

Editorial

For a third year running the IWC Scientific Committee meeting was forced to be held online (25 April to 13 May 2022) because of the continued difficulties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The IWC was only able to hold a Commission virtual special meeting (9-10 September 2021) so this Scientific Committee meeting adopted the nomenclature of SC68D. During the intersessional period, having served his term, Robert Suydam stepped down as Chair to be replaced by Alex Zerbini with Lyndsay Porter taking on the role of Vice-Chair.

Again the wide range of time zones occupied by committee members, allowed for just two 1.5 hour sessions daily and the meeting was spread over three working weeks with no weekend sessions. Plenary items were dealt with through a combination of dedicated online sessions and written reports.

As with the previous two virtual meetings the decreased time for discussion was reflected in a much reduced agenda. Given the need to progress important technical work the sub-committee on Implementation Reviews and Simulation Trials (IST) met in-person in Copenhagen Denmark, shortly after the main Committee meeting, 25-27 May 2022. The sub-committee's work was summarised and included in the main report. The full Committee was provided with the opportunity to comment on all sections of the draft report and the final text was agreed by the Heads of Delegation. The report from the SC68D meeting kept the revised layout used for the previous two years with summaries of the sub-group discussions and their recommendations combined into the main report text rather than the usual annexes.

Iain Staniland
Editor
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Cover image

The cover image shows a vaquita. With thanks to Paula Olson of NOAA.