



Annual report of the  
International Whaling Commission  
**Aug 2012-Aug 2013**



INTERNATIONAL  
WHALING COMMISSION



# FOREWORD

Welcome to a new kind of annual report from the International Whaling Commission. The change in format was prompted by the move from annual to biennial meetings, a decision taken during the 2012 Commission meeting in Panama. This new-style report is the first to cover an inter-sessional period only, from August 2012 to August 2013.

In future years where a Commission meeting is held, a Chair's report will still be produced and will contain the full records of Commission and sub-committee meetings that have proved such useful tools to date. We will also make use of this new opportunity to share the inter-sessional work of the IWC in this more concise form that is accessible to all, including newcomers to this complex and historic organisation.

Two things strike me in reading this report. The first is the amount of international collaboration ongoing within the IWC and among IWC member countries. It is often disagreement that attracts attention to the IWC, and of course there are difficult issues where common ground is hard to find. However, in many areas of the extensive work programme it must be noted that the same member countries are sharing expertise and resources, and demonstrating real progress.

Secondly, I'm struck by the accessibility of the IWC. Over recent years we have worked hard to achieve financial and administrative transparency. Our website has been overhauled and now offers anyone the ability to follow and scrutinise the workings of the organisation. This transparency is moving onto another level now, as the IWC makes available more than sixty five years of scientific research, diplomacy and imagery. It will take time to upload this vast archive but ultimately, access will be open and free. In the meantime, I ask readers to delve into this report, and define the IWC not simply by the well-known policy stalemates, but also by this extensive and productive programme of work.

**Jeannine Compton-Antoine**  
IWC Chair

# OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

The twelve months from August 2012 have been busy and challenging for the IWC. This is the first year with no Commission meeting, but a full programme of more than 70 projects, meetings and workshops guaranteed there would still be plenty to talk about.

Policy makers and scientists from all kinds of different organisations make up the IWC community. This broad and loose grouping has always been international in nature, but never more so than now. Every continent hosted some form of IWC work.

A highlight of the period was the tangible progress towards building a worldwide entanglement response capacity. Four workshops were held in different locations, and some eighty individuals trained to respond safely and effectively to whales caught in fishing gear.

Also noteworthy was the extensive fieldwork and collaboration between scientists and the Inupiat people of Alaska which resulted in a new population estimate for bowhead whales in the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas, showing that it is increasing at about 4% annually. These results were endorsed by the Scientific Committee of the IWC which continues to meet annually, and this year assessed more than 200 separate scientific papers in two weeks.

Perhaps the best endorsement of this work programme is the continued generosity of voluntary contributions to the IWC from governments and non-governmental organisations. These additional funds are gratefully received and enable us to target some very difficult conservation challenges.

I would like to thank all those who have given their time, expertise or money to support the work of the IWC. These people make up a community that has achieved a great deal over the twelve months reported here, and I hope you will enjoy reading about it.

**Simon Brockington**  
IWC Executive Secretary







# SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Paula Olson, under permit from the Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Mexico

## **“STRONG SCIENCE IS THE BEDROCK OF GOOD CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT”**

**Scientific Committee Chair, Toshi Kitakado (Japan)**

The Scientific Committee undertakes an enormous amount of work in order to provide advice on aspects of the Commission's work. It does this through specialist workshops, research programmes and the Annual Meeting held in May/June each year.

The work is conservation and management focused, aimed at ensuring that populations are at healthy levels. Specialist workshops held during the August 2012 to August 2013 period included planning for the IWC's POWER research cruise in the North Pacific, continued development of safe ways to provide management advice on subsistence whaling, the final review of a completed Icelandic special permit programme, continued work on common minke whales in the western North Pacific, examination of productivity levels for baleen whales and consideration of the effects of marine debris on cetaceans.

This short report highlights just a few aspects of the Scientific Committee's work. The Committee's work on whalewatching, marine debris, ship strikes and Conservation Management Plans is considered elsewhere in the report.

### **POPULATION MODELLING**

The Scientific Committee is a world leader in 'modelling' populations, taking into account inevitable scientific

uncertainty. Computer models and past and present data on abundance, trends and removals are used to determine likely effects of environmental changes and human activity on whale populations in the future. Understanding this uncertainty is essential to provide safe advice on acceptable levels of removals (e.g. direct hunting, incidental catches in fishing gear, ship strikes) or other human activities affecting reproduction or survivorship (e.g. chemical pollution, noise pollution, loss of habitat and climate change). The Committee also considers ecosystem modelling.

