

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The reports of observers representing the Commission at the following meetings are attached as the Appendices indicated:

Appendix	Meeting	IWC Observer
A	28th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of CCAMLR, Hobart, Australia, 23 – 27 October 2009	Karl-Herman Kock (Germany)
B	Report from the 2009 activities in ICES	Tore Haug (Norway)
C	Update on Cetacean Conservation in the Southeast Pacific under the framework of the Lima Convention	Fernando Felix (Ecuador)
D	6th Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS UN Campus, Bonn, Germany, 16-18 September 2009	Meike Scheidat (Netherlands)
E	The 2nd Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region (Pacific Cetaceans MoU) , Auckland, New Zealand, 28/29 July 2009.	Mike Donoghue (New Zealand)
F	18th Annual Meeting of NAMMCO, Tromsø, Norway, 8-10 September 2009	Dan Goodman (Japan)
G	18th Annual Meeting of PICES, Jeju, Korea, October 23 –1 November, 2009	Hidehiro Kato (Japan)
H	CITES Fifteenth Conference of the Parties, Doha, Qatar, US Government, 13 – 25 March, 2010	US Government
I	Co-operation with IMO	IWC Secretariat
J	21 st Regular Meeting of ICCAT, Brazil, 9-15 November 2009	Luiz Maria Pio Corrêa (Brazil)
K	Report from IUCN, 2009-2010	Justin Cooke (IUCN)
L	16 th Meeting of NAMMCO Scientific Committee, Reykjavík, Iceland, 19-22 April 2009	Lars Walløe (Norway)
M	Sixth Meeting of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS, 11-13 January 2010, Casablanca	Greg Donovan (IWC Secretariat)

Appendix A

Observer's Report from the 28th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Hobart, Australia, 23 – 27 October 2009

Observer Dr. Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany)

The 28th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) was held under the chairmanship of the Vice - chairman S. Iversen (Norway) at the CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart, Australia, from 23 to 27 October 2009. All Member countries and a number of observers from international organisations and acceding states attended the meeting.

I provided a brief verbal report on those topics from the 61st Annual Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the IWC held in Madeira (Portugal) in May/June 2009 which were of interest to CCAMLR.

Main topics of the meeting were:

- Fishery status and trends of Antarctic fish stocks, krill (*Euphausia superba*), squid and stone crabs
 - Incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals in fisheries in the CCAMLR Convention Area
 - Harvested species (krill, fish, and stone crabs and their assessment)
 - Ecosystem monitoring and management
 - Management under conditions of uncertainty about stock size and sustainable yield
 - Scientific research exemption
 - CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation
 - New and exploratory fisheries
 - Joint CCAMLR-IWC workshop with respect to ecosystem modelling in the Southern Ocean
 - The CCAMLR performance review
- Reports of the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR) and its Working Groups on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (WG-EMM) and Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA) and their various subgroups are available through the CCAMLR secretariat and on the CCAMLR web site.

The joint CCAMLR-IWC Workshop

A detailed account of the outcome of the joint CCAMLR-IWC workshop which was held in Hobart from 11 – 15 August 2008 was presented in Annex 12 of the Report of the Scientific Committee and in document SC-CAMLR-XXVII/14 which are available through the CCAMLR Secretariat. Almost all experts groups have completed their review papers. The review process of the papers which will be published either in CCAMLR Science or the Journal of Cetacean Research will soon start (state Jan 2010).

Work and Advice from the WG on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management on krill-related aspects

The work and advice dealt with the following topics:

- 2008/09 fishing season
- Krill fishery notifications in 2009/10
- Trends in krill fishery
- Potential trends in the krill fishery
- Escape mortality of krill from nets
- Conversion factors
- Data reporting
- Trigger level above which action by the Commission is required
- Feedback management procedures
- Low krill abundance at South Georgia in 2008/09
- By-catch of larval and juvenile fish in the krill fishery.

