

Workshop on minke whale abundance estimates using IWC/SOWER data

Feb 6-10, 2008
Seattle, WA, USA

Terms of reference

The general terms of reference is to facilitate the completion of the abundance estimates of Antarctic minke whales using the IWC/SOWER data collected during CPI, CPII, and CPIII.

Tasks during the workshop:

- Examine additional SOWER analyses
- Examine diagnostics of estimates
- Identify any final extra simulations
- Refine methods and clearly identify differences
- Prepare summary paper for IWC SC meeting that compares and contrasts the methods

Likely scientific outcome

This workshop should facilitate the model developers to complete the estimates of abundance of the Antarctic minke whales using the IWC/SOWER data. After this workshop the Committee should be able to quickly come to an agreement on best available abundance estimates, thus leaving enough time during SC 60 for discussion on interpretation of the estimates

Likely tasks to be completed after the workshop and before the IWC SC 60 meeting:

- Developers have the opportunity to refine final estimates
- Ensure final estimates and diagnostics are circulated among workshop members in good time before IWC SC 60
- Email correspondence group (and others if interested) meet during the first 2 days of IWC SC 60 to finally discuss the abundance estimates (not the interpretation of the estimates).

Draft Annotated Agenda for Feb 7-10 Workshop

1. Methods used to estimate abundance as developed by (in alphabetical order)¹:
 - 1.1. Bravington
 - 1.2. Cooke
 - 1.3. Okamura
 - 1.4. Clearly identify difference in methods
2. Validation and analysis of recent SOWER experimental data²
 - 2.1. New analyses or validation not presented to a previous IWC meeting
 - 2.2. Review any previous analyses that may shed light on completing or interpreting the abundance estimates from CPI, CPII, and CPIII
3. Diagnostics of estimates
 - 3.1. Examine diagnostics for each method, as available
 - 3.2. Diagnostics to assess spatial model fits
 - 3.3. Define final list of diagnostics to be presented at SC 60
4. Variance and Additional Variance
 - 4.1. Examine variance for each method, as available
 - 4.2. Define final specification of variance, covariance and additional variance to be presented at SC 60

¹ Purpose is to discuss methods to assist developers to clearly describe the method in their paper and/or to suggest potential new or revised aspects of the methodology

² Discussion of the school size experiments and how these could be used to refine abundance estimates from CPI, CPII, and CPIII could be here.

5. Simulated datasets
 - 5.1. Examine results from new simulated datasets for each method, as available
 - 5.2. Define additional simulations, if any
 - 5.3. Determine what to do with all the simulated datasets and results from analyzing these datasets
6. Interpolation/extrapolation
 - 6.1. Within study area
 - 6.2. Into ice pack and polynyas
 - 6.3. What should be presented at SC 60
 - 6.4. Time allowing, what could be done beyond SC 60
7. Work plan
 - 7.1. What needs to be done by SC 60
 - 7.2. Email correspondence group (and others, if interested) meet during the first 2 days of IWC SC 60 to finally discuss the abundance estimates (not the interpretation of the estimates)?
 - 7.3. Summary that compares and contrasts the methods