5)	Intersessionally	
VPA analysis	Undertake further catch-at-age analyses for SH minke whales to address the seven issues detailed in Annex G, item 3.4.2.1	10.2.3.2 (G:3.4.2.1)	Working Group (6) + data availability group	Intersessionally	
Completion of Antarctic minke review	The tasks identified to further the review of Antarctic minke whale abundance are identified in Annex G, Appendix 10.	10.2.5	IA Members	Intersessionally	
Developmental work	Develop and test new analytical methods that result in less biased abundance estimates and trends.	10.2.5 (G:4)	Bravington and Hedley	Intersessionally	£8,000
Other Southern Hemisphere Whale Stocks (SH) Annex H					
Preparation for assessment of blue whales in 2006	(1) Summarise current knowledge by population or management area; (2) identify any major gaps in knowledge; (3) establish priorities for research to fill these gaps.	10.3.4 (H:6.6)	Working Group (9)	Intersessionally	
Humpback whales	Continue with work identified last year and provide updated information: (1) summarise current knowledge by population or management area; (2) identify any major gaps in knowledge; (3) establish priorities for research to fill these gaps.	10.4.1.1 (H:7.1)	Working Group (8)	Intersessionally	
	Six items for further work are identified in Annex H, item 7.7.	10.4.4 (H:7.7)	SH Members	Intersessionally	
Antarctic Humpback Whale Catalogue	Continue to provide funding to support the catalogue curated by the College of the Atlantic (COA).	10.4.1.2 (H:7.4)	COA		£5,100
Other					
Sperm whales	Continue preparations for an in-depth assessment.	10.6.1 (Annex R)	Steering Group (7)	Intersessionally	

Stock Definition (SD) Annex I					
Testing of Spatial Structure Models	Intersessional development of TOSSM project: (1) Coordinate the work required to implement the TOSSM modules, including adaptation of METASIM; (2) develop an initial set of trial datasets; (3) contact developers of genetic methods and provide guidance on linking methods to TOSSM.	11.1.1 (I:5.1)	Steering Group (10)	First set of simulated datasets to be available in February/March 2004	£9,500
Environmental Concerns (E) Annex K					
SO-GLOBEC	Continue collaborative efforts associated with this programme including cruise support, coordination and analyses of existing data. Continue to progress the work associated with the SO-GLOBEC and CCAMLR programmes. Validation of the joint IWC/SO-GLOBEC cruise data.	12.2.2 (K:7) 20	Thiele and Moore (Coordinators) Steering Group (17) Secretariat computing (with Thiele and Hedley)	Intersessionally Intersessionally Intersessionally	£25,000
POLLUTION 2000+	(1) Complete analyses under Phase I; (2) hold intersessional meeting to synthesize results among associated laboratories; (3) determine activities to be conducted under Phase II.	12.3.1 (K:8)	Reijnders (Coordinator), associated researchers + Steering Group (18)	Intersessionally	£25,000
SOCER	Collate information for and development of the SOCER report.	12.3.3 (K:8.1)	Working Group (19)	Intersessionally	
Arctic issues	Continue to coordinate review of Arctic research.	12.3.4 (K:8.2)	Working Group (20)	Intersessionally	
Habitat Degradation Workshop	Continue to plan for this Workshop.	12.3.5 (K:8.3)	Working Group (14)	Intersessionally	
Acoustic issues	Contact the US Marine Mammal Commission (MMC) with a request for exchange of information regarding noise in the marine environment, for the potential development of cooperative research. Highlight SC recommendations for representation at future meetings of the MMC noise programme and the next SC. (1) Further develop the noise agenda of the SWG; (2) identify topics for future review, such as demographic or physiological consequences of exposure to loud noise sources and synergistic effects; (3) identify other bodies to assist in this work.	12.3.6 (K:8.4)	Secretariat Working Group (16)	Intersessionally Intersessionally	
Ice data collection	Continue to develop the standardised data collection system.	12.2.2 (K:7)	Working Group (15)	Intersessionally	
Future agenda of E group	Define focus of the SWG's work for SC/56 e.g. by linking more closely with other sub-committees	12.4 (K:9)	Steering Group (21) for decision by Chair of SC	Intersessionally	
Small Cetaceans (SM) Annex L					
Research associated with priority topics identified for SC/56	Priority topic: review of franciscana. Feasibility of 1-day workshop examining the issue of depredation of fisheries catches by small cetaceans in the Mediterranean region.	13.4 (L:9)	SM members and IPs Read	Intersessionally	

Whalewatching (WW) Annex M					
Data collection development	Continue field testing and development of the Data Recording System (DRS).	14.1.1 (M:5)	Working Group (12)	Intersessionally	
Whalewatching management Workshop	Provide scientific advice for the organisation of the workshop.	14.2 (M:6)	Advisory Group (13)	Intersessionally	
DNA Testing (DNA) Annex N					
Reference databases and standards for a diagnostic register of DNA profiles	Develop a list of items that would be useful for inclusion in the annual report to the Committee	15.3 (N:7)	Pastene and Skaug	Intersessionally	
Special Permits					
Review of final JARPA results	Begin planning for review of final JARPA results expected in 2005	15.5 (O:4)	Working Group (23)	Intersessionally	
Sanctuaries					
Sanctuary reviews	(1) Continue to prepare for the review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary in 2004; (2) Prepare for pre-meeting workshop	17.2.2 (P:6.2.2)	Steering Group (22)	Intersessionally	£7,000