

# **Draft Scientific Committee Agenda**

**Bled, 12-24 May 2014**

**[N] = CHAIR'S ANNOTATIONS**

## **1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS [N]**

- 1.1 Chair's welcome and opening remarks**
- 1.2 Appointment of rapporteurs**
- 1.3 Meeting procedures and time schedule [N]**
- 1.4 Establishment of sub-committees and working groups [N]**
- 1.5 Computing arrangements**

## **2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA [N]**

## **3. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS**

- 3.1 Documents submitted [N]**
- 3.2 National Progress Reports on research [N]**
- 3.3 Data collection, storage and manipulation**
  - 3.3.1 Catch data and other statistical material*
  - 3.3.2 Progress of data coding projects*
  - 3.3.3 Progress on program verification projects*

## **4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS [N]**

- 4.1 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)**
- 4.2 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)**
- 4.3 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)**
  - 4.3.1 Scientific Council*
  - 4.3.2 Conference of Parties (COP)*
  - 4.3.3 Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)*
  - 4.3.4 Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)*
  - 4.3.5 Other*
- 4.4 Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)**
- 4.5 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)**
- 4.6 Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP)**
- 4.7 International Committee on Marine Protected Areas (ICMMPA)**
- 4.8 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)**
- 4.9 International Maritime Organization (IMO)**
- 4.10 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**
- 4.11 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)**
- 4.12 North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES)**
- 4.13 Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean (SPAW)**
- 4.14 Other organisations**

## **5. REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP) – GENERAL ISSUES**

### **5.1 Finalise the approach for evaluating proposed amendments to the CLA [N]**

### **5.2 Evaluate the Norwegian proposal for amending the CLA [N]**

### **5.3 Other computing matters related to the CLA**

### **5.4 Update Requirements and Guidelines for conducting surveys and Implementations [N]**

#### *5.4.1 Model-based estimates*

#### *5.4.2 Changing survey coverage in time series of estimates*

#### *5.4.3 Use of surveys in different months*

### **5.5 Imbalanced sex ratio in incidental catches**

### **5.6 Work plan**

## **6. RMP –IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED MATTERS [N]**

### **6.1 North Pacific common minke whales (additional work from completed Implementation Review) [N]**

#### *6.1.1 Review of intersessional work*

#### *6.1.2 Recommendations*

### **6.2 North Atlantic fin whales (Implementation Review) [N]**

#### *6.2.1 Report of intersessional workshop*

#### *6.2.2 Consideration of available results*

#### *6.2.3 Beginning preparations for a basin-wide stock structure study*

#### *6.2.4 Recommendations*

### **6.3 North Atlantic common minke whales (Implementation Review) [N]**

#### *6.3.1 Review report of AWMP/RMP workshop on the stock structure*

#### *6.3.2 Implementation Review*

#### *6.3.3 Recommendations*

### **6.4 North Atlantic sei whales**

#### *6.4.1 Pre-Implementation Assessment*

#### *6.4.2 Recommendations*

### **6.5 Western North Pacific Bryde's whales**

#### *6.5.1 Prepare for 2016 Implementation Review*

#### *6.5.2 Recommendations*

### **6.6 Work plan**

## **7. NON-DELIBERATE HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY OF LARGE WHALES [N]**

### **7.1 Entanglement of large whales (HIM) [N]**

#### *7.1.1 Estimation of rates of entanglement, risks of entanglement and mortality*

#### *7.1.2 Collaboration with Commission's Humane Killing and Animal Welfare Methods Working Group including consideration of mitigation measures and future work*

### **7.2 Ship strikes (HIM) [N]**

#### *7.2.1 Progress on the global database*

#### *7.2.2 Estimating rates of ship strikes, risk of ship strikes and mortality*

#### *7.2.3 Collaboration with the Commission's Ship Strikes Working Group including consideration of mitigation measures and future work*

### **7.3 Marine debris (E) [N]**

### **7.4 Other issues including mortality from acoustic sources (E)**

### **7.5 Development of five year plan for Committee's priority work [N]**

### **7.6 Work plan**

## **8. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (AWMP)**

### **8.1 Progress on SLA development for the Greenlandic hunts [N]**

### **8.2 New information related to conversion factors for edible products for Greenland fisheries [N]**

### **8.3 Implications of gray whale rangewide workshop for the AWMP [N]**

### **8.4 Aboriginal whaling management scheme**

### **8.5 Work plan**

## **9. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT ADVICE [N]**

### **9.1 Eastern Canada and West Greenland bowhead whales (BRG)**

- 9.1.1 Stock structure and abundance*
- 9.1.2 Review recent catch information*
- 9.1.3 Management advice*

### **9.2 Eastern North Pacific gray whales (BRG)**

- 9.2.1 New information including report of the rangewide workshop*
- 9.2.2 Review of recent catch information*
- 9.2.3 Management advice*