The Scientific Committee had an extensive discussion on these matters. The interested reader should consult paragraphs 3.38 – 3.40 and 4.1 - 4.48 of the Report of the Scientific Committee. Of particular interest are the discussions of the Scientific Committee on the (interim) trigger level and its division into CCAMLR Subareas and on feedback management

Krill fishing

(Please note that the separation of the Southern Ocean by CCAMLR into statistical subunits is different from the IWC and its subdivisions into 6 whaling areas. Maps of the CCAMLR Areas, Subareas and Divisions can be found in the CCAMLR Statistical Bulletin).

Main krill fishing nations were Norway, Korea, Japan and the Russian Federation. The krill catch from December 2008 to October 2009 was 123 848 tonnes and entirely taken in Subareas 48.1 and 48.2 (western Atlantic Ocean sector). Little was taken from October to the end of the fishing season on 30 November 2009. The total catch in the season 2008/09 was likely to be 30 000 tonnes less than in 2007/08. The projected catch for 2009/10 is likely to be similar to that in 2008/09 and that, although the notifications for fishing in 2009/10 were lower than in 2008/09. The patent databases to examine potential future trends in the krill fishery showed an upward trend. The Scientific Committee agreed that this could be a useful source of information to augment the Scientific Committee's data on trends in the krill fishery. The paper further showed an increase in commercial interest in krill over the last decade as indicated by an increased rate of patent applications. Much of the increase in patent activity is in the area of medical products and human use, rather than patents for aquaculture or processing which dominated the earlier years of the krill industry.

Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem VMEs

The Scientific Committee again discussed VMEs intensively. This discussion is detailed in paragraphs 4.238 to 4.252 and the advice to the Commission is provided in paragraphs 4.253 – 4.258 of the report of the Scientific Committee.

Marine Protected Areas MPAs

The area of the southern South Orkney Islands and the Seasonal and part of the Fast Ice Zone was the first MPA designated by CCAMLR. The Scientific Committee agreed the following milestones describing tasks which should be completed by the end of each year leading up to 2012.

- by 2010, collate relevant data for as many of the 11 priority regions as possible (and other regions as appropriate), and characterise each region in terms of biodiversity patterns and ecosystem processes, physical environmental features and human activities;
- by early 2011, convene a workshop to review progress, share experience on different approaches to the selection of candidate sites for protection, and determine a work program for the identification of MPAs in as many of the priority regions as possible (and other regions as appropriate);
- by 2011, identify candidate areas for protection in as many of the priority regions as possible (and other regions as appropriate), based on the collated data and regional characterisations, and using appropriate selection methods;
- by 2011, submit proposals for areas for protection to the Scientific Committee;
- by 2012, submit proposals on a representative system of MPAs to the Commission.

Cetacean – fisheries interactions

Two cetaceans were killed in fisheries in the Southern Ocean: A killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) was recorded as hooked on the line and was dead when it came to the surface, and a sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) was hauled up dead after being caught in discarded fishing gear on the seabed.

Report from the 2009 Activities in ICES

Observer : Tore Haug (Norway)

ICES WGMME

The ICES Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology (WGMME) met 2-6 February 2009 at the Instituto Español de Oceanografía in Vigo, Spain. The WG considered a wide range of issues, including: reviewing various aspects of OSPAR's EcoQOs for seals, management procedures for estimating bycatch limits for small cetaceans, assessing population and stock structure in small cetaceans, suggesting recommendations for improvements in the procedure for reporting on Favourable Conservation status (FCS) under the EU Habitats Directive, and developing a framework for monitoring and surveillance of European marine mammal populations.

