

# **Draft Scientific Committee Agenda**

**Tromsø, Norway, 30 May – 11 June 2011**

**[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 on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)**
  - 4.1.1 Scientific Council*
  - 4.1.2 Conference of Parties*
  - 4.1.3 Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)*
  - 4.1.4 Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)*
  - 4.1.5 Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of the Manatees and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macronesia*
  - 4.1.6 Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region (MoU for Pacific Islands Cetaceans)*
- 4.2 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)**
- 4.3 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)**
- 4.4 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)**
- 4.5 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)**
- 4.6 Southern Ocean GLOBEC**
- 4.7 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)**
- 4.8 World Conservation Union (IUCN)**
- 4.9 FAO – Committee on Fisheries (COFI)**
- 4.10 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)**
- 4.11 North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES)**
- 4.12 Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Commission (ECCO)**
- 4.13 Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean**
- 4.14 Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)**
- 4.15 Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)**
- 4.16 International Maritime Organization (IMO)**
- 4.17 Conservation in the SE Pacific under the framework of the Lima Convention**
- 4.18 Other**

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

### **5.1 Review MSY rates [N]**

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

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

### **5.4 Review relationship between phase-out rule and abundance estimates based on multi-year surveys [N]**

### **5.5 Modify the “CatchLimit” program to allow variance-covariance matrices**

### **5.6 Update guidelines for conducting surveys and *Implementations* [N]**

### **5.7 Work plan**

## **6. RMP – PREPARATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

### **6.1 Western North Pacific Bryde’s whales [N]**

#### *6.1.1 Complete Implementation*

#### *6.1.2 Recommendations*

### **6.2 North Atlantic fin whales [N]**

#### *6.2.1 Complete Implementation*

#### *6.2.2 Recommendations*

### **6.3 North Pacific common minke whales [N]**

#### *6.3.1 Implementation Review*

#### *6.3.2 Recommendations*

### **6.4 North Atlantic minke whales**

#### *6.4.1 Review new information*

#### *6.4.2 Recommendations*

### **6.4 Work plan**

## **7. ESTIMATION OF BYCATCH AND OTHER HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY (BC)**

### **7.1 Collaboration with FAO on collation of relevant fisheries data**

### **7.2 Progress on joining the Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS) [N]**

### **7.3 Estimation of bycatch mortality of large whales**

### **7.4 Estimation of risk and rates of entanglement**

### **7.5 Consider methods and data sources for establishing time series of bycatch [N]**

### **7.6 Review progress on including information in National Progress Reports**

### **7.7 Ship strikes [N]**

### **7.8 Other issues**

#### *7.8.1 Continue to consider methods for assessing mortality from acoustic sources*

#### *7.8.2 Continue to consider methods for assessing mortality from marine debris*

### **7.9 Work plan**

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

### **8.1 Complete work on sex ratio methods for common minke whales off West Greenland**

### **8.2 Complete *Implementation Review* for eastern North Pacific gray whales [N]**

### **8.3 Continue work on developing SLAs for the Greenland fisheries [N]**

### **8.4 Develop data availability guidelines for AWMP *Implementation* and *Implementation Reviews***

### **8.5 Consider new information related to conversion factors for edible products for Greenland fisheries**

### **8.6 Prepare for the 2012 *Implementation Review* of Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas Bowhead whales**

### **8.7 Work plan**

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

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

*9.1.1 Assess stock structure and abundance of Eastern Canada and West Greenland bowhead whales*

*9.1.2 Review recent catch information*

*9.1.3 Management advice*

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

*9.2.1 Provide information to the SWG on AWMP for Implementation Review*

*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 Review catch information and new scientific information*

*9.3.2 Management advice*

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

*9.4.1 New information*

*9.4.2 Sex-ratio based assessment of common minke whales*

*9.4.3 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)**

*10.1.1 Produce agreed abundance estimates of Antarctic minke whales using IDCR/SOWER data [N]*

*10.1.2 Continue development of the catch-at-age models*

*10.1.3 Continue to examine the difference between abundance estimates from CPII and CPIII [N]*

