

Protocol for access to samples/data from the National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF), Fisheries Research Agency, Japan, applied to Procedure B for data availability (JCRM 6 (suppl.):57)

INTRODUCTION

Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory (the present NRIFSF) has presented the protocol for data availability for the Comprehensive Assessment of Cetaceans in the past, but it has become unsuitable for new rules for data availability adopted at the 55th IWC Scientific Committee (*Journal of Cetacean Research and Management* 6 (suppl.) :57). This protocol has been reorganized from that of the Institute of Cetacean Research, Tokyo, applying to Procedure B. Conditions for data recipients (repeated on page 2) as specified in the rules for data availability are applicable.

It was agreed that Procedure B applied to data for analysis deemed important in providing advice to the Committee other than catch limits. However the position of the Government of Japan has not changed on the matter of small cetaceans stated every year at the opening of the Committee. That is, the activities of the Commission with the population management of whales should be limited to the matters concerning whales listed on the Nomenclature of the International Whaling Conference Final Act (1946). Therefore this protocol applies to only sample/data of large cetaceans obtained through the research activities of NRIFSF.

It was also agreed that if the correct process is followed, the data owners will normally approve the applications within a 'specified time period'; in this case NRIFSF agrees that it will respond within seven weeks of receiving an application.

FORMAT OF THE APPLICATION

The format for the application should include the following items:

- (a) *Title* of the proposal, giving the broad subject of the proposed analyses.
- (b) *Investigators*: the full name and affiliation of the principal investigator(s) and co-investigator(s) should be provided. This should include at least one scientist from NRIFSF.
- (c) *Objectives and rationale of the study* as specified by the Scientific Committee along with the appropriate reference to the report(s) of the Scientific Committee. This will include the reasons why the proposed analyses are important and how they fit into previous work.
- (d) *Data to be used* will include a general description of all data to be used as well as data held by NRIFSF. For the NRIFSF-held data, the precise requirements will be given, including the level of disaggregation.
- (e) *Description of the methods* likely to be used. The level of detail must be in accordance with the level of novelty of the proposed methods and the particular research questions they will address. References to similar analyses should be included where available.
- (f) *Schedule of the work*: this should include estimated times for the various analyses to be carried out and an indication of which investigators will collaborate on individual components. If the project is a long-term project, annual progress reports will be required by NRIFSF and the Scientific Committee.
- (g) *Output of the research*: this will follow the rules for publication agreed at the Scientific Committee meeting and given below. NRIFSF may consider requests for less stringent conditions (e.g. presentations at non-IWC scientific meetings, publications, etc.). Such requests should be detailed here.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL

If an application has been approved by the whole Scientific Committee at an annual meeting, it will normally be approved by NRIFSF. However, the final decision will always remain the prerogative of NRIFSF.

NRIFSFS may request reviews by an internal review group and/or external experts. The following factors will be taken in to account by NRIFSFS when considering applications.

- (a) *Priority*: highest priority for analysis/research of samples/data produced by NRIFSFS, will be for the scientists that collected and obtained the data in any particular field.
- (b) *Suitability of the requested data in the context of the proposed methods and the objectives of the research.*
- (c) *Level of co-operation with NRIFSFS scientists.*

The response to an application for data will be communicated by the Chief of the Cetacean Resources Management Section of NRIFSFS to the Data Availability Group and may include requests for further information. If the research proposal is accepted, NRIFSFS will nominate a scientist, (normally one of the co-investigators) who shall be responsible for making the necessary arrangements to provide the required samples/data.

Agreed Scientific Committee conditions for data recipients

Applications deemed suitable under Procedure A or Procedure B below are granted under the following conditions:

- (1) Data shall not be transmitted to third parties.
- (2) Papers may only be submitted to a Committee meeting in accordance with the time restrictions given below. Such papers must not include the raw data or the data in a form in more detail than is necessary to understand the analysis.
- (3) Papers must carry a restriction on citation except in the context of IWC meetings.
- (4) Data owners are offered co-authorship.
- (5) Publication rights remain strictly with the data owner.
- (6) Data shall be returned, to the Secretariat or the data owner as appropriate, immediately after the meeting at which the paper is submitted and any copies destroyed, unless an extension is granted.
- (7) Data requesters sign a form agreeing to the above conditions. Such forms will be held by the data owner and the Secretariat. In the case of Procedure B, the Data Availability Group will sign the agreement on the Committee's behalf and ensure that the conditions of any agreement are met by any individual scientists involved in the analysis.
- (8) In the event of a breach of the conditions in (6), serious sanctions [to be determined] will apply.