Annex A

List of Participants

H = Head of Delegation; AH = Alternate Head of Delegation; V = Presenting virtually

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<th>Delegation Members</th>
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Annex B

Agenda

1. Introductory items
   1.1 Chair’s welcome and opening remarks
   1.2 Remembrances
   1.3 Appointment of rapporteurs
   1.4 Meeting procedures and schedule
   1.5 Establishment of sub-committees and Working Groups
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Review of available data, documents and reports
   3.1 Documents submitted
   3.2 National Progress Reports on research
   3.3 Data collection, storage and manipulation
   3.4 Guidance for the format of recommendations and discussion of Recommendations Database
   3.5 Review of Commission resolutions from 2022
4. Cooperation with other organisations
   4.1 Summary of Secretariat co-operation with other organisations
   4.2 African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO)
   4.3 Arctic Council
   4.4 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
   4.5 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
   4.6 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)
      4.6.1 Scientific Council
      4.6.2 Conference of Parties
      4.6.3 Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)
      4.6.4 Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous
           Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)
   4.7 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)
   4.8 Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
   4.9 Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)
      4.9.1 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
      4.9.2 Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
   4.10 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
   4.11 International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
   4.12 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
      4.12.1 IUCN Red List status of cetaceans
      4.12.2 Integrated Conservation Planning for Cetaceans
      4.12.3 IUCN Task Force on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (formerly ICMMPA)
      4.12.4 Co-ordination between IUCN and the IWC SC
   4.13 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)
   4.14 North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES)
   4.15 Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean
   4.16 Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP)
   4.17 Marine Traffic
   4.18 Other
5. General assessment and modelling issues (IST)
   5.1 Progress on previous recommendations
   5.2 Biennial workplan
6. AWMP and RMP Implementation-related matters (IST)
   6.1 Implementation Review of North Atlantic fin whales (AWMP and RMP)
   6.2 Plan for provision of AWS advice to the Commission in 2024
      6.2.1 Consideration of gray whale hunts in the light of new information on inter alia the UME
      6.2.2 Other hunts
   6.3 Progress on previous recommendations
   6.4 Biennial and long-term workplan
7. Stocks subject to Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (ASW)
   7.1 New information and progress on recommendations
      7.1.1 Eastern Canada/West Greenland bowhead whales
      7.1.2 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas bowhead whales
      7.1.3 North Pacific gray whales
      7.1.4 Common minke whale stocks off East Greenland
7.1.5 Common minke whale stocks off West Greenland
7.1.6 Fin whales off West Greenland
7.1.7 Humpback whales off West Greenland (see Item 8.2.7)
7.1.8 Humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines (see Item 8.2.7)

7.2 Biennial workplan

8. Whale stocks not subject to directed takes by Contracting Governments

8.1 Comprehensive or In-depth Assessments (IA)
  8.1.1 Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific humpback whales
  8.1.2 Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific sei whales
  8.1.3 Progress on in-depth assessment of western North Pacific common minke whales
  8.1.4 Biennial workplan

8.2 Potential new assessments: progress on previous recommendations and prioritised workplan (SH and NH)
  8.2.1 Non-Antarctic blue whales in the Southern Hemisphere (including NIO populations) (SH)
  8.2.2 Antarctic blue whales (SH)
  8.2.3 Southern Hemisphere right whales not the subject of CMPs (SH)
  8.2.4 North Pacific blue whales (NH)
  8.2.5 North Atlantic sei whales (NH)
  8.2.6 North Atlantic right whales (NH)
  8.2.7 North Atlantic humpback whales (and see Items 7.1.7 and 7.1.8) (NH)
  8.2.8 Rice’s whales (NH)
  8.2.9 Biennial workplan

8.3 New information (if provided) for other northern stocks (NH)
  8.3.1 North Atlantic blue whales (NH)
  8.3.2 North Atlantic common minke whales (NH)
  8.3.3 East Greenland-Svalbard-Barents Sea (Spitsbergen) bowhead whales (NH)
  8.3.4 North Pacific right whales (NH)
  8.3.5 Unusual mortality events affecting northern stocks (NH; also see Item 14.3.2)
  8.3.6 Biennial workplan