*10.1.4 Work plan*

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

*10.2.1 Complete assessment of breeding stock B*

*10.2.2 Review new information on the Arabian Sea humpback population [N]*

*10.2.3 Review new information on other breeding stocks*

*10.2.4 Work plan*

### **10.3 Southern Hemisphere blue whales (SH) [N]**

*10.3.1 Review new information*

*10.3.2 Work plan*

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

*10.4.1 Review any new information*

*10.4.2 Work plan*

### **10.5 Southern Hemisphere right whales (BRG) [N]**

*10.5.1 Review any new information*

*10.5.2 Work plan*

### **10.6 Other stocks of right whales and small stock of bowhead whales (BRG) [N]**

*10.6.1 Review any new information*

*10.6.2 Work plan*

### **10.7 SOWER cruises (IA)**

*10.7.1 Review results from previous cruises*

### **10.8 North Pacific cruise (IA) [N]**

*10.8.1 General review of 2010 cruise*

*10.8.2 Recommendations for 2011 cruise*

*10.8.3 Mid- to long-term plans for the North Pacific Survey Programme*

### **10.9 In-depth assessment of Western North Pacific sei whales (IA) [N]**

### **10.10 Other**

## **11. STOCK DEFINITION (SD)**

- 11.1 Guidelines for genetic studies and DNA data quality
- 11.2 Statistical and genetic issues related to stock definition
- 11.3 Progress on the TOSSM project
- 11.4 Criteria for unit-to-serve
- 11.5 Work plan

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

- 12.1 Receive the State of the Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER [N]
- 12.2 Review progress in planning for the POLLUTION 2000+ Phase II [N]
- 12.3 Review report from CERD working group [N]
- 12.4 Review new information on impact of oil and dispersants on cetaceans
- 12.5 Review progress on recommendations from 2010 focus sessions on masking sound
- 12.6 Plan intersessional workshop on anthropogenic impacts to cetaceans in the Arctic [N]
- 12.7 Review progress on work from the Second Climate Change workshop [N]
- 12.8 Other habitat related issues
- 12.9 Work plan

## **13. ECOSYSTEM MODELLING (EM) [N]**

- 13.1 Review ecosystem models from the North Pacific
- 13.2 Review issues relevant to ecosystem modelling
- 13.3 Review ecosystem modelling efforts undertaken outside the IWC
- 13.4 Work plan

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

- 14.1 Review taxonomy, population structure and status of North Atlantic (including the Mediterranean Sea) Ziphiidae (beaked and bottlenose whales) [N]
- 14.2 Review report from the working group on climate change and small cetaceans [N]
- 14.3 Review information on directed takes of small cetaceans
- 14.4 Voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research [N]
- 14.5 Review progress on previous recommendations [N]
- 14.6 Review takes of small cetaceans [N]
- 14.7 Work plan [N]

## **15. WHALEWATCHING (WW)**

- 15.1 Discuss the large-scale whalewatching experiment (LaWE) [N]
- 15.2 Review whalewatching off Norway
- 15.3 Assess the impact of whalewatching on cetaceans
- 15.4 Review reports of intersessional working groups
- 15.5 Review scientific aspects of report from the Commission's intersessional whale watching workshop [N]
- 15.6 Other issues
  - 15.6.1 *Consider information from platforms of opportunity of potential value to the Scientific Committee*
  - 15.6.2 *Review of whalewatching guidelines and regulations*
  - 15.6.3 *Review risks to cetaceans from collisions with whalewatching vessels*
- 15.7 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 of results from existing permits [N]**

*17.1.1 JARPN II*

*17.1.2 JARPA II*

*17.1.3 Planning for a final review of results from Iceland – North Atlantic common minke whales [N]*

*17.1.4 Planning for a periodic review of results from JARPA II [N]*

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

*17.2.1 JARPA II*

*17.2.2 JARPN II*

**17.3 Procedure for reviewing scientific permit proposals [N]**

**17.4 Work plan**

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

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

**20. RESEARCH AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AND RESULTS**

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

**20.2 Review proposals for 2011/12 [N]**

**21. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR THE 2012 MEETING [N]**

**22. DATA PROCESSING AND COMPUTING NEEDS FOR 2011/12 [N]**

**23. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2011/12 [N]**

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

**25. ELECTION OF OFFICERS [N]**

**26. PUBLICATIONS**

**27. OTHER BUSINESS**

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



## CHAIR'S ANNOTATIONS [N]

### ITEM 1: INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The Scientific Committee (SC/63) will meet in Tromsø, Norway, from Monday 30 May to Saturday 11 June 2011. It will be preceded on Saturday and Sunday, 28 and 29 May by pre-meetings of the AWMP gray whale *Implementation Review*; the Western North Pacific common minke whale *Implementation Review*; and the Assessment of humpback whale Breeding Stock B. In addition, the inter-sessional meeting for the Southern Hemisphere minke whale abundance estimate will continue.