Some of the highlights of the work undertaken included completion of a 3-year Implementation Review for western North Pacific common minke whales, which amongst other factors had to take into account large bycatches in fishing gear. The most important area of uncertainty when providing advice on safe levels of removals concerned the issue of population structure (the 'unit-to-serve').

Another important and ongoing research area of this kind relates to developing models that allow different ways of calculating safe levels of 'strikes' (Strike Limit Algorithms) for aboriginal subsistence hunts to be evaluated for recommendation to the Commission. At the 2013 Annual Meeting the work was completed for any potential future catches of gray whales by the Makah Tribe, whilst work continued on determining

long-term SLAs for the Greenlandic hunts to replace the 'interim' safe approach that is valid up to 2018.

The final item under this section concerns ongoing work to assess the status of the different populations of Southern Hemisphere humpback whales which began in 2006. The focus during the present period was 'Breeding Stocks D, E and F' which winter off Western Australia, Eastern Australia and the western Pacific, respectively. It's anticipated that this work will be completed at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

## FIELD RESEARCH

In addition to specialist workshops and modelling projects, the Commission funded some important research projects during the period. The Committee has designed a survey programme for the North Pacific (the IWC-POWER programme – North Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research) to cover poorly surveyed areas of the North Pacific with the aim of being able to estimate abundance, status and trends for large whales in the North Pacific. Using a vessel generously provided by Japan, the summer 2012 cruise covered the eastern North Pacific north of 40°N and from 135-150°E. In addition to sightings of 20 cetacean species, including the rare North Pacific right whale, the scientists involved collected photo-identification data for 6 species and 52 biopsy samples from 4 species.

In the Antarctic, the Southern Ocean Research Partnership (SORP) continued, supported by voluntary contributions from several countries and progress on five projects was reviewed. Particular attention was paid to the first phase of the programme to obtain a new abundance estimate for blue whales and the development of a novel new acoustic method to assess trends in several species. Other work included collection of biopsy and photo-identification data to assist in the assessment of humpback whales in the South Pacific. The work of SORP has provided valuable input into the work of the Committee in the Antarctic.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Non-direct human impacts on cetaceans are an increasingly important component of the Committee's work. A long-standing topic is the effects of chemical pollution. The extensive POLLUTION 2000+ programme began some 15 years ago and

was successfully completed at the 2013 meeting, with acceptance of an important risk assessment tool allowing levels of PCBs in tissue to be linked to population level effects. The POLLUTION 2000+ programme is now entering a new phase.

Noise is another important concern of the Committee, whether related to strong pulse sources such as seismic surveys or military sonar, or to long term chronic disturbance from shipping and marine developments. This year the focus was on the value of marine spatial planning and time-area closures. A major international workshop was planned to further 'soundscape modelling' help identify areas of highest potential impacts and to assist in mitigation efforts.

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in April 2010 was another important focus of the annual Scientific Committee meeting which considered its possible contribution to the longest and most severe dolphin mortality event in the Gulf of Mexico. The Committee stressed the need for long-term monitoring after such spills and highlighted the importance of spill prevention, response and damage assessment, especially in sensitive and difficult areas such as the Arctic.

## VOLUNTARY FUND FOR SMALL CETACEAN CONSERVATION RESEARCH

The Committee was delighted with the success of the first call for projects; 9 were funded in 2011 and 6 were completed in 2012 and 2013. Primarily developing country projects, they covered species such as the franciscana, vaquita, Yangtze finless porpoise and Atlantic humpback dolphin, and topics such as bycatch in fishing gear, habitat loss, drive hunts and new information on status. Thanks to the generosity of a number of donors, the Committee was able to confirm five additional projects arising out of a 2013 call for proposals. These covered capacity building in assessing abundance and status, directed and incidental catches and protected areas in freshwater habitat.

The Committee expressed deep concern that the world's most endangered cetacean, the vaquita, which is only found in Mexico, continued to decline; it now numbered only 189 animals. Without immediate action, the species will become extinct. It also drew attention to several endangered populations including Maui's dolphin in New Zealand, river dolphins in a number of areas including Laos and several populations of botu and tucuxi in South America.



# CONSERVATION

**"WE ARE JUST STARTING TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES ON THE WORLD'S OCEANS. THE IWC IS UNIQUELY PLACED TO ASSESS AND ADDRESS THE CONSEQUENCES FOR CETACEANS, AND THE WORK OF THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE IS BOTH CHALLENGING AND TIMELY."**

**Conservation Committee Chair, Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho (Mexico)**

This period saw the Conservation Committee engaged in a wide-ranging work programme. The Committee led international workshops on whalewatching and conservation management plans, and collaborated with the Scientific Committee on a workshop scoping the impact of marine debris on cetaceans. Over 120 individuals from the fields of policy, regulation, science, commerce and industry participated in these events. Many others have contributed to work on these and other issues, including ongoing research to understand and mitigate against the risk of ship strike.

