

Summary of Scientific Committee tasks identified for intersessional period 2005/06 (From the Plenary Report)

Item	Task	SC Report + Annex Item	Responsibility ¹	Timescale	Funding allocated
National Progress Reports					
Update Progress Report template	(1) Bring bycatch reporting tables for small cetaceans into line with those for large whales with respect to reporting fishing gear type); (2) Distinguish between countries that have monitoring schemes, where no records implies low or zero bycatch and those countries with no such schemes for which the absence of records does not imply this; (3) update the National Progress Report guidelines to include a web link to giving a fuller explanation of the FAO codes (if such a site exists).	3.2, 13.4, 7.1.2	Secretariat	Before SC/58	
Data Collection, Storage and Manipulation					
Soviet Southern Hemisphere catch data	Finalise catch series for Soviet Southern Hemisphere operations. A small technical workshop is expected to take place in September or October to consider how best to fill in the gaps in the data sets.	3.3.2 3.3.2, 10.3.1.2	Working Group (1) Allison, Brownell, Donovan, Mikhalev, Tormosov + interpreter	Technical workshop in Cambridge	£2,300 carried forward from last year
Revised Management Procedure (RMP) Annex D					
General issues	Evaluate new approach for evaluating the performance of the RMP. Develop list of agreed stock structure archetypes. Modify Annotation 2 to the RMP such that it provides for the possibly of some temporal and/or spatial restrictions on whaling within a <i>Small Area</i> as part of an RMP <i>Implementation</i> .	5.1, 5.7, (D: 5.1.1) 5.1.1, (D: 5.1.2) 5.3, (D: App. 2)	Allison, Punt, Working Group (15) Steering Group (31) Steering Group (31)	Intersessionally Intersessionally Intersessionally	

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

<i>Preparations for Implementation:</i> Western North Pacific Bryde's whales	Use the catch series as the basis for the North Pacific Bryde's whale <i>Implementation Simulation Trials (ISTs)</i> ; (2) <i>ISTs</i> will need to account for possible systematic changes in distribution and the lower bound for $g(0)$ will be unity.	6.1.2.1, 6.3, (D: App. 3)	Working Group (15)	Intersessionally	
	Hold 'First Intersessional Workshop', 25-9 October 2005, Tokyo.	6.1.2.2, (D: 6.1.2.2), 21	Steering Group (17)	Intersessionally-Japan	£10,000
<i>Preparations for Implementation:</i> North Atlantic fin whales	(1) Finalise issues related to completing the pre-Implementation assessment for North Atlantic fin whales; and (2) send two IWC scientists to a joint Workshop with NAMMCO.	6.2, 6.3 (D: 6.2.2), 21	Working Group (16)	Intersessionally	£2,000
Bycatch (BC) Annex J					
Collaboration with FAO	Continue work in collaboration with FAO, with the aim of integrating bycatch records into the Inventory of Fisheries.	7.1.1, (J: 5.1), 21	Northridge	Intersessionally	£1,200
	Join the FIRMS agreement	7.1.1, (J: 5.1)	Secretary	Intersessionally	
Follow-up Workshop on use of market sampling to estimate bycatch	Obtain additional data. Including those from Korean and Japanese markets.	7.2.1, (J: 6.1, App. 3), 21	Steering Group (23)	Prior to the Workshop	£5,000
	Develop simulation frameworks for sensitivity analyses and testing of sampling designs developed.	7.2.1, (J: 6.1, App. 3), 21	Steering Group (23)	Prior to the Workshop	£1,000
	Hold a Follow-up Workshop to provide advice as to whether market-sampling based methods can be used to reliably estimate bycatch and if so, the requirements for such methods.	7.2.1, (J: 6.1, App. 3), 21	Steering Group (23)	Intersessionally, not anticipated before SC/58	
Ship strikes	Contact ACOBAMS to find out the status of its ship strike investigations, following its workshop on this topic in November 2005.	7.4, (J: 8)	Kock	Intersessionally	
Aboriginal Whaling Management Procedure (AWMP) Annex E					
Greenlandic fisheries	Assess the statistical power of various genetic approaches for estimating abundance.	8.1 (E: 3.1), 8.6	Palsbøll, Skaug, Waples	Intersessionally	
	Re-analyse the original data on which preliminary estimates for common minke whales are based to determine the various components of variance and hence the most appropriate measure of variance of surfacing rate used when estimating abundance.	8.1.2.2, 8.6, (E: 2.1.2.2, App.4).	Working Group (4)	Intersessionally	
Greenlandic catch data for fin and minke whales	(1) Develop and undertake appropriate analyses related to the inclusion of sex ratio data in assessments; (2) investigate common minke whale sex ratio data <i>inter alia</i> to determine whether they can be used to obtain at least a minimum estimate for the total stock and be incorporated into an assessment model (see (1)).	8.2.2, 8.2.3, 8.6, (E: App. 5), 21	Steering Group (5)	Intersessionally	£3,500