General information can be found at:

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/meetings/meeting2011.htm>

The website containing a list of the work agreed to be attempted during the 2010/2011 intersessional period is at:

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/sctasks.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/sctasks.htm)

and the list of intersessional correspondence groups and terms of reference (Annex Q):

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/screport.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/screport.htm)

I have referred to some, but not all of these intersessional groups in the notes to the Agenda.

### Item 1.3: Meeting procedures and time schedule

At the Scientific Committee meeting in 2010, we had 96 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 18:00. This schedule allowed for several *ad hoc* working groups to meet in the evening, typically from 18:15 to approximately 21:00, and for occasional longer sessions of sub-committees beyond the scheduled 18:00 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 Committees work: the 'Comprehensive Assessment' and 'the AWMP' are candidate themes.

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 2011 Annual Meeting (SC/63).

Time schedule at SC/63		
Date	Items	Comments
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 09:00	Plenary session, then read documents	Items 1-4
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 09:00	Initial meetings of sub-committees and working groups (about 15 minutes each)	To elect chairs and adopt agenda, identify documents, etc
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> June to Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Predominantly sub-committees (possibly some short plenary meetings)	To complete agenda and agree report
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	<i>Tentative</i> rest day	Subject to cancellation if insufficient progress is made....
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Plenary sessions. Intention to finish no later than 5pm on Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	To complete agenda and agree report, including work plan and draft initial agenda for 2012
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	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.	

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

The following groups were identified by the Convenors immediately after SC/62 (see table below). The convenors and co-convenors for each sub-committee is 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. PLEASE NOTE: as before, you are asked to sign up for sub-committees and working groups in advance. Details can be found in circular IWC.SC.159. It is important that you consult the registration and document submission details that can be found on the website:

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/2011categories.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/2011categories.htm)

We intend to establish 13 sub-committees (including standing Working Groups and *ad hoc* Working Groups). We have seven days available for sub-committees, and the number of sessions for sub-committees is again scheduled to 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 18:00. Because of the inability to schedule certain sub-committees opposite other sub-committees, we will, if necessary, convene some evening sessions. 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 annual meeting.

The draft Agenda developed by the Convenors at last year's meeting (IWC/62/Rep1, Item 22) 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 SC/63			
Title	Convenor	Co-convenor	Annex
Revised Management Procedure, <b>RMP</b>	Bannister		<b>D</b>
Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure, <b>AWMP</b>	Donovan		<b>E</b>
Bowhead, Right and Gray Whales, <b>BRG</b>	Kitakado		<b>F</b>
In-depth Assessment, <b>IA</b>	Walløe	Skaug	<b>G</b>
Southern Hemisphere whale stocks other than Antarctic minke and right whales, <b>SH</b>	Robbins	Zerbini	<b>H</b>
Stock Definition, <b>SD</b>	Bravington		<b>I</b>
Estimation of bycatch and other human-induced mortality, <b>BC</b>	Perrin	Leaper	<b>J</b>
Environmental Concerns, <b>E</b>	Moore	Rowles	<b>K</b>
Ecosystem Modelling, <b>EM</b>	Ferguson		<b>K1</b>
Small Cetaceans, <b>SM</b>	Fortuna		<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>

#### 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 22 and 24 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: the system we used the last couple years will again be used this year for document distribution, in order to save both paper and energy. The details can be found on the IWC website:

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/2011categories.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/2011categories.htm)

and in circular IWC.SC.159.

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

The latest version of the template for National Progress Reports can be downloaded from the website:

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/scprogress.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/scprogress.htm)

Under this Item we will also discuss progress made (a prototype system is almost complete) and any difficulties encountered with respect to online data entry of progress reports as discussed last year (Items 3.2, 7.6 and 14.3); it is hoped to finalise this at the present meeting so that the full online system can be introduced for the 2012 meeting.

