

Review of the potential impacts of seismic surveys on cetaceans
Pre-Meeting of The IWC Environmental Concerns Sub-Committee
24-25 May 2006, St. Kitts, West Indies

1 INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

Goal of the Pre-Meeting: To develop research and management recommendations to mitigate potential negative effects of noise from seismic surveys on cetaceans. The individuals associated with Agenda Items 2-5 will introduce the specified topic with a short presentation (10-12 minutes with 3-5 minutes for questions).

1.1 Election of Chair

1.2 Appointment of rapporteurs

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

2 FEATURES OF SOUND AND SEISMIC SURVEYS

2.1 Seismic surveys: what are they, why they are needed and how often?

Introduced by John Young

2.2 Sound propagation/attenuation in relation to ambient noise incl. modelling

Introduced by Charles Greene

2.3 Overview of the global seismic industry: today and future trends

Introduced by John Hildebrand (Presentation #1); Chip Gill (Presentation #2)

3 EFFECTS OF SEISMIC SURVEYS ON CETACEANS – GENERAL ASPECTS

3.1 Methods for measuring behavioural effects of seismic surveys on cetaceans

Introduced by Doug Nowacek

3.2 The effects of scale and location: ‘critical’ habitats and wider ranges

Introduced by Chris Clark

3.3 Methods for extrapolating from individual short-term responses to long-term effects at the population level

Introduced by Lars Bejder

3.4 Discussion/Recommendations

4 EFFECTS OF SEISMIC SURVEYS ON CETACEANS – CASE STUDIES

4.1 Western Gray whales off Sakhalin Island

Introduced by Dave Weller

4.2 Bowhead whales in the Beaufort Sea

TBD

4.3 Sperm whales in the Gulf of Mexico

Introduced by Peter Tyack

4.4 Other

4.5 Discussion/Recommendations

5 MITIGATION AND MONITORING

5.1 A review of existing mitigation measures

Introduced by Rob McCauley

5.2 Methods to monitor effects of seismic surveys and the effectiveness of mitigation measures: the need for baseline data and predictive modelling

Introduced by Debi Palka

5.3 Research to develop improved mitigation measures

5.4 Other

5.5 Discussion/Recommendations

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 General research recommendations

6.2 Management-related recommendations