### **9.3 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas Bowhead whale (BRG)**

- 9.3.1 New information*
- 9.3.2 Management advice*

### **9.4 Common minke whale stocks off Greenland (AWMP)**

- 9.4.1 New information*
- 9.4.2 Management advice*

### **9.5 Fin whales off West Greenland (AWMP)**

- 9.5.1 New information*
- 9.5.2 Management advice*

### **9.6 Humpback whales off West Greenland (AWMP)**

- 9.6.1 New information*
- 9.6.2 Management advice*

### **9.7 Humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines (AWMP)**

- 9.7.1 New information*
- 9.7.2 Management advice*

### **9.8 Work plan**

## **10. WHALE STOCKS [N]**

### **10.1 Antarctic minke whales (IA) [N]**

- 10.1.1 Consideration of factors that may drive Antarctic minke whale distribution and abundance*
- 10.1.2 Apply statistical catch-at-age models*
- 10.1.3 Work plan*

### **10.2 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales (SH) [N]**

- 10.2.1 Review results of assessment of Breeding Stocks D, E and F*
- 10.2.2 Review new information on other breeding stocks*
- 10.2.3 Work plan*

### **10.3 Southern Hemisphere blue whales (SH)**

- 10.3.1 Review new information*
- 10.3.2 Work plan*

### **10.4 Distribution of baleen and toothed whales in the Antarctic relative to spatial and environmental covariates (IA) [N]**

- 10.4.1. Review new information*
- 10.4.2 Work plan*

### **10.5 North Pacific sei whale in-depth assessment (IA)**

- 10.5.1 Complete preparations for the in-depth assessment*
- 10.5.2 Work plan*

### **10.6 North Pacific gray whales (BRG) [N]**

- 10.6.1 Review report of intersessional workshop*
- 10.6.2 Review new information*
- 10.6.3 Conservation advice*
- 10.6.4 Work plan*

### **10.7 Southern Hemisphere right whales (BRG)**

- 10.7.1 Review report of intersessional workshop on the problem of kelp gulls [N]*
- 10.7.2 Review new information*
- 10.7.3 Work plan*

### **10.8 North Atlantic right whales (BRG)**

- 10.8.1 Review new information*
- 10.8.2 Work plan*

### **10.9 North Pacific right whales (BRG)**

- 10.9.1 Review new information*
- 10.9.2 Work plan*

#### **10.10 North Atlantic bowhead whales (BRG)**

*10.10.1 Review new information*

*10.10.2 Work plan*

#### **10.11 Okhotsk Sea bowhead whales (BRG)**

*10.11.1 Review new information*

*10.11.2 Work plan*

#### **10.12 Arabian Sea humpback whales (SH)**

*10.12.1 Review new information*

*10.12.2 Progress toward the development of a Conservation Management Plan*

*10.12.3 Work plan*

#### **10.13 International Cruises (IA)**

*10.13.1 IWC-POWER cruises in the North Pacific [N]*

*10.13.2 Review of 2013 IWC-POWER sighting survey*

*10.13.3 Review planning meeting report for 2014 cruise*

*10.13.4 Recommendations for 2015 cruise*

*10.13.5 Mid- and Long-term recommendations for the IWC-POWER cruises [N]*

*10.13.6 IWC-SOWER cruises (progress on website, publications, analyses)*

*10.13.7 Other cruises*

#### **10.14 Sperm whales (SH)**

*10.14.1 Review new information*

*10.14.2 Work plan*

#### **10.14 Other**

### **11. STOCK DEFINITION (SD) [N]**

#### **11.1 Guidelines for genetic studies and DNA data quality [N]**

#### **11.2 Statistical and genetic issues related to stock structure matters faced by the Committee [N]**

#### **11.3 Terminology appropriate to stock definition and unit-to- conserve [N]**

#### **11.4 Testing of spatial stock structure models [N]**

#### **11.5 Work plan**

### **12. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (E)**

#### **12.1 State of the Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER [N]**

#### **12.2 Pollution (including POLLUTION 2020) [N]**

#### **12.3 Cetacean Emerging and Resurging Diseases (CERD) and Mortality Events [N]**

#### **12.4 Effects of anthropogenic sound on cetaceans and approaches to mitigate these effects (including review of IWC/IQOE workshop report)**

#### **12.5 Effects of climate change on cetaceans (including review of Arctic impact workshop report) [N]**

#### **12.6 Habitat related issues (including marine debris)**

#### **12.7 Work plan**

### **13. ECOSYSTEM MODELLING (EM)**

#### **13.1 Review ecosystem modelling efforts undertaken outside the IWC [N]**

*13.1.1 Competition among baleen whales: how can we measure and model it?*

*13.1.2 Update from CCAMLR's Ecosystem Monitoring and Management Programme (WG-EMM) on krill and its dependent predators*

#### **13.2 Explore how ecosystem models contribute to developing scenarios for simulation testing of the RMP [N]**

#### **13.3 Review other issues relevant to ecosystem modelling within the Committee**

*13.3.1 Case studies of the effects of long-term environmental variability on whale populations*

*13.3.2 Other, if new information is available*

#### **13.4 Work plan**

### **14. SMALL CETACEANS (SM)**

#### **14.1 Review of selected small cetaceans in the eastern Mediterranean and Red Seas [N]**

#### **14.2 Report on the Voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research**

#### **14.3 Review progress on previous recommendations [N]**

#### **14.4 Review takes of small cetaceans [N]**

#### **14.5 Update on proposed joint workshop on monodontids**

#### **14.6 Work plan**

**15. WHALEWATCHING (WW)**

**15.1 Assess the impact of whalewatching on cetaceans [N]**

**15.2 Review whalewatching in the Mediterranean and Red Seas [N]**

**15.3 Progress on Commission's 5-year strategic plan including guidelines and regulations [N]**

**15.4 Report on Oman whalewatching workshop**

**15.5 Other issues**

*15.5.1 Consider information from platforms of opportunity of potential value to the Scientific Committee*