## WHALEWATCHING

The whalewatching industry continues to grow and is currently estimated to be worth \$2.2Bn globally. Whalewatching is an opportunity to generate tourism and the associated economic benefits for many diverse communities around the world. Whalewatching can also create opportunities for education and research. Whilst regulation of the whalewatching industry is a national responsibility, the IWC Working Group on whalewatching works to provide advice and support to help the industry

develop responsibly and sustainably.

A five year strategy was agreed in November 2011. The aim is to facilitate development of the industry in a manner that is consistent with best practice. Objectives met so far include collation and analysis of over ninety different sets of whalewatching regulations and guidelines from around the world.

The strategy is supported by the Scientific Committee which has agreed to establish a new intersessional working group tasked with developing a revised workplan to develop understanding of the impacts of repeated whalewatching on individual cetaceans, populations and habitats. This is the Modelling and Assessment of Whalewatching Impacts (MAWI) Group.

The next major task is production of a Handbook for Whalewatching. The handbook aims to provide an online and evolving compendium of best practice and advice, and its contents and structure were discussed at a workshop in May, which brought together whale watch operators, scientists and government officials from more than 20 countries.



The workshop asked how the IWC can most effectively and usefully support responsible whale watch operators. Ease of access to up-to-date information, and best practice guidelines were amongst the key requirements, confirming the value of the handbook.

### South Atlantic Southern Right Whale

A CMP co-ordinator appointed to prioritise work, which will begin with a research cruise studying feeding grounds, and work to understand and mitigate the threat from kelp gulls who feed on the skin of vulnerable, often very young animals.



South African Whale Disentanglement Network

## CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS (CMPS)

The CMP concept was developed by the IWC in 2008 as a practical, collaborative and flexible blueprint for coordinating work to improve the conservation status of some of the most at-risk cetacean populations. Working closely with the widest possible range of stakeholders, the CMP programme is overseen by a Standing Working Group. Three CMPs have been instigated and additional priority populations are currently being assessed upon the advice of the Scientific Committee.

During this period, the CMP programme was reviewed by the Standing Group at a workshop in Brisbane. Progress included:

### Western Pacific Gray Whale

Preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding aimed towards bringing together the national conservation plans of 7 countries, the oil and gas industries, the IUCN, the Convention for Migratory Species, and the IWC.

### Eastern Pacific Southern Right Whale

Enforcement of new whalewatching regulations protecting whale habitat, and naval contingency planning to minimise risk from vessels.

## MARINE DEBRIS

People are beginning to recognise the impact of our actions on the sea and its resources. Marine debris is now a standing item on the IWC agenda, reflecting the need to more fully understand and better manage the threat it poses to cetaceans.

This is a complex issue. Marine debris ranges from highly visible discarded rubbish and derelict fishing gear, to micro-debris which may transport absorbed pollutants into the bodies of animals. These can pose different threats to different cetacean species subject to a range of factors, for example migration routes, and how, where and at what depth they feed.

The IWC held the first of two planned marine debris workshops in May 2012 at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. This work involves both the Conservation and Scientific Committees of the IWC. It encompasses both scientific and management aspects of the issue and may ultimately lead to the development of an IWC Conservation Management Plan.

The first scientific workshop reviewed existing research on the physical and chemical impacts of debris. These impacts ranged from entanglement in 'ghost' nets that continue to fish, long after they are

discarded, to accumulation of chemicals in baleen whales, ingesting microplastics as they filter feed.

The group's analysis produced a series of detailed recommendations which will be taken forward to the second workshop in 2014.

for meaningful analysis. The database is online and publicly accessible, allowing any witness to report a ship strike.

In 2012, the IWC appointed a dedicated data coordinator to cross check and quality control data,



These include:

- Standard, international classification of debris types to build understanding of sources, distribution and impact.
- Global modelling of marine debris distribution overlain with species' range maps, to help identify high risk locations and prioritise mitigation efforts.
- Engagement with the widest possible range of international, regional, scientific and industrial organisations working in related areas of ocean health, in recognition of the complex and multi-dimensional nature of the issue.

and to make contact with researchers and authorities from the widest possible range of countries.

This work has so far generated data from approximately 100 additional incidents worldwide.