A review of the ASCOBANS/HELCOM Working Group report on common dolphin population structure in the Northeast Atlantic, and available information on population structure in harbour porpoise in the Northeast Atlantic, was carried out. The WGMME concurred with the ASCOBANS/HELCOM recommendation that only one common dolphin population inhabits the Northeast Atlantic, although the distributional range of the population is unknown, as sampling of individuals for genetic analysis was confined to continental shelf and slope waters and oceanic waters of the Bay of Biscay. A separate Iberian harbour porpoise population has recently been identified using genetic analysis, and the WGMME strongly recommended that this population should be given a high priority for conservation, as a consequence of its presumed small population size, low genetic diversity and likely susceptibility to habitat degradation. The WGMME also strongly recommended immediate action by the Spanish and Portuguese governments in monitoring and conserving the Iberian harbour porpoise population.

New data from the SCANS II and CODA projects were reviewed, and WGMME concurs with the recommendation to use the CLA approach for estimating bycatch limits for small cetaceans. Given the nature of the data available, WGMME believes it is appropriate to use the most conservative measure (i.e. *in a worst-case situation*) for both harbour porpoises and common dolphins in the Northeast Atlantic. It was noted by the WG that the continuation, and establishment in some cases, of national observer bycatch programmes is extremely important, in order to obtain current estimates of incidental capture for all marine mammal species. Furthermore, the bycatch management procedures developed under SCANS-II and CODA projects should be taken into consideration by DG MARE when reviewing the EU Regulation 812/2004. The WG also noted the need for the continuation of surveys of the type of SCANS II and CODA to estimate absolute abundance, at least every 5–10 years.

Initial development of a European framework for surveillance and monitoring of marine mammals was undertaken, and the WG noted that, while it seems clear that monitoring of abundance, bycatch and health status (through stranding programmes) may reasonably form the core of surveillance for cetaceans, the importance of other types of information (e.g. life-history data) and monitoring of specific threats (e.g. offshore construction) should also be recognized when designing a surveillance strategy. Further, monitoring programme design should take account of new findings on the stock structure, for example the identification of an isolated Iberian stock for harbour porpoise

ICES WGHARP

The ICES/NAFO Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals (WGHARP) met during 24-27 August 2009 at the ICES Directorate in Copenhagen, Denmark to consider recent research and to provide catch advice on the northeastern Atlantic Ocean stocks of harp seals. The WG received presentations related to catch (mortality) estimates, abundance estimates, and biological parameters of White Sea/Barents Sea and Greenland Sea harp seal stocks, and provided updated catch options in response to a 2008 request from Norway. The WG also received and reviewed information on the Northwest Atlantic harp seal stock, as well as the Northwest Atlantic and Greenland Sea hooded seal stocks. The WG also provided catch advice for the latter stock.

ICES ASC

The 2009 ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC) was held in Berlin, Germany, 21-25 September 2009. The conference included no particular theme session devoted entirely to marine mammals. Nevertheless, some sessions were designed with marine mammals included as an integral part. Relevant sessions at the 2009 ASC were:

- Theme session C: “Advances in marine ecosystem research: what we have learned from GLOBEC and what we can carry forwards in future climate related programmes”.
- Theme session G: “Comparative study of climate impact on coastal and continental shelf ecosystems in the ICES area: assessment and management”.
- In theme session K (“Habitat science to support stock assessment”), results were presented from the Norwegian ecosystem surveys where also marine mammal observations are an integral part.
- Theme session M: “Avoidance of bycatch and discards: technical measures, projects, and state of data”.
- Theme session P: “Ecological foodweb and network analysis: a tool for ecosystem-based management?”.

Upcoming theme sessions, relevant to marine mammal issues, intended for the ASC, 20-24 September 2010 in Nantes, France, include titles such as “Natural mortality variation in populations and communities”, “Monitoring biological effects and contaminants in the marine environment: where do we go from here?”, “Beyond correlations: what are suitable methods for describing and testing non-linear spatio-temporal changes, patterns and relationships?” and “Marine Biodiversity – the science and management needed to meet 2010 commitments”. More information is available at the ICES web site www.ices.dk.