*15.5.2 Consider emerging whalewatching industries of concern*

**15.6 Work plan**

**16. DNA TESTING (DNA) [N]**

**16.1 Review genetic methods for species, stock and individual identification**

**16.2 Review results of the 'amendments' of sequences deposited in GenBank**

**16.3 Collection and archiving of tissue samples from catches and bycatches**

**16.4 Reference databases and standards for diagnostic DNA registries**

**16.5 Work plan**

**17. SCIENTIFIC PERMITS (SP) [N]**

**17.1 Review report of JARPA II review workshop [N]**

**17.2 Review of results from ongoing permits [N]**

*17.2.1 JARPN II*

*17.2.2 JARPA II*

**17.3 Review of new or continuing proposals [N]**

*17.3.1 JARPA II*

*17.3.2 JARPN II*

**17.4 Work plan**

**18. WHALE SANCTUARIES (S) [N]**

**18.1 Preparation for the regular review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary**

**19. SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP [N]**

**20. IWC LIST OF RECOGNISED SPECIES [N]**

**21. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS [N]**

**22. COMPILATION OF AGREED ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES [N]**

**23. RESEARCH AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AND RESULTS**

**23.1 Review results from previously funded research proposals**

**23.2 Review proposals for 2014/15 [N]**

**24. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR THE 2015 and 2016 MEETINGS [N]**

**25. DATA PROCESSING AND COMPUTING NEEDS FOR 2014/15[N]**

**26. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2014/15 and 2015/16 [N]**

**27. WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE [N]**

**28. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**29. PUBLICATIONS**

**30. OTHER BUSINESS**

**31. ADOPTION OF REPORT [N]**

## CHAIR'S ANNOTATIONS [N]

### ITEM 1: INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The Scientific Committee (SC65b<sup>1</sup>) will meet in Bled, Slovenia, from 12-24 May 2014. It will be preceded by two pre-meeting workshops on the *Implementation Review* for the North Atlantic common minke whales (9-11 May) and the Southern Hemisphere humpback whale assessments (10-11 May).

General information can be found at:

<http://events.iwc.int/index.php/scientific/SC65b>

The list of the work agreed to be attempted during the 2013/2014 intersessional period can be found (being updated) at

<http://iwc.int/sctasks>

and the list of intersessional correspondence groups and terms of reference is at:

<http://iwc.int/correspondence-groups>

I have referred to some, but not all of these intersessional groups (as SC/65a/Annex R\_) in the notes to the Agenda.

### Item 1.3: Meeting procedures and time schedule

At the Scientific Committee meeting in 2013 we had 105 sessions available for sub-committee deliberations over a seven-day period, based on three concurrent sub-committee meetings for each of five work sessions per day, starting at approximately 08:30 and ending typically at 18:30. This schedule allowed for several *ad hoc* working groups to meet in the evening, typically from 18:45 to approximately 21:30, and for occasional longer sessions of sub-committees beyond the scheduled 18:30 finish time.

The Special Permit (SP) working group will meet during two evening sessions early in the sub-committee week to complete its agenda. The Sanctuaries working group (SAN) will only be established if there is a new formal proposal for sanctuaries submitted according to the guidelines for review by the Committee. As was done previously, one evening session may be used to 'communicate' a key theme of the Committee's work: the 'Comprehensive Assessment' and the 'AWMP' are candidate themes. In addition, a voluntary session will be dedicated to a simple guide to the Committee's procedures – this will occur after coffee on Day 1.

Last year's schedule proved efficient as it allowed for rapporteurs and *ad hoc* working groups to work during the evening. The Scientific Committee agreed to continue this schedule at the 2014 Annual Meeting (SC65b).

Time schedule at SC65b		
Date	Items	Comments
9-11 May	Pre-meeting workshops	RMP NA common minke from 9-11 May and IA SH humpbacks from 10-11 May
12 May	Plenary session, voluntary session on guide to meeting procedures, then read documents. Possible meetings of SD working group.	Items 1-4
13 May	Initial meetings of sub-committees and working groups (about 15 minutes each). Possible meetings of SD working group	To elect chairs and adopt agenda, identify documents, etc
14-20 May	Predominantly sub-committees (possibly some short plenary meetings)	To complete agenda and agree report
21 May	<i>Tentative</i> rest day	Subject to cancellation if insufficient progress is made....
22-24 May	Plenary sessions. Intention to finish no later than 5pm on 24 May.	To complete agenda and agree report, including work plan and draft initial agenda for 2015
25 May	09:00-12:00 Convenors to complete editorial work on sub-committee and plenary reports; 12:00 Convenors meeting to, if necessary, consider refinements of the draft initial agenda, priorities, and changes in organisational structure implied by the draft initial agenda or by discussions during the meeting.	