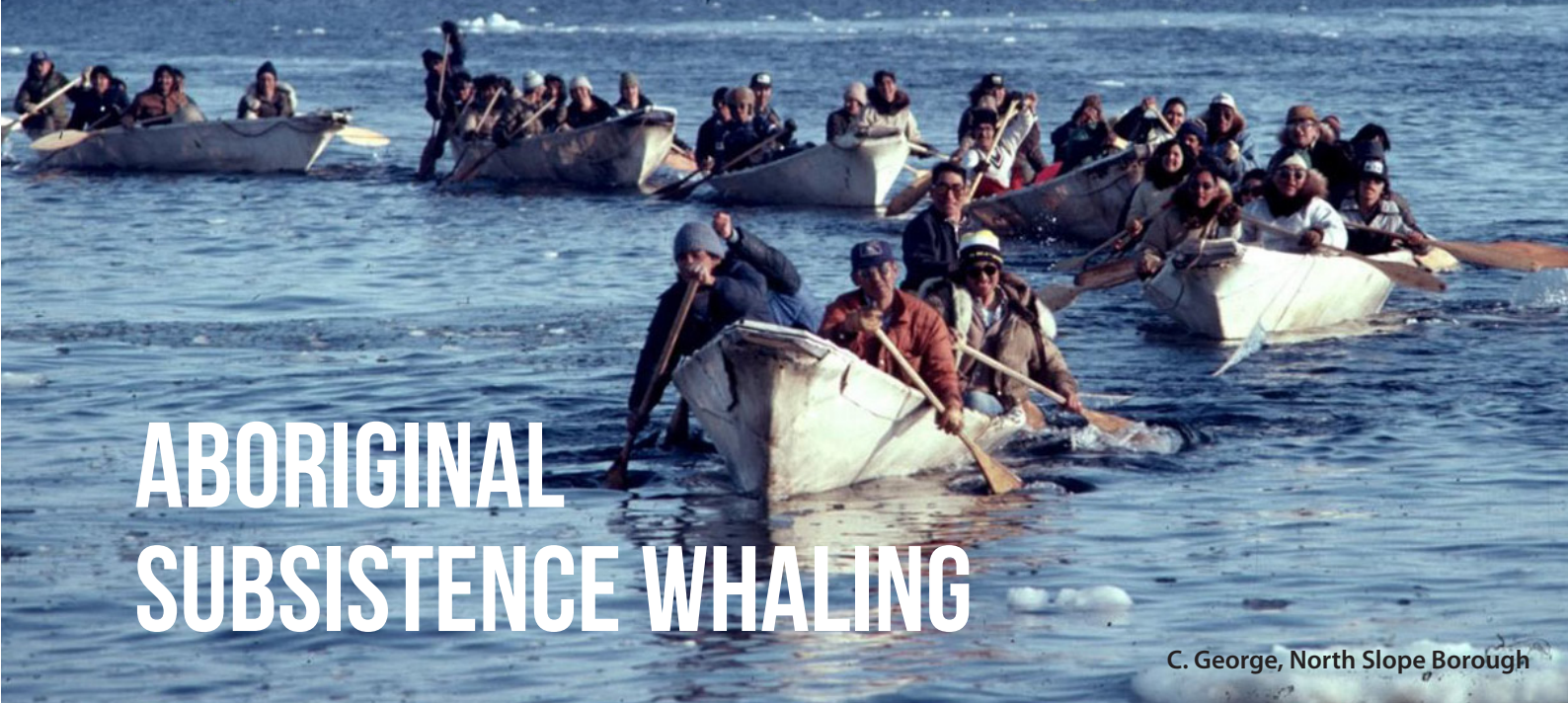
Also during this period was an IWC-endorsed workshop in Tenerife. The event focused on management and mitigation, and involved scientists, policy makers and the shipping industry. A key outcome was the need to define and communicate 'whale hotspots', allowing mariners to plan alternative routes in advance. These hotspots will be considered further at a 2014 workshop.

## SHIP STRIKES

Quantifying the problem of ship strike is not straightforward. Collisions between whales and large vessels often go unnoticed unless the whale becomes lodged on the ship's bow and is carried into port. It's sometimes possible to obtain evidence of ship strike from stranded or floating carcasses but nevertheless, it is difficult to gather enough data to understand and evaluate the threat. Central to the IWC's effort is a global ship strike database. International pooling aims to capture what information is available, and help to build sample sizes which are large enough

The initiatives described here are developed by the Ship Strikes Working Group, who coordinate the combined efforts of the Conservation and Scientific Committees on this issue.





