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### Intersessional E-mail Groups

This list contains the intersessional groups identified at SC/68A. It has been divided into the following group types:

- (1) **Steering Groups (SG):** these are groups that have been set up to ensure that particular meetings, workshops or identified pieces of work are completed by SC/68B. They have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Committee within the context of their terms of reference (e.g. meeting budget spends, participants, agreements on parameters for analyses). Numbers are limited and members agreed at the meeting although the Convenor may request additional members or respond to late requests to be members. The expected outcomes will be either a workshop/meeting report or an analytical paper.
- (2) **Intersessional Correspondence Groups (ICG):** these are groups that have been set up to ensure progress on particular topics within the intersessional period. Membership is more flexible and open. It is expected that a written report on progress will be submitted to the Committee at SC/68B.
- (3) **Advisory Groups (AG):** these are occasional groups established by the Committee to provide scientific and technical issues on specific issues if requested by a Contracting Government.

SC Agenda Item/ Sub-Committee	Type	Group (short name)	Terms of Reference	Members
Item 5.1 IA	SG-1	North Pacific humpback whales	Further the preparations for the North Pacific humpback whale comprehensive assessment.	Clapham (Convenor), Baker, Calambokidis, Cheeseman, Donovan, Kato, Kitakado, Ivashchenko, Matsuoka, Mizroch, Palka, Punt, Zerbini, Urbán, Wade, Weinrich, Yoshida. <i>Email: nphumpack@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 5.2 IA	SG-2	North Pacific sei whales	Continue progress on developing the in-depth assessment.	Cooke (Convenor), Allison, Hakamada, Kitakado, Matsuoka, Mizroch, Palka, Punt, Yoshida. <i>Email: npsei@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 9.2.5 NH	ICG-3	NP blue whales	Locate and/or analyse data on abundance, catches and stock structure to prepare for a future assessment.	Branch (Convenor), Brownell, Clapham, Ivashchenko, Matsuoka, Mizroch, Monnahan, Olson, Širović. <i>Email: npbwa@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 9.2.6 NH	ICG-4	NA sei whales	Continue to identify and evaluate data on distribution, abundance, stock structure and catches, with a particular focus on the western North Atlantic.	Cholewiak (Convenor), Brownell, Mallette, Mizroch, Palka, Robbins. <i>Email: nasei@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 9.2.9 NH	ICG-5	NA humpback whales	Identify and evaluate data available for a potential future assessment.	Mattila (Convenor), Mallette, Øien, Palka, Robbins, Weinrich. <i>Email: nahmpback@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 15.1 E	SG-6	Pollution	Planning activities and work priorities for Pollution 2025 (SC/68B).	Holm (Convenor), Donovan, Fernández, Plön, Rowles, Simmonds, S. Smith, Stimmelmayer. <i>Email: pollution@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 15.2 E	SG-7	Diseases of concern	Planning focussed session for 2020 (SC/68B).	Stimmelmayer (Convenor), Fernández, Gulland, Mazzariol, Rowles, S. Smith, Stockin. <i>Email: diseasesofconcern@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 15.4 E	SG-8	Noise	Planning pre-meeting for 2020 (SC/68B).	Cholewiak, Leaper (Convenors), Burkhardt, Cerchio, Ferriss, Hubbel, Lundquist, Simmonds, Širović, S. Smith, Torres, Williams. <i>Email: noise@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 15.5.1 E	SG-9	Marine debris	Planning Workshop in December 2019.	Simmonds (Convenor), Baulch, Donovan, Eisfeld, Ferriss, Fossi, Holm, Long, Marcondes, Mattila, Pierantonio, Rowles, S. Smith, Svoboda, Ylitalo. <i>Email: marinedebris@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 15.5.2 E	ICG-10	Climate change	Developing appropriate intersessional activities and suggestions for future engagement including potentially a workshop or pre-meeting (SC/68B).	Simmonds (Convenor), Donovan, Ferriss, Frey, Kitakado, Leaper, Parsons, S. Smith, Suydam, Williams. <i>Email: climatechange@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 4 EM	AG11	Applications of species distribution models (SDMs)	Continue development of guidelines for best practice in species distribution modelling and ensemble averaging.	Murase (Convenor), Friedlaender, Herr, Kelly, Kitakado, McKinlay, Miller, New, Palacios, Palka. <i>Email: appsdms@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 2.3 EM	ICG12	Effect of long-term environmental variability on whale populations	Compile a literature review on the subject of how environmental variability may affect whale populations.	Cooke (Convenor), Butterworth, de la Mare, Kitakado. <i>Email: eltevwp@groups.iwc.int</i>