<sup>1</sup> Note: now that the Commission has moved to biennial meetings (i.e. IWC 65 will take place in 2014), we will now be numbering the two SC meetings relevant to the Commission meeting A and B; thus the 2013 and 2014 Scientific Committee meetings will be SC65a and SC65b.

#### Item 1.4: Establishment of sub-committees and working groups

The following groups were identified by the Convenors immediately after SC65a (see table below). There is no NPM working group from this year because it successfully completed the *Implementation Review* at SC65a. A list of priority topics still outstanding for NPM is to be considered by the RMP sub-committee this year.

The convenors and co-convenors for each sub-committee are listed in the table below. Although each group has a tentative annex number, some reports may be incorporated directly into the Scientific Committee's report. It is important that you consult the registration and document submission details that can be found on the website:

<http://events.iwc.int/index.php/scientific/SC65b>

We intend to establish around 13 sub-committees (including standing Working Groups and *ad hoc* Working Groups). This year we again have seven days available for sub-committees, and the number of sessions for sub-committees is again scheduled to be 105 based on three concurrent sub-committee meetings for each of five work sessions per day, starting at approximately 08:30 and ending typically at 18:30. Because of the inability to schedule certain sub-committees opposite other sub-committees, we will, if necessary, convene some evening sessions. I intend to have an initial discussion of Scientific Committee procedures, especially related to the development of a budget for the Commission, early in the meeting. However, if possible, I will avoid evening sessions to allow: (1) rapporteurs to draft reports and (2) more time for small break out groups (e.g. to do simulation runs and testing) during the meeting.

The draft Agenda developed by the Scientific Committee and finalised by the Convenors at last year's meeting (IWC/64/Rep1, Item 24) identified priority items for each sub-committee and items that would only be discussed if time is available. Chairs will adhere closely to this. I have included items in the latter category as sub-items under the heading 'Other issues' where appropriate, to emphasise this.

Sub-committees, standing and <i>ad hoc</i> working groups at SC65b			
Title	Convenor	Co-convenor	Annex
Revised Management Procedure, <b>RMP</b>	Bannister		<b>D</b>
Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure, <b>AWMP</b>	Donovan	Brandon	<b>E</b>
Bowhead, Right and Gray Whales, <b>BRG</b>	Walløe		<b>F</b>
In-depth Assessment, <b>IA</b>	Palka	Hedley*	<b>G</b>
Southern Hemisphere whale stocks other than Antarctic minke and right whales, <b>SH</b>	Robbins		<b>H</b>
Stock Definition, <b>SD</b>	Jackson		<b>I</b>
Non-deliberate human-induced mortality of large whales, <b>HIM</b>	Leaper		<b>J</b>
Environmental Concerns, <b>E</b>	Rowles	Parsons	<b>K</b>
Ecosystem Modelling, <b>EM</b>	Palacios		<b>K1</b>
Small Cetaceans, <b>SM</b>	Fortuna	Scheidat	<b>L</b>
Whalewatching, <b>WW</b>	Urban-Rámirez	Carlson	<b>M</b>
DNA, <b>DNA</b>	Pastene		<b>N</b>
Special Permits, <b>SP</b>	Bjørge		<b>P</b>

\*Unfortunately unable to attend this meeting

#### ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The order of the Agenda is based on that of last year, but amended *inter alia* to take account of our work plan and Commission mandates. The Commission accepted our priorities and initial Agenda, and adopted the budget as given under Items 24 and 26 of the last year's report.

I again recognise that some Contracting Governments do not believe that certain topics should be on the Commission and/or Scientific Committee Agendas. The appropriate forum to discuss such views is in the Commission. It is not within my mandate as Chair to exclude items specifically requested for inclusion by the Commission (e.g. by Resolution). To facilitate plenary and sub-committee discussions, I will follow the practice of past years and **strongly request** that any objections to specific items or particular topics on the Agenda be raised briefly under this Agenda Item and then provided in writing to the rapporteur for inclusion in our report. It is not acceptable for these objections to be repeated during discussions of the items themselves in the plenary sessions or during sub-committee meetings. A written reference in the relevant reports to the statements made here under Item 2 will be sufficient.

### **ITEM 3: REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS**

#### **Item 3.1: Documents submitted**

PLEASE NOTE: as last year, the Secretariat will be using the online system for registration and for submission of documents. The IWC Meeting Portal can be found at:

<http://events.iwc.int>

One notable change since last year is that the Committee agreed to establish a deadline for primary papers as a trial for the 2014 Annual Meeting of **7 days before the start of the meeting**. This is not only in light of a trial for cost saving in future but also to examine its potential to improve the Committee's efficiency. This trial will provide information to inform discussions of cost savings this year.

At the 2012 meeting, the Committee agreed that all documents will be distributed wholly electronically (website and memory sticks) by the Secretariat. There will be no more personal pigeonholes this year, too.

#### **Item 3.2: National Progress Reports on research**

Progress report data are to be uploaded online at the IWC data collection portal. National coordinators will be contacted directly and the information provided in a circular to the Scientific Committee.

Last year, the Committee agreed to improvements with the National Progress Reports database. Under this Item we will again discuss progress made and difficulties encountered with respect to online data entry of progress reports as raised last year.