C. George, North Slope Borough

# ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING

**“THE IMPACT OF IWC REGULATION IS FELT IN SOME REMOTE PARTS OF THE WORLD WHERE WHALING CONTINUES TO PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE NUTRITION AND CULTURE OF THE POPULATION. THE GOALS OF EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND HEALTHY WHALE STOCKS ARE SHARED BY THE IWC AND HUNTERS ALIKE. THEY ARE ONLY ACHIEVED THROUGH DIALOGUE, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, AND RIGOROUS SCIENCE.”**

**ASW Sub-Committee Chair, Herman Oosthuizen (South Africa)**

Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling is a unique and important aspect of IWC work. Four IWC member governments (Denmark, USA, Russian Federation and St Vincent and The Grenadines) currently represent indigenous hunting communities. These communities differ from each other in a wide variety of ways. The period covered in this report saw extensive and successful research conducted by scientists in Alaska, collaborating closely with the local Eskimo whalers. In addition, negotiations began to resolve issues around the Greenland hunts, for which a quota could not be agreed at the last IWC meeting in Panama.

## ALASKA

In June 2013, the IWC Scientific Meeting endorsed a new population estimate for the bowhead whale population that migrates past Alaska. Working closely with indigenous whalers, scientists conducted extensive, multi-disciplinary fieldwork. A combination of aerial, acoustic and ice-based visual data collection resulted in an accepted point estimate of almost 17,000 animals for this Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas population of bowhead whales.

The multiple and simultaneous data collection efforts produced almost 4,600 photographs from over 140 flight hours, 2,500 hours of acoustic recordings, and over 3,300 visual sightings from the ice. The technology was complemented by local knowledge including whale migration routes and timing, and the best and safest locations for observation sites.

In spring, almost all the whales migrate through often narrow ice leads near to Point Barrow in northern Alaska on their way to summer feeding grounds.



Bill Hess

This is a dangerous place to work because ice and weather conditions can change rapidly; without the co-operation of the local people the research might not have been possible.

The combination of visual and acoustic data represents some of the most ground-breaking research in recent decades. The acoustic data have confirmed what the local whalers have always said - that whales are capable of migrating under the ice, unseen by the ice-based observers. The scientific challenge which began in the 1980s was to collect acoustic data, convert that into numbers of whales, and combine that information with visual data to obtain good estimates of true population abundance.

Following complex analyses, the scientists were able to not only determine that the population numbered around 17,000 but that the population had been increasing since 1978 at some 3.7% annually. The very positive news is that under the present long-term IWC management regime, the whales are recovering from the severe commercial whaling that took place mainly in the 19th century.

## GREENLAND

Management of Greenlandic whaling is more complex than for other ASW hunts given its multi-species character (common minke, fin, bowhead and humpback whales). Flexibility among species is important to the hunters, and Greenland expresses its subsistence need in terms of weight of edible products.

Safe management, however, is based on determining numbers of whales allowed to be struck and killed by species; this requires species conversion factors to translate from weight to whale numbers. Whilst agreed short-term (up to 2018) scientific advice on safe catches is provided by the Scientific Committee, other complicating factors remain. These include issues around the level of need and the distribution of products, the development of long-term management methods (known as Strike Limit Algorithms) to replace the agreed short-term approach, and the collection of additional weight data to finalise the interim conversion factors (this is difficult, especially in remote locations).



It was not possible to resolve these issues at the 2012 Commission Meeting in Panama, and there was no agreement on catch limits. Since then, during this reporting period, a number of initiatives have made progress aimed at reaching agreement during the next meeting in 2014.

Work has advanced to develop long-term methods of providing advice on safe catches for two species (initial focus is on humpback and bowhead whales).

Improved means of collecting weight data have been developed, including the introduction of crane-mounted scales for remote locations, and education and training of hunters. Informal discussions are taking place amongst governments.

Work on these issues is ongoing and its importance should be stressed. Cooperation, understanding and dialogue are essential to reach agreement at the





2014 Commission Meeting, and bring Greenlandic whaling back formally under the IWC's international management regime.

### CHUKOTKA

The gray whales hunted off Chukotka in northeast Russia migrate primarily from northern feeding grounds, down the east coast of North America to wintering breeding and nursery areas in Mexican waters. Their southbound migration narrows past California allowing a visual census which has been undertaken regularly since 1967.

At its June 2013 meeting, the Scientific Committee received a new analysis of the data from four recent surveys. This confirms that the population has recovered since the severe commercial whaling of the 19th century and has now stabilised under the present long-term IWC hunt management regime at around 20,000 animals.

### ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Obtaining data from remote, opportunistic hunts is not easy and requires co-operation amongst scientists, hunters and authorities. It was encouraging therefore that during the reporting period, tissue samples from the St Vincent and The Grenadines humpback whale hunt were sent for genetic analysis to US scientists for collaborative studies.