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SC Agenda Item/ Sub-Committee	Type	Group (short name)	Terms of Reference	Members
Item 18.1.1 WW	SG-14	Modelling and Assessment of Whale Watching Impacts (MAWI) Steering Group	Identify those whale watching locations that would be most suitable and amenable for targeted studies addressing these questions; summarise and assess the current modelling tools available to analyse the data that will be collected; develop a Strategic Framework, supported by a Decision Tree, to aid in the prioritisation of policy and research choices; develop toolkits and resources for whale watching research that can be accessed globally; and consider how to standardise data collection.	New (Convenor), Baldwin, Cook, Cosentino, Currie, Forestell, Frey, Jiménez-Assmus, Leaper, Minton, Noren, Parsons, Robbins, Rose, C. Smith, Vermeulen, Weinrich. <i>Email: modassmawi@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 18.1.4 WW	ICG-15	Human-induced behavioural changes of concern	Continue to monitor the relevant literature; seek to produce a new review of information for the Committee across the whole range of interactions; review the appropriate terminology; and continue to consider the relevance of this topic to the work of the sub-committee, including how this topic might best be studied in future.	Simmonds (Convenor), Cosentino, Fonseca, Forestell, Minton, Parsons, Rodriguez, Vail, Wells. <i>Email: hibcc@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 18.3.1 WW	AG-16	Communication with the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Advisory Group	Help provide advice to IORA when appropriate; facilitate communication between IORA and the sub-committee; and consider ways to promote appropriate training workshops.	Ferriss (Convenor), Baldwin, Iñiguez, New, Parsons, Simmonds, C. Smith, S. Smith, Weinrich. <i>Email: commiora@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 18.3.2 WW	ICG-17	River dolphin interactions	Monitor, assess and report on commercial interactions, including watching, provisioning and swimming, with river dolphins, in the Amazon and elsewhere.	Trujillo (Convenor), Luna, Marmontel, Parsons, Rojas-Bracho. <i>Email: riverdolphnint@groups.iwc.int</i>
Items 2 and 3 ASI	SG-18	Abundance Steering Group	(1) Coordinate the intersessional review of abundance estimates by the ASI SWG. (2) Appoint expert small group to conduct review of abundance estimates required for next year's meeting.	Zerbini (Convenor), Allison, Donovan, Givens, Herr, Jackson, Kitakado, Palka, Porter, Robbins, Suydam, Trujillo, Walløe. <i>Email: reviewofae@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 2 ASI	ICG-19	NP minke abundance	(1) Review the applicability of the accepted $g(0)$ estimate to other cruises; and (2) try to develop robust estimates for use in application of the <i>CLA</i> , to provide management advice and/or to provide broader estimates for the public.	Kitakado (Convenor), Donovan, Butterworth, Hakamada, Matsuoka, Miyashita, Palka, Punt. <i>Email: npminkeabun@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 3.4 ASI	SG-20	Amendment of RMP Guidelines	(1) Develop a set of specific instructions for the amendment of the RMP guidelines to consider model-based abundance estimates.	Fortuna (Convenor), Butterworth, Donovan, Herr, Kitakado, Palka, Punt, Suydam, Zerbini. <i>Email: rmpguidelines@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 4 ASI	SG-21	IWC-POWER/SOWER	To provide advice on the 2018/19 and 2019/20 IWC-POWER cruises (including holding the Planning Meetings), on data analyses, storage and on requests for data/sample use of IWC-POWER/SOWER cruises.	Matsuoka (Convenor), Bravington, Brownell, Clapham, Donovan, Kato, Kelly, Kim, Kitakado, Miyashita, Murase, Palka, Pastene, Wade, Zharikov, Zerbini. <i>Email: iwcpowersower@groups.iwc.int</i>
Items 4.2 and 10.3 SM/CMP	ICG-22	Franciscana	Co-ordinate presentation of CMP projects across sub-committees.	Iñiguez (Convenor), Brito-Junior Santos, Cremer, Crespo, Cunha, Di Tullio, Domit, Ia Macondes, Ott, Pasadore, Secchi, Siciliano, Trujillo, Zerbini. <i>Email: franciscana@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 3 SM	ICG-23	Poorly documented takes of small cetaceans	Develop a draft 'toolbox' of investigative techniques to assist in documenting more clearly takes of small cetaceans; and organise a workshop comprising a multi-disciplinary group of biologists, social scientists, managers and NGOs with a global scope. Increase formal liaison with other MEA.	Porter (Convenor), Baker, Brownell, Collins, Cosentino, Donovan, Fortuna, Frey, Jiménez, Parsons, R. Reeves, Simmonds, Trujillo. <i>Email: pdtsc@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 4.1 SM	AG-424	Small Cetacean Task Team	Assist the Scientific Committee in providing timely and effective advice on situations where a population of cetaceans is or suspected to be in danger of a significant decline that may eventually lead to its extinction; the ultimate aim being to ensure that extinction does not occur.	Simmonds (Convenor), Bjørge, Donovan, Genov, Parsons, Porter, R. Reeves, Trujillo. <i>Email: smallcetaceantaskteam@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 4.3 SM	SG-25	<i>Sotalia</i> Workshop	Organisation of two workshops focusing on <i>Sotalia</i> .	Domit (Convenor), Caballero, Porter, Trujillo, Zerbini. <i>Email: sotaliaworkshop@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 3.1 SD&DNA	ICG-26	DNA quality	Review recent revisions in sections of the DNA quality guidelines that pertain to data produced using NGS approaches.	Tiedemann (Convenor), Archer, Baird, Baker, Bickham, Carroll, DeWoody, Hoelzel, Goto, Jackson, Lang, Palsbøll, Pampoulie, Solvang, Taguchi, Waples. <i>Email: dnaquality@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 4.4 SD&DNA	ICG-27	Sample depletion	Discuss and provide recommendation on genomic approaches to maximise the utility of tissue samples, particularly those in danger of depletion.	Lang (Convenor), Baker, Bickham, Carroll, Hoelzel, Goto, Jackson, Morin, Taguchi, Tiedemann. <i>Email: sampledepletion@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 5.3 SD&DNA	ICG-28	Terminology	Revisit the definitions that were previously put forward for stock-related terms at IWC 2014, particularly those related to large whale assessments, and revise them where necessary.	Tiedemann (Convenor), Baird, Bickham, Carroll, Cipriano, Hoelzel, Lang, Scordino. <i>Email: terminology@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 3.1.3 SH	ICG-29	Antarctic blue whales	Conduct a synoptic review of Antarctic population structure, including genetics, Discovery marks, satellite tags, photo-ID, acoustics, sightings and catch patterns.	Lang (Convenor), Archer, Attard, Baker, Branch, Brownell, Buss, Jackson, Kelly, Olson, Širović, Sremba. <i>Email: antblue@groups.iwc.int</i>