### **ITEM 4: COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

Most of the organisations on this list are ones that have met since our last meeting and with which we have a formal exchange of observers. Observers' reports should therefore be available. **Observers, please, send your reports to the Secretariat no later than 11 April.** I would like to be able to discuss these on Day 1. To save time, there will be no presentation of observer's reports. Any directly relevant scientific matters will be dealt with under appropriate Agenda Items on our Agenda. I will assume that Committee members have read these, and I will ask members whether there are any questions that should be addressed under this Agenda Item.

#### **ITEMS: 5-17**

These items have been prepared in consultation with the Convenors to take specifically into account relevant Commission resolutions and Agenda Items. Note that the Committee Agenda here does not repeat the detailed sub-committee Agenda Items, but only highlights the major areas of discussion. Sub-items can more appropriately be added later (as is our usual practice).

### **ITEM 5: REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP) – GENERAL ISSUES**

#### **Item 5.1: Finalise the approach for evaluating proposed amendments to the CLA [N]**

When it last discussed this issue (IWC, 2007), the Committee agreed that two steps still had to be completed: (1) finalisation of the MSYR review, which was completed last year; and (2) specification of additional trials for testing amendments to the CLA. The latter related to modelling works based on individual-based simulation models under the Working Group on Ecosystem Modelling, which will provide the basis for additional trials to further explore the behaviour of the RMP. The Committee agreed to re-establish the intersessional working group under Allison (SC/65a/AnnexR5) to formulate and run trials related to environmental degradation, taking account of the discussions last year, and to report the results to this meeting. The Committee stressed that this work must be completed by this year's meeting.

#### **Item 5.2: Evaluate the Norwegian proposal for amending the CLA**

The Committee was again unable to complete its evaluation of the Norwegian proposal last year because of incompleteness of the trial specifications related to environmental degradation (see Item 5.1). At the same time, the Committee agreed that it would not be necessary to have all of the trials related to environmental degradation completed before a decision on amending the CLA could be made, given the time required to parameterise trials based on individual-based models. It will complete the task once any additional trials (see Item 5.1) have been specified and run.

#### **Item 5.4: Update Requirements and Guidelines for conducting surveys and Implementations**

The existing Committee's Requirement and Guidelines were written only for the design-based surveys. Recently, the Committee recognised a need to consider what circumstances might require approval when the survey and analysis are conducted based on spatial modelling or quasi design-based approaches. The Committee agreed that a review of this issue should take place intersessionally (see SC65a/Annex D) that will also provide draft text for possible inclusion in the Requirements and Guidelines.



## **ITEM 6: RMP – PREPARATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

The Committee is developing a list of agreed abundance estimates for all stocks and the uses for which they are suitable. The RMP sub-committee will update its list for all stocks considered this year. An Annex of all agreed abundance estimates of the Committee will be included as an Annex to the Plenary Report.

### **Item 6.1: North Pacific common minke whales**

#### *6.1.1 Review of intersessional work*

Although the *Implementation Review* for western North Pacific minke whales was completed last year, the Committee did not have sufficient time to finalise the estimates of abundance for use in actual applications of the RMP. The Committee established a steering group (SC/65a/AnnexR9) so that its final decisions can be made at this year's meeting. The Committee will also review work by an intersessional advisory group on the relevant research (SC/65a/AnnexR10).

### **Item 6.2: North Atlantic fin whales**

#### *6.2.1 Complete Implementation Review*

The Committee was unable to complete the *Implementation Review* last year. Some progress was made during this intersessional period, especially thanks to works under an intersessional steering group (SC/65a/AnnexR1, R4 and R7) and the intersessional workshop, held at Copenhagen, 6-8 January 2014 (see SC/65b/Rep3). The Committee will complete this *Implementation Review* this year.

### **Item 6.3: North Atlantic common minke whales**

The objective is to try to complete the *Implementation Review* at this meeting if possible. However that will depend *inter alia* on the results of the joint AWMP/RMP intersessional Workshop to consider stock structure hypotheses for North Atlantic common minke whales will be held at Copenhagen, 14-17 April 2014 (SC/65a/AnnexR2, see also SC/65b/Rep7). There will be a 3-day pre-meeting on the *Implementation Review*.

## **ITEM 7: NON-DELIBERATE HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY OF LARGE WHALES**

This item groups together all of the items on human induced mortality of large whales. This information is relevant for RMP, AWMP, BRG and in-depth assessments and given the common nature of issues related to both estimation and mitigation it is sensible to consider them together. The general item will primarily be discussed by the HIM sub-group apart from the marine debris issue that will be discussed in E.

### **Item 7.1: Entanglement of large whales (HIM)**

This item will build upon the work of previous years and also discuss collaboration with the Commission's working group and the development of a long-term workplan (SC/65a/AnnexR12).

### **Item 7.2: Ship strikes (HIM)**

This will consider information on ship strikes including estimation of rates, collaboration with the Commission's ship strikes working group on scientific aspects (e.g. hot spots and mitigation), and progress with the ship strikes database (including reports from the co-ordinators, Panigada and Ritter, SC/65a/AnnexR11). It will also include collisions with whalewatching vessels. An important focus will be the collaboration with the Commission's working group and the development of a long-term workplan.