8.4 New information (if provided) for other southern stocks (SH)
  8.4.1 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales (If new information from Australia provided for estimating abundance of breeding stock D)
  8.4.2 Southern Hemisphere fin whales (SH)
  8.4.3 Biennial workplan

8.5 Progress on previous recommendations
8.6 Biennial workplan

9. Stocks that are or have been suggested to be the subject of Conservation Management Plans (CMPs)

9.1 Stocks with existing CMPs: new information and progress with previous recommendations
  9.1.1 SE Pacific southern right whales (CMP, SH)
  9.1.2 SW Atlantic southern right whales (CMP, SH)
  9.1.3 North Pacific gray whales (CMP, IST, ASW)
  9.1.4 Franciscana (CMP, SM)
  9.1.5 South American river dolphins (CMP, SM)

9.2 Progress with identified priorities
  9.2.1 Humpback whales in the northern Indian Ocean including the Arabian Sea
  9.2.2 Central American humpback whales
  9.2.3 Mediterranean sperm whales
  9.2.4 Mediterranean fin whales

9.3 Progress on previous recommendations
9.4 Biennial workplan

10. Stock definition and DNA testing (SD-DNA)

10.1 Provide advice to other sub-groups on population structure for requested stocks
  10.1.1 North Pacific gray whales
  10.1.2 North Atlantic humpback whales
  10.1.3 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort bowhead whales
  10.1.4 Franciscana
  10.1.5 Sotalia guianensis

10.2 DNA data quality
10.3 DNA guidelines checklist
10.4 Recommendations on the avoidance of sample depletion
10.5 Review terminology used for stock structure related terms used within the IWC
10.6 New genetic approaches (if submitted) for use by the Scientific Committee in addition to stock structure issues
10.7 Progress on previous recommendations
10.8 Biennial workplan

11. Cetacean abundance estimates and stock status (ASI)

11.1 Review of abundance estimates
11.2 Update and review abundance table maintained by the IWC, and abundance estimates on the IWC website
11.3 Methodological issues
  11.3.1 Mark Recapture abundance estimation
11.3.2 Consider diagnostic methods for mark-recapture models
11.3.3 Progress on simulation software to evaluate methods for abundance estimates

11.4 Provide advice to the Commission on the status of stocks
11.4.1 Report from Steering Group
11.4.2 Progress with modelling
11.4.3 Language, terminology and content development
11.4.4 Future work

11.5 Progress on previous recommendations
11.6 Biennial workplan

12. Bycatch and entanglements (HIM)
12.1 IWC’s Bycatch Mitigation Initiative
12.2 Collaboration on bycatch mitigation with IGOs (including FAO, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, CCAMLR and others)
12.3 Review new methods and estimates of bycatch and entanglement rates, risks and mortality
12.4 Reporting of bycatch and entanglements (both small and large cetaceans) including National Progress Reports
12.5 Review mitigation measures for preventing bycatch and entanglement
12.6 Review of topics related to Hector’s and Māui dolphins in New Zealand (with SM)
12.7 Review progress on definition of $r_{max}$ for small cetaceans for use by the Scientific Committee
12.8 Review proposals for best practice protocols for releasing free-swimming, entangled small cetaceans
12.9 Progress on previous recommendations
12.10 Workplan

13. Ship strikes (HIM)
13.1 Review new methods and estimates of rates of ship strikes, risk of ship strikes and mortality (including review progress on ship strike database)
13.2 Mitigation of ship strikes in high-risk areas
13.2.1 Review progress towards assessing and mitigating ship strikes in previously identified high risk areas
13.2.2 Provide advice on routing measures
13.2.3 Review new research relevant to mitigation
13.3 Co-operation with IMO Secretariat and relevant IMO committees
13.4 Progress on previous recommendations
13.5 Workplan