	Re-examine existing common minke whale photographs and in conjunction with this prepare for a cue-counting survey in 2006.	8.2.3.2, 8.6, (E; 3.3.2)	Steering Group (3)	Intersessionally	
Developers' fund	Continue progress with development in relation to Greenlandic fisheries	21	Developers	Intersessionally	£8,500
Preparations for <i>Implementation</i> . Bowhead whales	First intersessional Workshop, March 2006 to specify the basic structure and types of simulation trials needed for the <i>Implementation</i> Review.	8.4, 8.6.2, (E: 4), 21	Steering Group (2)	Intersessionally-USA	
Whale Stocks (IA) Annex G					
In-depth assessment of western North Pacific common minke whales	(1) Adhere to the identified work plan focussing on filling information gaps such as the limited CPUE data and gaps in survey coverage; (2) continue with preparation for an in-depth assessment, with a focus on J stock.	10.2.7, (G: App. 6)	Steering Group (11)	Intersessionally	
SOWER cruises	Provision of funds to support the 2005/06 SOWER cruise.	10.5, (G: 2.1.1, App. 2), 21	Steering Group (12)	2005/06 season	£80,000
	(1) Complete the planning of the 2005/06 SOWER cruise and (2) produce an outline of a potential long-term research plan for SOWER cruises.	10.5.2.1, 10.5.2.2, (G: 2.1.1, App. 2)	Steering Group (12)	Intersessionally-Tokyo	
Estimating abundance of Antarctic minke whales	Code and analyse Antarctic minke whale data collected during the dive-time experiments 2004/05.	10.1.1.1, (G: 2.1)	Working Group (14)	Intersessionally	
	(1) Further develop the list of factors that should be simulated with reference to the actual IDCR/SOWER data; (2) facilitate the estimation of abundance using the CPI to CPIII data by assisting the analysers with developing what should be presented, the diagnostics required and by creating a set of rules; and (3) determine the diagnostics that ensure comparability between DESS and the standard dataset.	10.1.1.2, 10.1.3, (G: 6), 21	Working Group (10); Branch, Bravington, Cooke, Okamura.	Intersessionally	£2,000 + £5,000 + £20,000
Estimating trend in abundance of Antarctic minke whales	(1) Continue ADAPT-VPA and integrated statistical catch-at-age analyses work; and (2) request data under Procedure B of the Data Availability Protocol to allow population modelling work to proceed.	10.1.2.2.1, (G: App. 4)	Working Group (13)	Intersessionally	
Other	Oversee shipping of IDCR/SOWER samples to the Southwest Fisheries Science Centre, USA.	10.3.1.3	Zerbini	Intersessionally	
Other Southern Hemisphere Whale Stocks (SH) Annex H					
Humpback whales	Publish table showing the current state of knowledge of Southern Hemisphere humpback whale stocks on the IWC website.	10.3.1.1	Secretariat	Before SC/58	
	(1) Finalise humpback whale catch series at an intersessional meeting in Cambridge; and	10.3.1.2, 10.3.1.4, (H: 6.7), 21	Allison, former Soviet scientists and others	Intersessionally-Cambridge	£1,000