### **Item 7.3: Marine debris (E)**

Last year, the Committee received the report of the first workshop and agreed to establish two intersessional groups (see SC/65a/AnnexR25 and R26). We will receive progress reports from these including information on the second workshop which will be held in conjunction with the Conservation Committee.

### **Item 7.5: Development of five year plan Committee's priority works**

The Committee established an intersessional working group (SC/65a/AnnexR12) who will report back on work to develop longer-term priorities for the Committee's work on HIM.

## **ITEM 8: ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE**

### **Item 8.1: Progress on SLA development for the Greenlandic hunts**

The Committee will review progress made at the intersessional workshop, held in Copenhagen, 8-11 January 2014 (SC/65b/Rep4)

### **Item 8.2: New information related to conversion factors for edible products for Greenland fisheries**

The Committee will discuss the full report on this issue being produced by scientists from Greenland.

### **Item 8.3: Implications of gray whale rangewide workshop for the AWMP**

The Committee will focus upon any implications for the AWMP that might arise out of the 8-11 April 2014 Workshop to be held in La Jolla (SC/65b/Rep6).

## **ITEM 9: ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT ADVICE**

In 2012, the Commission adopted new strike limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling for several hunts. Although a proposal for strike limits for the Greenlandic hunts was not adopted by the Commission, a review of management advice for all hunts will be provided.

The Committee is developing a list of agreed abundance estimates for all stocks and the uses for which they are suitable. The AWMP and BRG sub-committees will develop/update their list for all stocks considered this year. An Annex of all agreed abundance estimates of the Committee will be included as an Annex to the Plenary Report.

## **ITEM 10: WHALE STOCKS**

Individual items will be dealt with by appropriate sub-committees, as indicated in the Draft Agenda. Note that the old item referring to 'Other stocks of right whales and small stocks of bowhead whales' has been broken up into its component parts.

The Committee is developing a list of agreed abundance estimates for all stocks and the uses for which they are suitable. The IA sub-committee will develop/update its list for all stocks it has considered. An Annex of all agreed abundance estimates of the Committee will be included as an Annex to the Plenary Report.

Note that papers produced under the Southern Ocean Research Programme (SORP) will be discussed by the relevant sub-committees.

### **Item 10.1: Antarctic minke whales**

Last year, the Committee agreed to focus its work on Antarctic minke whales under the framework 'what factors drive Antarctic minke whale abundance?' It also agreed to continue its work on the investigation and use of SCAA models.

### **Item 10.2: Southern Hemisphere humpback whales**

The Committee will review updated results of assessment by the intersessional working group (SC/65a/AnnexR14) for breeding stocks D, E and F. There will be a two-day pre-meeting.

### **Item 10.4: Distribution of baleen and toothed whales in the Antarctic relative to spatial and environmental covariates**

The Committee agreed to add this item to the work of IA last year.

### **Item 10.6: North Pacific gray whales**

The Commission is particularly concerned about the status of the gray whales whose feeding grounds coincide with oil and gas operations off Sakhalin Island, Russian Federation. New information from telemetry studies and photo-identification studies means that a major review of stock structure in the North Pacific is required to better understand the impacts of anthropogenic threats to gray whales on both sides of the Pacific including during migration. A rangewide workshop is being held in La Jolla in April 2014 (SC/65b/Rep6) and the results will be discussed under this item and under Item 8.3.

### **Item 10.7: Southern Hemisphere right whales**

#### *10.7.1 Review report of intersessional workshop on the problem of kelp gulls*

The Committee will review the report of the workshop held in Argentina, April 2014 (SC/65b/Rep9) to develop and implement a strategy to minimise kelp gull harassment on southern right whales as proposed by the Conservation Management Plan.

### **Item 10.13: International Cruises**

#### *10.13.1 IWC-POWER cruises in the North Pacific*

The Committee has now agreed objectives. It will review the results of the past cruises, the planning meeting report for the 2014 cruise and discuss plans for the 2015 cruise (SC/65a/AnnexR19; SC/65b/Rep1).

#### *10.13.5 Mid- and long-term recommendations for the IWC-POWER cruises*

The Committee will review the work of an intersessional group (SC/65a/AnnexR20) and an associated workshop held in Tokyo on 29-30 September 2013; SC/65b/Rep2) on the development of mid- and long-term recommendations for the IWC-POWER cruises.

## **ITEM 11: STOCK DEFINITION**

As in the last year, convenors may submit key papers relevant to their work to SD for early review of their technical aspects and implications (e.g. with respect to uncertainty and appropriate hypotheses).

**Item 11.1: Guidelines for genetic studies and DNA data quality**

Substantial progress on the genetic analysis guidelines was made at last year's meeting. The Committee will review any updates on the guidelines.

**Item 11.2: Statistical and genetic issues related to stock structure matters faced by the Committee**

Amongst the issues identified last year was the consideration of previous trial results with respect to 'tipping points' in inter-population migration rates that made significant differences to trial outcomes. The use of the TOSSM framework to address difficulties faced by the Committee will also be discussed.

**Item 11.3: Terminology appropriate to stock definition and unit-to-convert**

The Committee is in the process of trying to develop a suite of definitions for stock-related terms and will review progress of an intersessional group (SC/65a/AnnexR23) this year.