14. Environmental concerns (E)
14.1 Chemical pollution
14.1.1 Review intersessional work on Pollution 2025 (Report on the Workshop on Cumulative Effects)
14.1.2 New information on pollution
14.2 Diseases of concern
14.2.1 Review progress in intersessional work on emerging diseases
14.2.2 Other information
14.3 Strandings and mortality events
14.3.1 Review progress of steering committee for IWC Strandings Initiative
14.3.2 New information on unusual mortality events
14.3.3 Other information
14.4 Climate change
14.4.1 Review new information
14.5 Underwater noise
14.5.1 Review progress from intersessional work on impacts to cetaceans from underwater noise
14.5.2 Review new information
14.6 Marine debris
14.6.1 Develop program to address Commission Resolution on Plastics
14.6.2 Review progress on recommendations on marine debris
14.6.3 Review new information
14.7 Habitat alteration as anthropogenic impact on cetaceans
14.8 SOCER report (Indian Ocean)
14.9 Review strategy to better integrate E workplan with other Committee sub-groups
14.10 Review strategy on developing and using a “One Health” approach
14.11 Progress on previous recommendations
14.12 Biennial workplan

15. Ecosystem modelling
15.1 Review progress on estimating pre-exploitation and current abundance of large whale populations
15.2 Workshop on the Role of Cetaceans in Ecosystem Functioning: Gap Analysis
15.2.1 Discuss plans for upcoming workshop scheduled for November 2023
15.3 Review results of ecosystem modelling in the Antarctic Ocean and northeast Atlantic Ocean
15.4 Progress on multi-species distribution models (MSDMs)
15.5 Progress with development of individual-based energetic models (IBEMs)
15.6 Modelling of competition among whales and relationships between whales and prey
15.7 Standing topics
15.7.1 Progress on considering effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations
15.7.2 Review progress on evaluation of krill distribution and abundance
15.8 Progress on previous recommendations
15.9 Biennial workplan
16. Small cetaceans
16.1 Small cetacean use as aquatic wildmeat
   16.1.1 Review new information
   16.1.2 Develop four-year workplan
16.2 Recommendation review
   16.2.1 Review of topics related to Hector’s and Māui dolphins in New Zealand (with HIM)
   16.2.2 Other
16.3 South Pacific Island Small Cetaceans
16.4 Progress Previous Recommendations
   16.4.1 Franciscana (with CMP)
   16.4.2 Lahille’s dolphin
   16.4.3 Sotalia
   16.4.4 Vaquita
   16.4.5 Other
16.5 Review direct takes and live captures of small cetaceans
   16.5.1 Direct takes
   16.5.2 Live captures
16.6 Status of the voluntary fund for small cetacean conservation research
16.7 Biennial workplan
17. Whale watching
   17.1 Assess the impacts of whale watching and swim-with-whale operations on cetaceans
      17.1.1 Studies on assessing impacts
      17.1.2 Review responses to MAWI questionnaire
   17.2 Progress with regional reviews of whale watching
      17.2.1 Sri Lanka
      17.2.2 Latin America
      17.2.3 Timor-Leste
      17.2.4 Southern Ocean Sanctuary
      17.2.5 Other priority regions
   17.3 Collaborative work within the IWC
      17.3.1 Update on IWC’s Whale Watching Handbook
      17.3.2 Communication with Conservation Committee’s Standing Working Group on Whale Watching
      17.3.3 Collaboration with other SC sub-groups on platforms of opportunity and citizen science
   17.4 Progress on previous recommendations
   17.5 Biennial workplan
18. Whale sanctuaries (SAN)
   18.1 Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SOS)
      18.1.1 Finalise SOS reviewers
      18.1.2 Discuss the SOS Review process
      18.1.3 Receive documents on the SOS
      18.1.4 Joint work with ASI to review SOS whale stocks and abundance
      18.1.5 Joint work with the WW Sub-committee to review whale watching in the SOS
      18.1.6 Other SOS review matters
   18.2 New information for Indian Ocean Sanctuary
   18.3 Progress on previous recommendations
   18.4 Biennial workplan
19. Extinction Initiative
20. IWC list of recognised species
21. IWC databases and catalogues (PH and GDR)
   21.1 Guidelines for IWC catalogues and photo-ID databases (PH)
   21.2 Progress with existing or proposed new catalogues (PH)
      21.2.1 Right whale photo catalogues
      21.2.2 Happywhale database
      21.2.3 Flukebook
      21.2.4 Southern Hemisphere Blue Whale Catalogue (SHBWC)
      21.2.5 Antarctic Blue Whale Catalogue (ABWC)
      21.2.6 Fin whale photo catalogues
      21.2.7 Humpback whale photo catalogues
      21.2.8 Other photo-identification catalogues
   21.3 Progress with existing IWC databases (GDR, Secretariat)
      21.3.1 Summary of IWC databases and current priorities
      21.3.2 IWC National Progress Reports
      21.3.3 Review database procedures, evaluate integration and consolidation of existing databases, and define rules for accessing data
   21.4 Potential future IWC databases (GDR)
21.4.1 IWC database proposal pro forma
21.4.2 New proposals for IWC databases
21.5 Biennial workplan
22. Multinational research programmes and national surveys (ASI)
   22.1 Surveys that include IWC funding and/or support, including IWC-POWER and IWC-SORP
   22.2 Surveys that seek IWC funding and/or request IWC oversight
   22.3 Surveys that seek advice from the Committee regarding survey or analysis methods
   22.4 Surveys seeking Committee endorsement
   22.5 Other survey reports and plans
   22.6 Biennial workplan
23. Scientific Committee budget
   23.1 Report from the Budgetary Steering Group
   23.2 Status of funded research, workshop proposals, data processing and computing needs
   23.3 Fund reallocations and contingencies for the Research Fund, Voluntary Fund for Small Cetaceans and SORP Voluntary Fund
   23.4 Proposed budget for 2023-2024 developed under the Committee’s guidelines
24. Committee priorities for the biennium 2023-24 and initial Agenda for 2024
25. Working methods of the Committee
   25.1 Updates on Rules of Procedure and Handbook of the Scientific Committee
   25.2 Communications Initiative and matters related to reporting to the Commission
   25.3 Capacity building and succession plan for the Scientific Committee
   25.4 Update on data availability requests and consideration of potential updates/clarifications
   25.5 Governance review update following IWC68
   25.6 Joint Conservation Committee-Scientific Committee Working Group
   25.7 Any other matters
26. Publications
27. Adoption of Repor
Annex C