	(2) publish this on the IWC website for use in; (3) population dynamics modelling.	10.3.1.2, 21 10.3.1.2, 10.3.1.4, 10.3.3 (H:6.8, App. 7), 21	Secretariat Johnston, Working Group (25)	Intersessionally Intersessionally	£1,000
	Hold an Intersessional Workshop in Hobart to facilitate completion of the Comprehensive Assessment	10.3.3, (H: 6.8)	Working Group (26)	Intersessionally-Australia	£8,000
Antarctic humpback whale catalogue	Continue to provide funding to support the catalogue curated by the College of the Atlantic (COA), which is available online.	10.3.1.5, (H: 6.5), 21	COA	Ongoing	£5,300
Blue whales	Initiate Comprehensive Assessment.	10.3.3, (H: 9)	Branch, Working Group (24)	Intersessionally	£3,000
Stock Definition (SD) Annex I					
Testing of Spatial Structure Models (TOSSM)	Intersessional Workshop, following completion of background work and some 'full runs'.	11.4, (I: 5.2), 21	Steering Group (9)	Intersessionally	
Environmental Concerns (E) Annex K					
Arctic sea ice	Conduct retrospective sea ice condition analyses to collate with extant records of BCB bowhead and ENP gray whale population dynamics. Investigate the health status of BCB bowhead and ENP grey whales with regard to variability in sea ice coverage.	12.1, (K: 6, App. 4), 21		Intersessionally	£14,500
Antarctic sea ice	Antarctic research projects focussing on: (1) An investigation into the correlation between shelf-break position and whale distribution using krill fishery data; (2) areas of high Antarctic minke whale density; (3) rich regions of comparisons of variables affecting distribution; (4) analysis of Antarctic minke whale distribution; (5) integrating historical and recent whale catch/sighting data; and (6) completion of the SOC database.	12.3,(K:6) 12.3, (K:6)	Palka, Nicol, Worby, Thiele and others. Palka, Nicol, Worby, Thiele and others	Intersessionally Intersessionally	£1,000
POLLUTION 2000+	Continue with work under this programme and complete Phase I.	12.3.1, (K: 8.1)	Steering Group (20)	Intersessionally	
Southern Ocean collaboration (SO-GLOBEC/CCAMLR)	Continue with collaborative efforts associated with this programme.	12.3.2, (K: 8.2), 21	Steering Group (21)	Intersessionally	£17,500 + £13,000
Anthropogenic noise	Pre-meeting Workshop to assess the potential for seismic surveys to impact cetaceans.	12.3.5, (K: 8.5, App. 3)	Working Group (18)	Intersessional pre-meeting prior to SC/58	
Small Cetaceans (SM) Annex L					
Update IWC list of recognised species	(1) Replace Bahamonde's beaked whale (<i>Mesoplodon bahamondi</i>) with spade-toothed whale (<i>M. traversii</i>); and (2) add Perrin's beaked whale (<i>M. perrini</i>) to the IWC list of recognised species.	13.3, (L: 7, L: app. 2)	Secretariat	Prior to publication of next issue of <i>J. Cetacean Res. Manage.</i>	

Whalewatching (WW) Annex M					
Non-IWC whalewatching workshop	Add a link onto the IWC website directed towards the report of the Workshop on Science for Sustainable Whalewatching, South Africa, 2004.	14.1, (M:5)	Secretariat	Before SC/58	
Precautionary approaches	Conduct risk assessment analyses for sustainable whalewatching.	14.4, (M: 8)	Working Group (28)	Intersessionally	
'Swim-with' programmes	(1) Revise the world-wide review of 'swim-with-whales' programmes using additional methods; (2) review published and ongoing studies of 'swim-with-whales' programmes; and (3) identify data gaps.	14.5.2, (M: 9.2)	Working Group (29)	Intersessionally	
Platforms of opportunity	Review scientific information derived from opportunistic data sources and appropriate analytical techniques.	14.5.3, (M: 9.3)	Working Group (28)	Intersessionally	