**Item 11.4: Testing of spatial stock structure models**

The Committee will review progress and develop further initiatives for work related to the testing of spatial structure models using the IWC-developed TOSSM software package this year.

**ITEM 12: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS****Item 12.1: State of Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER**

Committee members are encouraged to make submissions to the co-Convenors of the intersessional working group. Use the standardised form for data entry, which can be downloaded from:

<http://iwc.int/socer>

**Item 12.2: Pollution (including POLLUTION 2020)**

This item includes updates on the POLLUTION 2000+ Phase II project, POLLUTION 2020 (SC/65a/AnnexR41), work needed related to oil spill response and assessments (SC/65a/AnnexR39), evaluating risk to cetaceans from marine debris (SC/65a/AnnexR26) and other relevant updates. The Committee will review their progress and decide on further steps.

**Item 12.3: Cetacean Emerging and Resurging Diseases (CERD) and Mortality Events**

The Committee will review progress made by the intersessional CERD working group (SC/65a/AnnexR28).

**Item 12.5: Effects of Climate Change on Cetaceans**

This will include a review of the Arctic Impact Workshop, held in Anchorage, 6-7 March 2014.

**ITEM 13: ECOSYSTEM MODELLING****Item 13.1: Review ecosystem modelling efforts undertaken outside the IWC**

This year, the Committee will focus on a review of competition among predator species and the work of CCAMLR on krill and dependent predators.

**Item 13.2: Explore how ecosystem models contribute to developing scenarios for simulation testing of the RMP**

Last year, the Committee identified a number of issues relating to ecosystem effects and the RMP that could be usefully explored either with this individual-based model (IBM) or with simplified emulator models that mimic the behaviour of the IBM. The Committee established an intersessional group (SC/65a/AnnexR32) to develop specific trials for the RMP for stochastic environments. It also agreed to prioritise (1) effects of competition, including effects on whales from fisheries on prey species; and (2) observable environmental and population characteristics likely to be indicators of ecosystem effects.

**ITEM 14: SMALL CETACEANS****Item 14.1: Review cetacean species in the eastern Mediterranean and Red seas**

For the Mediterranean assessment, the species considered in this review will be those considered regular: i.e. *Stenella coeruleoalba*, *Tursiops truncatus*, *Grampus griseus*, *Phocoena phocoena relicta*, *Delphinus delphis*, *Steno bredanensis*. Note: The Mediterranean *Ziphius cavirostris* has been already considered in 2010 in a separate assessment, and updates for this will be discussed under item 14.3 'Previous recommendations'.

For the Red Sea assessment, the species considered in this review will be the following: *Stenella longirostris*, *Stenella attenuata*, *Tursiops truncatus*, *Tursiops aduncus*, *Grampus griseus*, *Pseudorca crassidens*, *Sousa* sp.

**Item 14.3: Review progress on previous recommendations**

IWC Resolution 2001-13 urges Contracting Governments to respond to Scientific Committee requests for information and recommendations for action regarding conservation of small cetaceans. This resolution also instructs the Committee to continue to review progress on previous recommendations on a regular basis.

#### **Item 14.4: Review takes of small cetaceans**

As in previous years, I request Heads of Delegation to arrange for such information to be included in the National Progress Reports. The Committee should consider how it wishes to summarise the received and available information on direct and incidental takes of small cetaceans and consider how best to provide advice on these including issues related to 'marine bushmeat' (SC/65a/AnnexR33).

### **ITEM 15: WHALEWATCHING**

#### **Item 15.1: Assess the impact of whalewatching on cetaceans**

This item will include review of progress of intersessional groups on several related topics including the LaWE project (SC/65a/AnnexR34-35), the swim-with-whale operations questionnaire (SC/65a/AnnexR37), and the project to identify potentially dangerous recreational interactions with cetaceans and people (SC/65a/AnnexR38).

#### **Item 15.2: Review whalewatching in the Mediterranean Sea**

This item will focus on information from the host country, Slovenia, and the Mediterranean Sea.

#### **Item 15.3: Progress on Commission's 5-year strategic plan**

The Commission has adopted a 5-year strategic plan for whalewatching. Many aspects of that plan have a scientific component and this item will begin to provide the Committee's contribution to that work, including the development of guiding principles (SC/65a/AnnexR36) and updating the compendium of guidelines and regulations.

### **ITEM 16: DNA TESTING**

Under this item, we will provide the report to the Commission required by IWC Resolution 1999-8. I will refer you to the Committee's recommendation that sequences to be used in published reports should be deposited in GenBank, and that the GenBank accession number is included in the publication, whether or not this is required by the journal. This is incorporated in the policy of the *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*, and its guide for authors. The Committee recommended that similar practices be established for public archiving of non-sequence genetic data, where feasible.

### **ITEM 17: SCIENTIFIC PERMITS**

The SP working group (SP) will discuss special permit programmes and associated procedural questions in a general way. The detailed scientific results of the special permit programmes will be discussed in the relevant sub-committees and standing working groups (*inter alia* IA, NPM, E and EM).