# WHALE KILLING METHODS AND WELFARE ISSUES

**“WHILST ASPECTS OF THIS GROUP’S WORK RECEIVE UNEQUIVOCAL PUBLIC SUPPORT, SOME HAVE DIFFICULTIES FULLY ACCEPTING WORK ON WHALE KILLING METHODS. WHALES ARE HUNTED AND WE MUST ENSURE THAT KILLING IS AS HUMANE AS POSSIBLE, JUST AS WE MUST ADDRESS WELFARE ISSUES SUCH AS ENTANGLEMENT AND STRANDING.”**

**WKM-AWI Chair, Michael Stachowitsch (Austria)**

This period is characterised by international efforts to share experience and information. Ongoing collaboration continues to introduce more humane killing methods to remote aboriginal subsistence hunts in Alaska and Siberia, and discussions began on how best to deliver euthanasia to terminally stranded and suffering cetaceans in widely differing locations around the world.

Aboriginal hunters in Alaska and Siberia are benefitting from an ongoing education, training and equipment programme. New weaponry has been developed and introduced, accompanied by training on a range of issues to increase the precision of the hunts. The training includes:

- Use and maintenance regimes for weapons and equipment
- Accurate anatomical knowledge and training on primary target areas for relevant species
- Marksmanship
- Contingency planning

Entanglement in fishing gear and marine debris is emerging as perhaps the single biggest welfare threat to cetaceans. This period has seen significant progress in building professional entanglement response capacity around the world.

## ABORIGINAL WHALE KILLING METHODS

There are of course important welfare reasons to improve the speed and accuracy of hunting techniques. For remote, indigenous communities, unsuccessful hunting in summer can also bring serious food shortages in winter. Whale killing practice is an important issue. It is also extremely sensitive, and requires openness and trust on all sides.

## EUTHANASIA OF STRANDED CETACEANS

Stranding occurs for two reasons – natural processes including age and disease, or human-related issues including bycatch, vessel collisions, noise and environmental degradation. Animals may strand alive on the beach, or die at sea and be washed ashore by waves and currents.



The IWC has been considering the issue of how to deal with live, stranded animals. Successful refloating and release of some smaller cetaceans is possible when conducted by trained responders in the right conditions. Even for dolphins and porpoises however, a stranding is often terminal. Without the support of deeper water, the unnatural weight and pressure on an animal's organs can cause severe internal injury. The prognosis for larger whales is therefore particularly poor.

Other options are always evaluated first, but sometimes euthanasia is the most humane response. This is a challenging task. With small cetaceans, chemical euthanasia can be similar to standard veterinary euthanasia of domestic pets or farm animals, and can be done fairly easily and very humanely. However, with larger cetaceans, the size of the animal necessitates large quantities of euthanasia agent and a large, advanced system of delivery, which cannot be deployed safely in surf or with an agitated whale.



Doug Coughran, Dept Parks & Wildlife, Western Australia

Countries have developed various techniques, all aiming to achieve rapid death which is as painless as possible, with maximum personnel safety. The issue was discussed at the 2012 IWC Commission meeting and progress has been made to identify and bring together experts from around the world to share experience and devise best practice protocols for large cetacean euthanasia. This workshop will take place in September 2013.

## WHALE ENTANGLEMENT

Whale entanglement is a growing problem. The extent of the problem is difficult to assess but it was recently



estimated that around 300,000 whales and dolphins die annually due to entanglement in fishing gear, and more still in a wide range of marine debris. It is hard to overstate the welfare implications of entanglement. Entangled whales may drown, or face a slow death as the tight wraps cause lacerations, infection or amputation. Starvation is another possibility, as a whale towing heavy entanglements may struggle to catch prey. Entanglement also presents serious safety issues for those involved in disentangling the whales. The IWC is working with a group of international experts to build a global network of professionally trained and equipped entanglement responders.

Four training workshops have taken place during this reporting period, in the UK, Mexico, Panama and Ecuador. Locations are nominated by national governments and attended by nominees from host and other, usually neighbouring, countries. Each one lasts two days and covers entanglement issues at local, national and international levels, from sighting and reporting mechanisms and whale health assessment to safety equipment, national legislation and the authorisation process.

More than 500 scientists, conservationists and government representatives from over 20 countries have received training so far. But elsewhere there is much still to do, and parts of the world with no entanglement response capability.

## CATCHES BY IWC MEMBER NATIONS IN THE 2012 AND 2012/2013 SEASONS

Prepared by the Secretariat

Bycatches are not included.