### 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 13<sup>th</sup> May.** 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: Review MSY rates

Complete the review of the range of MSYR values for use in the RMP *Implementation Simulation Trials* based on the preparatory work of a steering group (Annex Q5).

#### Item 5.2: Finalise the approach for evaluating proposed amendments to the CLA

One of the main reasons for undertaking the MSYR review was to assist in finalising the trial structure for the consideration of proposals to amend the CLA of the RMP (see Item 5.3). It is hoped that this can be achieved at this meeting.

#### Item 5.3: Evaluate the Norwegian proposal for amending the CLA

You will recall that at SC/56, the Committee was informed that Norway intended to propose changes to the CLA for baleen whales on their feeding grounds. The scientific reasons for this proposal are given in *J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 7 (Suppl.):79-80. If we complete Item 5.2 satisfactorily we can move to our evaluation of the proposed changes. Note that at SC/62 the Norwegian version of the CLA was recommended to be used when conducting future trials and to be used to create a full set of revised results from previous trials.

#### Item 5.4: Review relationship between phase-out rule and abundance estimates based on multi-year surveys

Under this Item we need to consider implications that the phase-out rule in the RMP is applied by *Small Area* when catch-cascading is applied and the abundance estimates are based on multi-year surveys.

#### Item 5.6: Update guidelines for conducting surveys and Implementations

Last year (SC/62), the Committee requested the Secretariat prepare a proposal to next year's meeting to update the guidelines for conducting surveys and for *Implementations* to accommodate the agreed updates in section 5.4 of the report.

### ITEM 6: RMP – PREPARATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

#### Item 6.1: Western North Pacific Bryde's whales

In 2007, the Committee agreed that for the western North Pacific Bryde's whales three of the four RMP variants performed acceptably and recommended that these could be implemented without a research programme. Variant 2 was only 'acceptable with research'. Last year (SC/62) recommended the received research proposal be revised. During this year, the Committee will review a revised proposal for this 'variant with research'.

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

Last year, the Committee agreed that for the North Atlantic fin whales four of the six RMP variants performed acceptably and recommended that these could be implemented without a research programme. Variants 2 and 3 were only 'acceptable with research'. During this year, the Committee will review a revised research proposal for the 'variants with research' and review abundance estimates for the use in the *CLA*.

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

In 2009, the Commission agreed that for the western North Pacific common minke whales, the Scientific Committee should follow the option in the Scientific Committee report (Item 20.2.2 (2) – pages 93-4 of the version on the website) that specifies completing a full *Implementation Review* as soon as possible, ideally by the 2012 Annual Meeting. To accomplish this a *pre-Implementation Assessment* was completed last year. This started the normal schedule for an *Implementation* so during SC/63 the work assigned to the "First Annual Meeting" will be accomplished in accordance with our guidelines. These sessions will be dealt with under the RMP sub-committee.

## **ITEM 7: ESTIMATION OF BYCATCH AND OTHER HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY**

### **Item 7.2: Progress on joining the Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS)**

In 2005, the Committee recommended that the collaboration with FAO be formalised and that IWC should join the Fishery Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS). It was noted that the information flow should be a two-way process, with bycatch records held by the IWC being provided to the FAO, and FAO should provide detailed information on the nature and scale of fisheries in areas where large whale bycatch might be an issue of concern. We will review progress of this collaboration.

### **Item 7.5 Consider methods and data sources for establishing time series of bycatch**

Since the *Implementation Simulation Trials* need time series of bycatch, it was suggested that the methods (including factors used to adjust reported catch) and data sources be discussed and perhaps guidelines could be developed.

### **Item 7.7: Ship strikes**

I draw your attention to the activity of the Conservation Committee and its intersessional working group (SSWG/CC). We will examine the scientific aspects of the joint IWC/ACCOBAMs workshop on ship strikes<sup>1</sup>. The SC also established an intersessional group (Annex Q19) to further develop a process by which data provided from a range of sources could be stored in a database. We will review progress made by this group.

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

### **Item 8.2 Complete Implementation Review for eastern North Pacific gray whales and**

### **Item 8.4: Continue work on developing SLAs for the Greenlandic fisheries**

The Committee will review progress of an intersessional steering group (Annex Q1) and Workshop as the basis for its further work.