#### **Item 17.1: Review workshop for Japanese Scientific Permit whaling in the Antarctic**

We will hear results of the expert review workshop (held 24-28 February 2014 in Tokyo; SC/65b/Rep5) for the Japanese programme in the Antarctic, JARPA II. The Committee will develop its view of that report which will also be forwarded to the Commission.

#### **Item 17.2: Review of results from ongoing permits**

There are two ongoing Special Permit programmes (JARPN II on North Pacific common minke, sei, Bryde's and sperm whales and JARPA II on fin and Antarctic minke whales).

#### **Item 17.3: Review of new or continuing proposals**

I have not been informed about any new proposals, and I do not anticipate any discussion of new Special Permit proposals this year.

### **ITEM 18: SANCTUARIES**

In the major discussion about sanctuaries in 2004, the Committee recommended procedures to facilitate the review of future proposals and future sanctuary reviews (*J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 7 (Suppl.): 50-1).

The Bureau has reminded us that the Schedule states that the Southern Ocean Sanctuary shall be reviewed every ten years and that will be in 2014. We must therefore prepare for such a review recognising that this may possibly require more work than can be achieved at this meeting. The last review was completed in 2004. The report of the Scientific Committee and the Report of an intersessional meeting to review the Sanctuary can be found in *J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 7 (Suppl.): 49-51; 340-2; 403-11.

### **ITEM 19: SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP**

SORP is an IWC collaborative non-lethal research effort that is directed by the Scientific Committee in response to agreed priorities for research needs. The research is managed through approved, large scale, multi-national projects which report annually to the SC on progress and future plans. The Committee has received considerable input from projects agreed under the SORP programme. The scientific results will be considered by the relevant sub-groups (including IA and SH) so that this item will focus only on logistical and administrative actions required to further the SORP programme.

**ITEM 20: IWC LIST OF RECOGNISED SPECIES**

This item will review and update as necessary the IWC list of recognised species. I will establish an *ad hoc* group to look at this initially.

**ITEM 21: CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS**

The Commission has asked us to develop a prioritised list of candidates for Conservation Management Plans (CMPs). Last year, the Committee discussed CMPs, focusing on large whales. This item is kept on the Agenda for any necessity of updates. It is noted that the Committee needs guidance from the Commission on whether or not it wishes the Committee to develop a priority list of populations of small cetaceans for which CMPs might be of value.

**ITEM 22: COMPILATION OF AGREED ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES**

The Committee has agreed upon the need to develop a list of agreed abundance estimates for large whales. This work began in 2012 and will be completed this year. This Item will allow us to examine a consolidated list and agree an overview. This will form a separate Annex to the report.

**ITEM 23: RESEARCH AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AND RESULTS****Item 23.2: Review outside proposals for 2014/15**

This item will be handled, as usual, by a review group chaired by the Vice Chair and with members appointed from the sub-committee chairs. However, I have been informed by the Secretariat that it is unlikely that we will be able to support any outside proposals and none have been received thus far. I also draw your attention to the discussion of appropriate procedures for funding research discussed under Items 19 and 22 of the SC/60 Committee report (*J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 11 (Suppl.): 64; 66-67).

**ITEM 24: COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR THE 2015 AND 2016 MEETINGS**

Our priorities are largely determined by the Commission which now meets biennially. The work plan specified by each sub-committee/working group will provide a basis for the draft Agenda for the next meeting. I will prepare a draft initial Agenda for review before the end of the meeting so that it can appear in our report which will be circulated to the Commission and will reflect our view of priorities for 2014/15. We should also try to provide preliminary advice on what might be anticipated for 2016.

**ITEM 25: DATA PROCESSING AND COMPUTING NEEDS FOR 2014/15**

To facilitate discussion of this item, which necessarily occurs relatively late in the meeting, sub-committee chairs will, as usual, be asked to keep a running tally of needs arising in their sub-committee deliberations.

**ITEM 26: FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2014/15 AND 2015/16**

To facilitate discussion of this item, which necessarily occurs relatively late in the meeting, sub-committee chairs will, as usual, be asked to keep a running tally of requirements arising in their sub-committee deliberations. Sub-committee chairs will try to ensure that a summary document is available as soon as possible after the sub-committees have completed their business. As was done last year, we will use a standard form that should help in ensuring that the appropriate information is easily and promptly available.

Given the extensive discussion last year, we will spend time early in the meeting to review the approach to finalising the budget. In addition to the Secretariat review of the procedures of other intergovernmental organisations, I intend to develop a discussion document on possible improvements to the process of developing the budget including the development of an anticipated two-year budget. Any changes to our rules must be approved by the Commission.

**ITEM 27: WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee has agreed to keep this item on the Agenda to allow for discussion of possible proposals to improve the working methods of the Committee, including discussion on the balance between cost savings and the efficiency of the Committee. The Committee also agreed to place this item on the agenda to stimulate discussion within the Committee as to how best to improve communications on conservation matters to the Conservation Committee and Commission.

The Scientific Committee Handbook is available on the website, and we will consider suggestions for additions/modifications under this Agenda Item:

<http://iwc.int/scientific-committee-handbook>

**ITEM 31: ADOPTION OF REPORT**

I will do my best to ensure that we finish before 5pm on the final day with a near-completed report.