Appendix C

Update on cetacean conservation in the Southeast Pacific under the framework of the Lima Convention

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INTRODUCTION

In January 2010 the XVI Meeting to the Parties to the Lima Convention was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador. In the framework of this regional Convention the five member countries Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Chile reviewed the activities developed in implementing the Plan of Action for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Southeast Pacific (PAMM) (PNUMA, 1992). The PAMM was conceived to help countries to improve their policies on marine mammals' conservation and to develop activities that require regional cooperation.

During the meeting the Parties addressed among others the activities carried out by the Executive Secretary (CPPS) in implementing the PAMM during 2009, reviewed the recommendations issued by the 61 IWC Scientific Committee regarding research and conservation of cetaceans in the Southeast Pacific region (IWC, 2009), and defined the new activities for 2010. Through Decision N°6 the meeting urged countries to implement the recommendations of five pilot projects on cetacean bycatch carried out during 2009 as well as the recommendations issued by the 61 IWC Scientific Committee. By the same Decision the meeting instructed CPPS to participate in international initiatives promoted by IWC on southern whale stocks assessment and whalewatching and to continue participating as observer at IWC to follow up on issues of interest for the region (CPPS, 2010).

ACTIVITIES

Pilot projects to address cetacean bycatch

In the second part of 2009 five pilot projects to mitigate the impact of fishing activities were carried out in the Southeast Pacific region with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (Table 1). Pilot projects confirmed that cetacean bycatch in small-scale gillnet fisheries continues with similar intensity in some countries of the Southeast Pacific. The highest bycatch rates were found in Peru and Ecuador, countries with similar type of pelagic fishery and large fleets. Coastal fisheries in Panama use mainly nylon monofilament gillnets and the problem for cetaceans resulted considerably lower than in the former countries. In Colombia, the entanglement of humpback whales *Megaptera novaeangliae* in pelagic gillnets is considered a conservation issue that requires attention by fishing authorities. In Chile the study focused on the endemic Chilean dolphin *Cephalorhynchus eutropia*, an endangered species inhabiting the coastal area.

Although the pilot project's main objective was bycatch mitigation, most of them focused rather on baseline studies to assess the level of bycatch. A major reason for this is the lack of studies in the region with updated information on both bycatch and fishing effort. The Peruvian study focused on the reduction the bycatch rate through the use of sound devices. First results suggest this is a promissory approach that demands further study on a larger scale to confirm its effectiveness (70% of bycatch reduction was obtained). The Colombian approach was oriented to the rescue of entangled large whales more than reducing the bycatch rate while the Chilean study focused on developing a better comprehension of both the fishery and ecological and behavioral aspects of the affected dolphins.

In their reports, researchers recommended to continue this type of studies either covering a larger series of time or making them at a larger scale to test the effectiveness of the proposed measures. It is relevant that all studies highlighted the need to train scientific staffs on bycatch reduction and in parallel to organize workshops with fishermen and community leaders.

Pilot studies have helped to enhance the visibility of a problem with potential socio-economic and environmental impacts of unknown consequences for the region. Some wild cetacean populations in the Southeast Pacific have been affected by fishing activities for decades (see Read *et al.*, 1988; Félix and Samaniego, 1994; Van Waerebeek and Reyes, 1994; CPPS, 1997; Mangel *et al.*, 2010). In some cases the impact may have been

significant especially for discrete species/populations such as the large-beaked common dolphin *Delphinus capensis*. Other important issues are food production and jobs for tens of thousands of artisanal fishermen who are part of a major economic activity in coastal areas of the region. The problem is aggravated due to the fact that small scale fleets are the most numerous and the less regulated. Therefore it is necessary to balance fishing sustainability and reducing the threat to endangered species at same time.

As a result of these pilot projects CPPS will publish the document “Efforts to mitigate the impact of fishing activities on cetaceans in the Southeast Pacific countries” (CPPS, in press). The document will be in Spanish with abstracts in English. The digital version will be available soon from the CPPS web site (www.cpps-int.org/plandeaccion).

