

Summary of Scientific Committee tasks identified for intersessional period 2004-2005 (From the Plenary Report)

Item	Task	SC Report + Annex Item	Responsibility ¹	Timescale	Funding allocated
National Progress Reports					
Update Progress Report template	(1) append standardised FAO gear descriptions including shark exclusion nets (J: App. 3); (2) add further categories under section 6.2 'Non-natural mortality or injury' (J: App. 4); (3) add appropriate wording under Platforms of Opportunity 2.1.2 requesting inclusion and identification of data collected from whalewatching vessels, by scientists/operators/crew, and methodology used (M: 5.3).	3.2, 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 14.1.3	Secretariat	Before SC57	
Data Collection, Storage and Manipulation					
Soviet Southern Hemisphere Catch Data	Finish encoding the basic individual records from the revised catch data and document inconsistencies. Continue work to summarise best data available for each expedition and time period. Following completion of previous task, a small technical group will meet intersessionally to consider how best to fill in the gaps.	3.3.2, 20	Allison + Steering Group (5) Allison, Brownell, Donovan, Mikhalev, Tormosov + interpreter	Intersessionally Technical workshop in Cambridge	£2,300 carried forward from last year
General	Investigate whether the historic blue whale catch data can be amended to distinguish between blue and pygmy blue whales.	20	Allison	Intersessionally	
Revised Management Procedure (RMP) Annex D					
<i>General issues</i>	Adjust the convergence criteria in the new CATCHLIMIT program to be robust when less precise integration is used.	5.1 (D: 5.1)	Allison	Intersessionally	
	Further develop the 'simple model filter' developed by Punt	5.3, 20 (D: 5.3)	Allison	Intersessionally	
<i>Preparations for Implementation</i> Western North Pacific Bryde's whales	Facilitate and hold an intersessional workshop to complete the <i>pre-implementation assessment</i> stage.	6.1, 21 (D: 6.1.3, App. 5)	Steering Group (4)	Intersessionally - Japan	£8,000
Bycatch (BC) Annex J					
Collaboration with FAO	Investigate the practicalities and implications of the IWC joining the Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) partnership.	7.1.1 (J: 5.1.1)	Secretariat	Intersessionally	
	(1) Explore how the Inventory of Fisheries might best be used in developing methods to estimate whale bycatch; (2) explore how information on cetacean bycatch held by the IWC might best be	7.1.1, 21 (J: 5.1.1)	Northridge	Intersessional – travel to FAO	£1,500

¹ The number in brackets refers to the number of the intersessional group given in Annex U

	represented in the Inventory; and (3) determine whether FAO has access to statistics on Taiwanese fisheries.				
Workshop on use of market sampling to estimate bycatch	Hold methodological workshop with the following objectives: (1) review available methods that have been used to provide estimates of large cetacean bycatches via market samples, including a consideration of their associated confidence intervals in the context of the RMP; (2) provide advice as to whether market-sampling-based methods can be used to reliably estimate bycatch for use in addressing the Commission's objectives regarding total removals over time and, if so, the requirements for such methods.	7.2.1, 21 (J: 6.1, App. 5)	Steering Group (10)	Intersessionally	£14,500
Aboriginal Whaling Management Procedure (AWMP) Annex E					
Greenlandic Fisheries	Undertake genetic simulation studies to <i>inter alia</i> determine whether a satisfactory percentage of correctly assigned individuals to the different areas can be realistically obtained for realistic numbers of loci and sample sizes, given the Fst values estimated among whales from different areas in the North Atlantic.	8.3.1, 21 (E: 3.1.1)	Palsbøll	Intersessionally	£10,000
	Coordinate simulation work with respect to genetic analyses (above), and develop a practical proposal for future analytical and practical work.	8.3.1 (E: 3.1.1)	Steering Group (2)	Intersessional assistance to Palsbøll	
	Review proposed analytical methods for the 2004 aerial photo survey and provide assistance to Witting as appropriate.	8.3.2 (E: 3.1.2)	Working Group (3)	Intersessionally	
Intersessional Workshop on Greenlandic issues	Review the results of work undertaken on Greenland fisheries: (1) the 2004 aerial survey; (2) genetics simulation studies; <i>SLA</i> development and exploration.	21	Steering Group (1)	Intersessional Workshop	£10,000
Developers' fund	Continue progress with development in relation to Greenlandic fisheries	21	Developers	Intersessionally	£8,500
Whale Stocks (IA) Annex G					
In-depth assessment of western North Pacific common minke whales	Progress with priority list of items to allow an in-depth assessment at SC57, with emphasis on improving the estimate of abundance of the J stock using existing sighting data.	10.1.2 (G: 2)	Steering Group (14)	Intersessionally	
DESS	(1) import cruise data into DESS; (2) complete the 'standard dataset' to be analysed by all methods; (3) use the 'standard analysis' method on 2003/04 data, simulated data, and actual data for CPII and CPIII; (4) use the covariate methods in DISTANCE to analyse the simulated data. Prioritise items 1-3.	21 (G: 5)	RUWPA	Intersessionally	£12,100
SOWER Cruises	Provision of funds to support the 2004/05 SOWER cruise.	10.4, 21 (G: 3.3)		2004/05 season	£66,000
	Provide advice to the Tokyo Planning Meeting on the experiments to be carried out on the 2004/05 cruise.	10.4 (G: 3.3)	Working Group (11)	Intersessionally before planning meeting	