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

In 2007 the Commission adopted new catch limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling that in several cases requires annual review, *inter alia* common minke whales and bowhead whales off West Greenland.

## **ITEM 10: WHALE STOCKS**

The title of this item corresponds to that in the Commission's draft Agenda. Individual items will be dealt with by appropriate sub-committees, as indicated in the Scientific Committee's Draft Agenda.

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

#### *Item 10.1.1: Produce agreed abundance estimates of Antarctic minke whales using SOWER data*

An intersessional working group (Annex Q13) has been set up to resolve the reasons for the differences between estimates of abundance of Antarctic minke whales between the OK and SPLINTR models. The Committee will review progress and an abundance estimate will be agreed upon at the present meeting, as we stated last year.

#### *Item 10.1.3: Continue to examine the differences between abundance estimates from CPII and CPIII*

Reasons for the observed differences in abundance estimated from CPII and CPIII are not yet fully understood. The intersessional groups working towards the completion of this long standing task addressed: the relationship between the abundance of Antarctic minke whales and variables related to sea ice; Catch-at-age analyses, including sensitivity tests to examine various assumptions regarding ageing errors and age-length keys (Annex Q14); continuation of the methodological aspects of abundance (Annex Q13) and; validation of the full IDCR-SOWER

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.iwcoffice.org/meetings/shipstrikes10.htm>

(CP1, II, and III) to allow finalisation of abundance estimates for CPII and CPIII (Annex Q17). The Committee will review intersessional progress as basis for its continued work.

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

The Committee will complete the assessment of breeding stock B during the pre-meeting held 28-29 May 2011 using information from analyses conducted intersessionally (Annex Q7). During the main annual meeting the Committee will continue to prepare for the assessment of humpback whale breeding stocks E and F (Annex Q8) and possibly revisit D in light of mixing with E. It will also review any new information on the Arabian humpback populations and other humpback whale stocks.

##### *Item 10.2.2: Review new information on the Arabian Sea humpback population*

During SC/62, the Committee recommended a new agenda item be added to consider new information on this small population with known anthropogenic threats. In addition, the Commission agreed with the Committee that the development of a conservation management plan may benefit this population and the Conservation Committee of the Commission should work with the Committee to accomplish this.

#### **Item 10.3: Southern Hemisphere blue whales**

The Committee will review new information and the report of the intersessional correspondence group (Annex Q9) that was established in 2009 to obtain mark-recapture abundance estimates in West Australia and Chile and elsewhere, as possible.

#### **Item 10.4: Western North Pacific gray whales**

The Commission is particularly concerned about the status of the endangered western North Pacific gray whale, whose feeding grounds coincide with oil and gas operations off Sakhalin Island, Russian Federation. The population numbers only about 120 animals and although there is evidence that it has been increasing at perhaps 3% per year over the last decade, any additional deaths, for example in fishing gear as has recently occurred, put the survival of the population in doubt. The Commission agreed to work together to try to mitigate anthropogenic threats to this endangered population. The Committee will review new information, e.g. on bycatch mortality, telemetry<sup>2</sup> and any mitigation measures to reduce risk of bycatches.

#### **Item 10.5: Southern Hemisphere right whales**

Intersessional working groups have been set up to plan the assessment of Southern Hemisphere right whale populations (Annex Q8) and to consider reasons for the recent die-off of Southern Hemisphere right whales off of Argentina (Annex Q9). The Committee will review progress of these two groups and decide on further steps.

#### **Item 10.6: Other stocks of right whales and small stock of bowhead whales**

In SC/62 it was suggested to include separate agenda items for the Northeast Pacific right whales and Northwest Pacific right whales.

#### **Item 10.8: North Pacific cruise**

The first cruise of the North Pacific sighting survey programme was conducted in 2010. The Committee will review the preliminary results from the cruise and make recommendations for a 2011 cruise.

#### **Item 10.9: In-depth assessment of sei whales**

Data inventories have previously been compiled for an in-depth assessment of North Pacific sei whales. The Committee will start on an in-depth assessment this year.