Table 1. Pilot projects to mitigate the impact of fishing activities in the Southeast Pacific.

Country	Pilot project	Institution
Chile	Implementation of actions for the conservation of the Chilean dolphin <i>Cephalorhynchus eutropia</i> in the zone of Constitución, VII Region Maute.	Catholic University of Chile.
Colombia	Pilot Project to mitigate the impact of the incidental entanglement of coastal cetaceans in the Colombia Pacific.	Foundation Yubarta
Ecuador	Preliminary assessment of the interaction of cetaceans with artisanal fisheries in the Machalilla National Park, Machalilla – Ecuador.	Pacific Whale Foundation–Ecuador
Panama	Reduction of the impact of gillnets on cetaceans in coastal waters within the Gulf of Chiriquí.	Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama
Perú	Pilot study to test the use of pingers to reduce the incidental bycatch of small cetaceans in Peru.	Pro Delphinus

Biodiversity and MCPA information system SIBIMAP-PSE.

CPPS also finalized the first phase of an information system for biodiversity and MCPA SIBIMAP-PSE. This an on-line tool for search look up and downloading information (publications, referenced spatial data on distribution) crucial to management and conservation of cetaceans, sea turtles and MCPA in the southeast Pacific. It will also provide an instrument for regional co-operation in support of management and conservation of marine mammals, as a follow-up to the recommendations of national, regional and international action plans in particular the CPPS Action Plan for the Southeast Pacific, IWC, CMS and IUCN.

The web application was built on open source technologies integrating Google Maps/Earth, JOOMLA and dynamic programming languages (AJAX, PHP). This open-source oriented initiative is consistent with other biodiversity, oceanographic and climate information systems.

The module on cetaceans has been completed and contains 428 bibliographic references accessible through different criteria (species, author, theme and type of document). It also contains 2,652 georeferenced data on cetacean sightings and 202 data on strandings. The site has received more than 600 visitors in four months (www.sibimap.net).

Whalewatching

A workshop on legal aspect of whalewatching was planed for March 2010 in Puerto Montt, Chile. Unfortunately, it had to be postponed due to the earthquake that affected the south-central part of Chile. The workshop will probably be held on the second half of 2010. The aim of the workshop will be to review legal aspects related to whalewatching activities in the five countries of the region, as well as to promote the exchange of experiences among government officials.

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Appendix D

Observer's report on the 6th Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 18 September 2009

Observer: Meike Scheidat (The Netherlands); meike.scheidat@wur.nl

Representatives from 11 countries, as well as from international and nongovernmental organizations, met in Bonn, Germany, from 16-18 September under the auspices of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS).

The main results of this meeting were:

1. A new version of the Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan) (http://www.service-board.de/ascobans_neu/files/MOP6_7-01_RevisionJastarniaPlan.pdf) was adopted by the MoP. This plan establishes conservation measures for the remaining ca. 600 individuals of individuals of the harbour porpoise in the central Baltic Sea. Through this plan it is hoped that the population will be restored to healthy levels by reducing bycatch, supporting research and public awareness and establishing a network of marine protected areas.
2. A new Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise in the North Sea (http://www.service-board.de/ascobans_neu/files/MOP6_7-02_NorthSeaConservationPlan.pdf) was adopted by the MoP. This plan addresses many of the threats to this species through the intense use of the North Sea area for activities such as fishing, shipping, hydrocarbon extraction, discharges, construction or military activities. Actions related to management, monitoring, mitigation and research are designed to reduce these threats.
3. The meeting also agreed on guidelines to address the adverse effects of underwater noise on marine mammals during offshore construction activities for renewable energy production. For example, the construction of offshore wind farms throughout the North Sea, Baltic Sea and North East Atlantic region is expected to increase exponentially in the coming years. The pile driving used for constructing most types of wind farms creates sound pressure levels that can adversely affect marine mammals. Noting the difficulty of proving long-term detrimental effects of acoustic disturbance on cetaceans, the MoP agreed that a precautionary approach is necessary in dealing with activities associated with renewable energy. (http://www.service-board.de/ascobans_neu/files/mop/MOP6_Resolution2_UnderwaterNoise_final.pdf).