	Fin	Humpback	Sei	Bryde's	Minke	Sperm	Bowhead	Gray	Operation
<b>North Atlantic</b>									
Denmark									
(West Greenland)	5 <sup>1</sup>	10 <sup>2</sup>	-	-	148 <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	Aboriginal subsistence
(East Greenland)	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	Aboriginal subsistence
Iceland	-	-	-	-	52 <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	Whaling under reservation
Norway	-	-	-	-	464 <sup>5</sup>	-	-	-	Whaling under objection
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	-	2 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	Aboriginal subsistence
<b>North Pacific</b>									
Japan	-	-	100	34	184 <sup>6</sup>	3	-	-	Special Permit
Russian Federation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	143 <sup>7</sup>	Aboriginal subsistence
USA	-	-	-	-	-	-	69 <sup>8</sup>	-	Aboriginal subsistence
Korea	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	Illegal catches
<b>Antarctic</b>									
Japan	-	-	-	-	103	-	-	-	Special Permit <sup>9</sup>

1 Including 1 struck and lost

2 Including 3 struck and lost

3 Including 4 struck and lost

4 Including 3 lost

5 Including 6 lost

6 Including 2 lost

7 Including 4 struck and lost and 8 unfit for consumption

8 Including 14 struck and lost

9 These catches have been discussed by the International Court of Justice.

See <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/148/18136.pdf> and <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/148/18162.pdf>





# FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

**“THE FIRST STAGE OF OUR OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS PROGRAMME HAS IMPROVED EFFICIENCY AND TRANSPARENCY IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT. THIS PROGRESS IS NOW EXPANDING ACROSS THE IWC, AND THE MOVE TO BIENNIAL MEETINGS BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP THE FLOW AND DYNAMISM OF THE ORGANISATION.”**

**Donna Petrachenko (Australia)**

This is the first annual reporting period with no IWC Commission meeting since 1949. The move to biennial meetings reflects a focus on cost saving and efficiency, and the increased breadth and tempo of inter-sessional work. Structures and processes have been reassessed and technology harnessed to maximise operational effectiveness.

## STRUCTURE AND PROCESS

To ensure the smooth progress of Commission business during the longer inter-sessional period, a new IWC Bureau was formed, and gathered for the first time in March 2013 via teleconference. Comprising eight IWC Commissioners including Chair, Vice-Chair and Finance & Administration Sub-Committee Chair, the remaining four members were elected by the Commission to ensure balanced representation of views and regional interests.

The Bureau is not a decision-making forum but aims to take the burden of process away from the Commission meetings. It will also handle pre-meeting preparation and provide increased support to the Chair. The Bureau will gather in St Lucia in

September 2013 for its first face-to-face meeting. Other issues of structure or process designed to increase efficiency and transparency included:

- Confirmation of a 100 day minimum separation between the Scientific Committee and Commission meetings - allowing more time for consideration of the work and recommendations of the Scientific Committee before decisions are taken at the Commission meeting.
- Reduction in length of the Commission meeting from twelve to eight days – a plan to manage the reduced time available includes measures to eliminate duplication of discussions between sub-committee and full plenary meetings.
- Continuation of work begun in 2011 to strengthen IWC financing, increase budget discipline, and ensure rigorous financial practice across all IWC business.
- Continuation of work to strengthen the participation of governments of limited means.

## TECHNOLOGY

The IWC's operational effectiveness programme continues to harness technology to achieve cost-savings and increase transparency.

Although there was no Commission meeting in 2013, the Secretariat introduced digital registration for the first time at the Scientific Committee meeting. This streamlined the process for two hundred attendees, and ensured accurate attendance records for the many sub-committee meetings.



Increased use of electronic documentation through a dedicated local server and pre-loaded memory sticks resulted in a substantial reduction in paper while also increasing document accessibility. The introduction of this technology will save tens of thousands of pounds per annum in photocopying and distribution charges for paper documents and from 2014 onwards, Commission meetings will be largely paper free.

Development of the IWC website continues with work underway to launch a new, comprehensive archive of over sixty five years of records and research. Hundreds of pages have been uploaded. A programme is also underway to scan and upload a verbatim record of every IWC meeting since 1946. The task is immense but it's hoped that the archive will be launched in autumn 2013. Once complete, this resource will offer free, open access to a comprehensive and global record of the history of whaling and cetacean science. It will also enable the IWC Secretariat to reduce hard copy storage costs.

## THE IWC'S INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Financial contributions from Contracting Governments form the IWC's core income and these payments amounted to £1,571k in year ending August 2013 (£1,638k in 2012).

However, as in previous years Contracting Governments, Non-Governmental Organisations and Industry bodies provided significant additional voluntary contributions of £320k in 2013, up from £298k in 2012. The IUCN and other stakeholders provided a large contribution for work on satellite tagging of western gray whales in the Pacific Ocean.