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Item 4.3 SH	ICG-30	Southern Hemisphere fin whales	Develop standard survey protocol to assist future collation of fin whale sightings from the Southern Ocean.	Herr (Convenor), Bell, Burkhardt, Butterworth, Donovan, Double, Findlay, Friedlaender, Hevia, Iñiguez, Jackson, Kelly, Miller, Olson, Panigada, Perez, Reyes, Rodriguez-Fonseca, Samaran, Sepulveda, Seyboth, Širović, de la Rosa, Wedekin, Weinrich, Williams, Zerbini. <i>Email: shfin@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 5.3 SH	ICG-31	Southern right whales	Progress towards development of a common population modelling framework for Southern right whale calving grounds, to assess common: (1) population dynamics patterns; and (2) environmental drivers.	Charlton (Convenor), Butterworth, Brandão, Carroll, Cooke, Double, Groch, Leaper, Rayment, Ross-Gillespie, Rowntree, Sironi, van den Berg, Vermeulen, Watson. <i>Email: sright@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 5.3 SH	ICG-32	Southern right whale data	Assess if there is any unpublished regional catch data for southern right whales held in Best, Bannister and Dawbin archives in South Africa and Australia respectively.	Jackson (Convenor), Carroll, Charlton, Double, Findlay, Kemper, Paton, Vermeulen. <i>Email: srightdata@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 14 HIM	ICG-33	Ship Strikes Data Review Group	To continue to assist the Ship Strike Co-ordinators in reviewing cases submitted to the IWC global database and to provide advice on how to reduce the backlog of cases.	Leaper (Convenor), Brownell, Cañadas, Donovan, Double, Ferguson, Herr, Holm, Mattila, Panigada, Ritter, Rowles, Weinrich. <i>Email: ssdatareview@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 14 HIM	ICG-34	Ships Routeing Group	Consider how best to respond to requests for advice on routeing measures.	Leaper (Convenor), Børge, Donovan, Ferriss, George, Hubbell, Mattila, Panigada, Rojas-Bracho. <i>Email: shipsrouteing@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 10.4.1 CMP	ICG-35	Central American humpback whales	To identify and evaluate data on distribution, abundance, stock structure and catches as input for a CMP.	Urbán (Convenor), Baker, Brownell, Hernandez Mora, Iñiguez, Mallette, Martínez, Rojas-Bracho, Trejos, Wade. <i>Email: cahumpback@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 18.4.1 WW	ICG-36	Whale Watching Handbook	Intersessional work on Whale Watching Handbook.	Ferriss (Convenor), Carpenter, Minton, New, Parsons, S. Smith, Wulff. <i>Email: wwhandbook@groups.iwc.int</i>
Item 18.1.2 WW	ICG-37	Swim-with-whale operations	Assess the extent and potential impact of swim-with-whale operations.	Rose (Convenor), Ferriss, Frey, Forestell, Gero, Jiménez-Assmus, Minton, Parsons, Ritter, Rodriguez-Fonseca, Simmonds, Sironi, C. Smith, S. Smith, Stack, Urbán, Weinrich. <i>Email: swimwithwhaleop@groups.iwc.int</i>