	Validate 2003/04 cruise data and enter into sightings database.	20	Allison	Intersessionally	
Beyond SOWER 2004/05	Plan a workshop to be held in conjunction with the Tokyo planning meeting to develop a proposal for cruise plans that meet general objective for future years beyond the 2004/05 season.	10.4 (G: 3.3)	Steering Group (12)	Intersessionally	
Evaluation of abundance estimators against simulated datasets	Progress work identified using simulated data.	10.2.3.3 (G: 4.3.1.3.1)	Working Group (13)	Intersessionally	
Estimating abundance of Antarctic minke whales	Completion of the development work on abundance estimation methods, including the associated priority items in Annex G (App. 5).	10.2, 21 (G: 4, 5)	Method developers	Intersessionally	£3,000
Estimating trend in abundance of Antarctic minke whales	Undertake further catch-at-age analyses for SH minke whales using the same terms of reference as in previous years. Initiate analyses of an Integrated Statistical Catch at Age Model for application to Antarctic minke whales in Areas IV and V.	10.2.3.4.5 (G: 4.3.2.2.3)	Working Group (15)	Intersessionally	£18,000
Completion of Antarctic minke review and long-term work plan	Annex G, App. 5 details the tasks identified by the sub-committee to estimate minke whale abundance for each CP series and define trends in these data.	10.2.4 (G: 5, App. 5)	Associated IA members	Intersessionally	
Other Southern Hemisphere Whale Stocks (SH) Annex H					
Humpback whales	Continue with work previously identified: (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.	10.3.1 (H: 7)	Working Group (7)	Intersessionally	
Antarctic humpback catalogue	Continue to provide funding to support the catalogue curated by the College of the Atlantic (COA)	10.3.1.4 (H: 5.4, 7)	COA		£5,200
Blue whales	Continue with work identified last year to complete the in-depth assessment: (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.	10.3.4.2 (H: 6.2)	Working Group (8)	Intersessionally	
Other					
In-depth assessment of sperm whales	Provide oversight and coordination for the research planning workshop.	10.6.1.1	Steering Group (6)	Intersessional meeting scheduled for March 2005	
Further work on estimating pre-whaling abundance	Facilitate progress on the eight investigations recommended to assess if genetically-based estimates of 'initial' abundance can provide useful information for the management of cetaceans.	10.6.2 (Annex S)	Working Group (25)	Intersessionally	
Stock Definition (SD) Annex I					
Testing of Spatial Structure Models (TOSSM)	Oversee the development of the TOSSM project and provide guidance on details of implementation	11.1 (I: 5.2)	Steering Group (9)	Intersessionally	
Environmental Concerns (E) Annex K					

Sea ice and whale habitat	Develop plans for a mini-symposium between IA, BRG and E sub-committees.	10.2.3.4.4, 12.1 (K: App. 8)	Working Group (18)	Intersessional pre-meeting prior to SC57	£4,050
POLLUTION 2000+	Continue with work under this programme	12.2.1.1 (K: 8.2, App. 6)	Steering Group (17)	Intersessionally	
Southern Ocean collaboration (SO-GLOBEC/CCAMLR)	Continue with collaborative efforts associated with this programme including validation, analysis, integration and reporting of data, and field survey work.	12.2.2 (K: 8.3, App. 7)	Steering Group (19)	Intersessionally	£45,000
SOCER	Collate information relevant to the Arctic and Antarctic regions.	12.2.3 (K: 7)	Working Group (16)	Intersessionally	
Arctic issues	Continue to coordinate review of Arctic research	12.2.4 (K: 8.4.3)	Working Group (20)	Intersessionally	
Tissue banks	Explore the possibility of establishing an association of cetacean specimen banks.	12.2.1.2 (K: 8.1)	Working Group (21)	Intersessionally	
Small Cetaceans (SM) Annex L					
Franciscana bycatch mitigation workshop	(1) Develop an agenda and workshop format; (2) identify potential partner organisations that could provide financial and other support; (3) prepare a list of invited experts and stakeholders. In addition, produce a discussion document detailing future proposals for workshops, based on previous sub-committee recommendations and discussions.	18.2.1 (L: 9)	Steering Group (26)	Intersessional workshop scheduled for 2005 in Argentina	From Small Cetaceans fund
Whalewatching (WW) Annex M					
Whalewatching definitions	Investigate the various types/categories of whalewatching definitions.	14.3.1 (M: 7.1)	Working Group (22)	Intersessionally	
Compilation of whalewatching research	Compile an annual summary of published whalewatching research.	14.3.1 (M: 7.1)	Parsons	Intersessionally	
Whalewatching management and effects	Further identify precautionary approaches to the management of whalewatching, and develop methods to assess its effects.	14.5 (M: 9)	Working Group (23)	Intersessionally	
Special Permits					
Review of final JARPA results	Prepare for a review of the JARPA programme in 2005.	16.2.1.2 (P: 7.1.2)	Steering Group (24)	Intersessionally	
Publications					
Guidelines for authors	Add a requirement to deposit sequences used in submitted papers with GenBank and include the GenBank accession numbers in the publication.	15.1, 24.1	Editorial board	Intersessionally	
	Develop precise wording that encapsulates the concept of a requirement that submitting authors include a statement that any research conducted on animals has complied with all relevant national laws and institutional guidelines pertaining to the acquisition and use of data and to the use of animals in research.	24.1	Editorial board	Intersessionally	