



International Whaling Commission

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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE IWC.SC.109

Intersessional Workshop for the Comprehensive Assessment of Southern Hemisphere Humpback Whales

At IWC/57 in Ulsan, it was agreed that an intersessional Workshop to undertake a Comprehensive Assessment (CA) of Southern Hemisphere Humpback whales should be held to advance the CA to the point where the process can be completed during IWC/58.

The agreed Terms of Reference for the Workshop are:

1. to advance the CA of Southern Hemisphere humpback whales to near completion using the best available data;
2. to review the abundance, population structure and status of Southern Hemisphere humpback whale breeding populations and their relationship to feeding grounds in the Southern Ocean.

Further details can be found in IWC/57/Rep1 Annex H.

This Workshop will be held Tuesday 4 April – Friday 7 April 2006 at the Australian Antarctic Division, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. The Workshop will be preceded on Monday 3 April by a one day public Symposium on Southern Hemisphere humpback whales at the same venue.

The documents available for this meeting will be posted in the near future on the IWC website (http://www.iwcoffice.org/commission/sci_com/scmain.htm)

Title	Filename	Kb
Draft Agenda	Draft Agenda	50
Current information by Breeding Stock (A-G plus X):		
Table 1. categorised into population structure/stock identity, catches, population abundance, population trends, biological parameters, environmental concerns, assessment models;	SC/57/SH11	153
Table 2. on metadata, stratified as for North Atlantic fin whales in 2004. (See draft metadata table below).	Metadata	

Committee members are strongly requested to:

1. indicate to Nick Gales (nick.gales@aad.gov.au) and Ken Findlay (kenfin@cetus.co.za) if you wish to attend the Workshop (not necessary if you have received a direct invitation already);
2. provide information relevant to updating SC/57/SH11 (Table 1, see above). Updated information or comments on SC/57/SH11 should be provided to the relevant regional co-ordinator (see Appendix below). The co-ordinator will be responsible for sending the consolidated information to John Bannister (bannisj@compuserve.com);
3. provide information on **metadata** as in Table 2, above, to the relevant regional co-ordinator (see Appendix below). The co-ordinator will then be responsible for forwarding collated material for that stock to Ken Findlay. This is extremely important as it will facilitate the exchange of information under Procedure B of the IWC's data availability agreement (attached to this email and available on http://www.iwcoffice.org/commission/sci_com/data_availability.htm);
4. indicate to Nick Gales and Ken Findlay whether you will be submitting new papers to the meeting and if possible a brief abstract of what they will contain or topics they will address.
5. submit any relevant 'in press' or 'in review' papers as soon as possible to participants via the Secretariat (jemma.miller@iwcoffice.org). Note that it is of course possible to include a note on restrictions of citation.

Participants are requested to provide this information prior to **31 January 2006**. Please note Ken Findlay will in the field from 3 February, so co-ordinators must get material to him by 31 January.

All participants are **strongly requested** to make relevant data available under Procedure B of the Data Availability Agreement. This will allow the Committee to provide the best advice to the Commission on the assessment of Southern Hemisphere humpback whales. Please note that:

1. strict safeguards for data owners are included in the Data Availability Agreement (http://www.iwcoffice.org/commission/sci_com/data_availability.htm);
2. appropriate request protocols should be developed in conjunction with the Data Availability Group (DAG) (contact person: Debbie Palka - debra.palka@noaa.gov) and will be placed on the IWC website – example protocols are already available on the website;
3. requests for data should normally be copied to the DAG and include an explanation of the relevance of the analysis proposed to the work on the CA, an indication of the method to be used, the data required and the level of disaggregation required;
4. the ultimate decision to accept a request for data lies with the data owners.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

Appendix: Data submission

Regional co-ordinators

Breeding Stock A:	Zerbini	azerbini@u.washington.edu
Stock B:	Rosenbaum	hrosenbaum@wcs.org
Stock C:	Findlay	kenfin@cetus.co.za
Stock D:	Bannister	bannisj@compuserve.com
Stock E:	Bannister	bannisj@compuserve.com
Stock F:	Clapham	phillip.clapham@noaa.gov
Stock G:	Olavarria	c.olavarria@auckland.ac.nz
Stock X:	Minton	gianna.minton@gmail.com

Example of metadata as drafted by Ken Findlay. Certain examples are included for clarity.

Inventory of available information for breeding ground *.						
Item	Details	Raw format	Where held	Analytical methods	Key papers	Comments
Operational data						
Catch data	Madagascar	Electronic	Literature; Findlay; IWC		Findlay 2000	Possibly incomplete for early years
Effort data	Durban catcher vessels per year	Electronic	Literature; Findlay; IWC	CPUE	Findlay 2000; Best	
Abundance Trend						
Shipboard	Mozambique, 1991	Electronic	MRI	Line transect	Findlay <i>et al.</i> (1994)	Yacht survey
	Mozambique, 2003	Electronic	MCM	Line transect	Findlay <i>et al.</i> (2004)	Ship survey
	Madagascar 1994	Raw data	MRI	Line transect	Best et al (1996)	Ship survey
Land - based	South Africa East Coast, 1988-91	Electronic	MRI	Summation of daily counts with correction for heterogeneity in sighting probability	Findlay and Best (1996a; 1996b)	Shore-based counts from Cape Vidal
Aerial						
Mark - Recapture						
Trend						
Stock structure and mixing rates						
Genetic	Protein systems					
	Nuclear DNA					
	Nuclear and mtDNA					
Natural marks	Photographic left dorsal	35 mm film or digital image	MRI	Mozambique, 1991		31 individuals

Natural marks	Photographic right dorsal	35 mm film or digital image	MRI	Mozambique, 1991		25
Natural marks	Photographic tail fluke	35 mm film or digital image	MRI	Mozambique, 1991		21
Natural marks	Photographic Other	35 mm film or digital image	MRI	Mozambique, 2003		
Discovery marks	n marks / n recoveries	Literature			Rayner, 1940	Antarctic to Madagascar
Other marks	e.g. lost harpoon recovery	Literature			Olsen (1914)	Mozambique-South African east coast link
Telemetry	Nil					
Biological parameters	Nil					
Ecological	Nil					
Catch (CPUE as above)						
Biological Parameters						
Environmental Concerns						

Literature cited
[To be completed].