### **ITEM 12: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS**

#### **Item 12.1: Receive the State of Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER**

Committee members are encouraged to make submissions to the co-Convenors of the intersessional working group (Annex Q21). Use the standardised form for data entry, which can be downloaded from:

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/socer2011.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/socer2011.htm)

#### **Item 12.2: Review progress in planning for the POLLUTION 2000+ Phase II**

A steering group (Annex Q22) was set up to: (1) complete the chemical prioritisation survey and analyses; and (2) complete risk assessment modelling to determine the impact of pollutants on cetacean populations. The Committee will review their progress and decide on further steps.

---

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/pressreleaseWGW.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/pressreleaseWGW.htm)

**Item 12.3: Review report from CERD working group**

The Committee will review progress made by the intercessional working group (Appendix Q23).

**Item 12.6 Plan intersessional workshop on anthropogenic impacts to cetaceans in the Arctic**

At IWC 62, the Commission agreed that the IWC Scientific Committee should convene a workshop that discusses the anthropogenic impacts to cetaceans in the Arctic. It was suggested this workshop be convened in the 2011/12 intersessional period.

**Item 12.7: Review progress on work from the Second Climate Change workshop**

The report of the second workshop to review effects on climate change on cetaceans was reviewed by the Committee in SC/61. A number of recommendations for future research were made and sub-groups were formed to take these forward; the Committee will review reports from these sub-groups and then decide on further steps (and see Item 14.2). The Workshop on small cetaceans will be considered under Item 14.2.

**ITEM 13: ECOSYSTEM MODELLING**

Ecosystem modelling has been subject to discussion in several of the sub-committees in recent years. To further this topic, we have established a separate working group under E as a forum for this discussion. At SC/63 the working group will *inter alia* consider models that are relevant to the Committee's evaluation of special permit whaling, as well as other relevant ecosystem models; and discuss other issues relevant to ecosystem modelling.

**ITEM 14: SMALL CETACEANS****Item 14.1: Review taxonomy, population structure and status of North Atlantic (including the Mediterranean Sea) Ziphiidae (beaked and bottlenose whales)**

During SC/62 last year the small cetacean sub-committee agreed to review the systematics, population structure and status of Ziphiidae (beaked and bottlenose whales) worldwide as its priority topic for this year. Since this is such a large endeavour, the sub-committee will focus only on the North Atlantic (including the Mediterranean) species during this year.

**Item 14.2: Review report from the working group on climate change and small cetaceans**

A working group (Annex Q24) has been set up to: (1) collate and review existing research, taking into account the IWC climate change workshop report; (2) identify key studies, species and areas and opportunities for further research; and (3) develop recommendations for future research. An intersessional workshop was also held in Vienna. The Committee will review progress and then decide on further steps.

**Item 14.4 Voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research**

Australia recently contributed funds to support high priority research that demonstrably links to improving conservation outcomes for small cetaceans globally, particularly those that are threatened or especially vulnerable to human activities. During SC/62, a project entitled 'Threatened Franciscanas: improving estimates of abundance to guide conservation actions' was recommended to be funded. During SC/63, if available, preliminary results from this project could be reviewed. Details of the funding process for new projects can be found on the IWC website.<sup>3</sup>

**Item 14.5: 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 14.6: 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 (re. Annotations to Item 3.2).

**Item 14.7: Work plan**

This includes reviewing progress made by an intersessional correspondence group to consider whether the issue of the consumption of cetaceans ('marine bushmeat') as some type of substitute for other resources that are becoming scarce should be added to the priority topic list to be discussed in future meetings.

**ITEM 15: WHALEWATCHING****Item 15.1: Discuss the proposal for a large-scale whalewatching experiment (LaWE)**

A Workshop held in 2008 developed the outline of a large-scale whalewatching experiment (LaWE). At SC/62 further developments of the research proposal were reviewed and agreed upon. A steering group (Annex Q26) was formed to further the work. During SC/63 this will be reviewed then decide on further steps.

---

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/sm\\_fund.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/sm_fund.htm)

**Item 15.5 Review scientific aspects of report from the Commission's intersessional whale watching workshop**

The IWC held a whalewatching workshop in Argentina in December 2010. The report of that Workshop will soon be made available and the Committee will consider any scientific aspects of the report.