List of Documents

SC/69A/ASI/

06. Cipriano, F., Wilson, K. and Givens, G.H. Overview of the Status of Stocks Initiative, and intersessional progress of the group on language, terminology, and website content development. 44pp.
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05. Moazzam, M. Sightings of whales in the Northern Arabian Sea along the coast of Pakistan in 2022 and 2023. 9pp.

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12. IWC SECRETARIAT, CHAIR OF STRANDINGS EXPERT PANEL AND CHAIR OF STRANDINGS STEERING GROUP. Update from the IWC Strandings Initiative. 5pp.


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SC/69A/EM/

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01rev1 CHAIR OF THE CC WORKING GROUP ON CETACEAN AND ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING. Update from the Conservation Committee Working Group on Cetaceans and Ecosystem Functioning. 5pp.


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SC/69A/GDR/

01. KATARA, I., O’LOUGHLIN, L. AND WHITTLE, E. Data management strategy. 6pp.


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SC/69A/HIM/


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SC/69A/IA


SC/69A/IST/


SC/69A/NH/
04. Burdin, A.M. Encounters of the North Pacific right whale (Eubalaena japonica) off the east coast of Kamchatka. 6pp.
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SC/69A/PH
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SC/69A/SAN/
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SC/69A/DDNA/

SC/69A/SHP/
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SC/69A/SM/


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SC/69A/O/


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SC/69A/REP/

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