Other contributions were provided for work on small cetaceans' conservation, work on responding to entanglement of large whales, on marine debris and the investigation of the causes of whale strandings. Secretariat costs including staffing and the maintenance of the Commission's headquarters accounted for around half of total core expenditure. The Secretariat provides administrative, technical and specialist support to the Commission and its Committees.

The Commission spent £409k from core funds on cetacean scientific research in 2013 (2012: £240k). This expenditure supported a wide range of programmes to research cetacean abundance, management measures and conservation programmes.



## IWC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31 August 2013

		2013		2012	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME: continuing operations</b>					
Contributions from member governments	App 1		1,571,338		1,638,254
Interest on overdue financial contributions			8,341		9,478
Voluntary contributions for all Funds	App 2		319,900		297,923
Sales of publications			8,510		1,962
Sales of sponsored publications			209		1,780
Observers' registration fees			(550)		46,165
UK taxes recoverable			19,094		23,798
Staff assessments			170,254		170,450
Interest receivable			7,078		1,716
Sundry income			60		546
			<u>2,104,234</u>		<u>2,192,073</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Secretariat	1	1,053,752		1,044,249	
Publications	2	16,130		28,440	
Annual meetings		126,023		401,650	
Other meetings		3,430		40,871	
Research expenditure	3	408,799		239,753	
Small cetaceans	4	73,535		178,591	
Southern Ocean Research Partnership (voluntary fund)	5	111,473		113,124	
Conservation Management Plan fund	6	15,479		5,386	
IWC - other work fund	7	151,785		103,727	
Gray Whale Tagging (voluntary fund)	8	130,351		253,030	
		<u>2,090,757</u>		<u>2,408,821</u>	
<b>PROVISIONS MADE FOR:</b>					
Unpaid contributions		14,796		30,674	
Unpaid interest on overdue contributions		8,341		9,478	
Dilapidations		30,000		-	
Severance pay	19	27,800		10,800	
Other doubtful debts		(13)		(5,879)	
		<u>2,171,681</u>		<u>2,453,894</u>	
<b>(DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>			(67,448)		(261,821)
<b>NET TRANSFERS TO/(FROM) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</b>					
Publications fund	9	(215)		(1,791)	
Research fund	10	75,383		(91,566)	
Small cetaceans fund	11	47,847		110,376	
Annual Meeting fund	12	(135,977)		18,650	
Southern Ocean Research Partnership fund	13	111,409		76,926	
Conservation Management Plan fund	14	15,360		5,296	
Operations fund	15	-		24,887	
IWC - other work fund	16	40,459		3,312	
Gray Whale Tagging fund	17	(38,290)		141,123	
		<u>115,975</u>		<u>287,212</u>	
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR AFTER TRANSFERS</b>			<u>48,527</u>		<u>25,391</u>

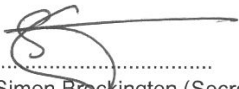
There are no recognised gains or losses for the current financial year and the preceding financial year other than as stated in the income and expenditure account.

## IWC BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2013

	Note	2013		2012	
		£	£	£	£
Cash on short term deposit		2,474,564		2,465,925	
Cash at bank on current account		<u>1,219</u>		<u>22,359</u>	
			2,475,783		2,488,283
Outstanding contributions from members including interest		533,387		503,412	
Less provision for doubtful debts		<u>(526,026)</u>		<u>(502,889)</u>	
			7,360		523
Other debtors and prepayments		91,850		49,603	
Less provision for other doubtful debts		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	
			91,850		49,603
			<u>2,574,993</u>		<u>2,538,409</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	20		(226,613)		(180,381)
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>2,348,380</u>		<u>2,358,028</u>
PROVISION FOR SEVERANCE PAY	19		(391,700)		(363,900)
PROVISION FOR DILAPIDATIONS			<u>(30,000)</u>		<u>-</u>
			<u>1,926,680</u>		<u>1,994,128</u>
FINANCED BY					
Publications fund	9		41,301		41,086
Research fund	10		306,402		381,785
Small cetaceans fund	11		82,414		130,262
Annual Meeting fund	12		121,421		(14,556)
Southern Ocean Research Partnership fund	13		17,518		128,926
Conservation Management Plan fund	14		224,003		239,362
Operations fund	15		23,288		23,288
IWC - other work fund	16		51,332		91,790
Gray Whale Tagging fund	17		31,200		(7,090)
General fund	18		1,027,801		979,274
	21		<u>1,926,680</u>		<u>1,994,128</u>

Approved on behalf of the Commission

  
 .....  
 Simon Brockington (Secretary)

Dated: 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014