**ITEM 16: DNA TESTING**

Under this Agenda Item, we will provide the report to the Commission required by IWC Resolution 1999-8. I will again 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**

At SC/61 a working group (SP) was created to entertain the discussion of special permit programmes and associated procedural questions. The scientific results of the special permit programmes will be discussed in the relevant sub-committees and standing working groups (*inter alia* IA, RMP, E and EM).

**Item 17.1: Review of results from existing permits**

There are two existing 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). We will need to discuss a timetable for the holding of the first 'regular' review of the JARPA II programme.

*Item 17.1.3: Planning for a final review of results from Iceland – North Atlantic common minke whales*

Because of the financial constraints in Iceland and the loss of an experienced staff member, the work necessary for the final review will not be available for SC/63. We will receive an update as to when the work will be completed and review our plans for holding the review.

*Item 17.1.4: Planning for a periodic review of results from JARPA II*

The JARPA II program started with a feasibility study during the 2005/06 and 2006/07 austral seasons and the full-scale study was designed to collect data during the 2007/08 – 2012/13 austral seasons. At SC/63 the schedule for the next periodic review should be developed.

**Item 17.2: Review of new or continuing proposals**

I have not been informed about any new proposal, and I do not anticipate any discussion of new Special Permit proposals at SC/63.

**Item 17.3: Procedure for reviewing scientific permit proposals**

You will recall that during 2008 the Scientific Committee agreed on a new procedure for review of new proposals for Special Permit whaling, and for periodic and final review of existing Special Permit programmes (Rep. SC/60 Annex P). The new procedure included an independent review by an expert workshop. Some general issues arose out of the discussion of the report of that workshop and so for this year, the Committee agreed to, if needed, discuss further possible modifications to the way the procedure was implemented, because the general procedure itself was not controversial.

The next programme to be scheduled for review following the new procedure is likely to be the Icelandic Special Permit programme on North Atlantic common minke whales, where the expert workshop will review the final results.

**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). I have not been informed about any new proposals for Sanctuaries that we have not already thoroughly reviewed. Therefore, I do not foresee any major discussion regarding this Agenda Item. Nonetheless, I have left the item on our draft Agenda for final consideration at the time of our meeting.

**ITEM 19: SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP**

The Government of Australia hosted a workshop in Sydney 23 – 26 March 2009 to discuss plans for a five-year non-lethal research effort in the Southern Ocean. The workshop used IWC Scientific Committee research recommendations as a starting point for its deliberations. A workshop report was submitted to SC/61. The Committee endorsed the general approach developed for this programme. At SC/62, several projects were proposed to be partially funded. An intersessional meeting carried out the initial review of these proposals and its report will be discussed at this year's meeting (SC/63).

## **ITEM 20: RESEARCH AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AND RESULTS**

### **Item 20.2: Review proposals for 2011/12**

This item will be handled, as usual, by a review group chaired by the Vice Chair and 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 SC/60's Committee report.

## **ITEM 21: COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR THE 2012 MEETING**

Our priorities are largely determined by the Commission and should not require a great deal of discussion. 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 and will reflect our view of priorities for 2011/12. This Agenda will, of course, be subject to revision as a result of Commission decisions. Any revisions will be sent to you in an Outcome Report shortly after the Commission meeting.

## **ITEM 22: DATA PROCESSING AND COMPUTING NEEDS FOR 2011/12**

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 23: FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2011/12**

To facilitate discussion of this item, which necessarily occurs relatively late in the meeting, sub-committee Convenors 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. Where necessary, small groups will be appointed by sub-committee chairs to work out details for presentation in the plenary sessions under this item. As was done last year, we will use a standard form that should help in ensuring that the appropriate information is easily available.

## **ITEM 24: 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.

The Scientific Committee Handbook has been on the website for several months and we will consider suggestions for additions/modifications under this Agenda Item.

The ongoing discussion within the Commission regarding the future of IWC may entail changes in the structure, timing and agenda of the Committee. I will keep you informed on any developments when appropriate.

## **ITEM 25: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The elected officers (Chair Palka and Vice Chair Kitakado) of the Scientific Committee are in their second year of their three year terms. Unless one decides to step down, the next election is scheduled for 2012. However, this agenda item traditionally remains on our agenda each year. Our Rules of Procedure can be found on the website:

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/commission/procedure.htm#scientific>

## **ITEM 28: ADOPTION OF REPORT**

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