The full report as well as all related working documents are available via <http://www.ascobans.org/>.

The 17th meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC) had been planned to take place from 21 to 23 April 2010 in Cornwall, UK. During this time the volcano eruptions in Iceland caused flight restrictions in large parts of Europe and the meeting was postponed. Most likely the meeting will take place in Bonn, Germany in the autumn of 2010.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)

Proposed draft text for new Agenda Item 4.1.6 – Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region (MoU for Pacific Islands Cetaceans)

IWC Observer : Mike Donoghue (New Zealand)

The Second Meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region (Pacific Cetaceans MoU) was held in Auckland, New Zealand, 28/29 July 2009. It was attended by most of the signatories (Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and the Solomon Islands). Federated States of Micronesia was unable to attend, and Tonga attended as an observer. The United Kingdom, on behalf of the Pitcairn Islands, signed the MoU at the meeting, bringing the total number of signatories to twelve.

The meeting, *inter alia*, reviewed progress in cetacean conservation in the region, endorsed a proposal to develop an Oceania Humpback Whale Recovery Plan and adopted an Action Plan for the MoU. An offer by the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) to convene a Pacific Cetaceans MoU Technical Advisory Group was gratefully accepted. The meeting also noted with appreciation the continued support by WDCS for the development of the CMS Pacific MoU website www.pacificcetaceans.org.

Further details are available from the IWC observer, or from the CMS website http://www.cms.int/species/pacific_cet/pacific_cet_bkrd.htm

Appendix F

**IWC Observer's report of the 18th Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
September 8-10, 2009. Tromsø, Norway.**

D. Goodman

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission held its 18th Annual Meeting 8-10 September, in Tromsø, Norway. The whaling and sealing nations in the North Atlantic confirmed their commitment to ensuring the sustainable utilization of marine mammals through science-based management decisions, stressing the vital importance marine mammals have as renewable resources for economies and cultures across the region.

Key conclusions from the meeting relevant to IWC and its Scientific Committee include:

Welcoming Greenland's multi-annual catch quotas for beluga and narwhal stocks based on recommendations of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee and intended to rebuild the level of the stocks and ensure the long-term sustainability of catches.

A recommendation based on the 2006 advice from the NAMMCO Scientific Committee that a total quota of 10 humpbacks in West Greenland in 2009, including struck and lost animals would be sustainable.

A recommendation based on scientific advice that removals of 200 minke whales per year be considered as the largest short-term catch that should be contemplated over a period of 2-5 years for the central North Atlantic stock.

Initiation of an ecosystem modeling program to run over 2-3 years to progress work towards achieving NAMMCO's commitment to using ecosystem-based management of marine resources in the North Atlantic region.

Agreement to convene an expert working group (subsequently held in March 2010) to undertake a review and evaluate the whale killing data submitted to NAMMCO by Japan and to look at data and information on recent and ongoing research on improvements and technical innovations in hunting methods and gears used for the hunting of large whales in NAMMCO countries.

The 19th Council meeting of NAMMCO is scheduled for 31 August - 2 September 2010 in Torshavn, Faroe Islands.

Observer Report from the 2009 Annual Meeting of PICES

Observer: Hidehiro Kato (Japan)

The PICES (North Pacific Marine Science Organization; Headquarter at Sydney, British Columbia, Canada) is an inter-governmental organization among Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Russia and US. It has four committees, Biological Oceanography Committee (*BIO*), Fisheries Science Committee (*FIS*), Marine Environmental Quality Committee (*MEQ*), Physical Oceanography and Climate Committee (*POC*), one technical committee for data exchange (*TCODE*) and one major research project *FUTURE* (Forecasting and Understanding Trends, Uncertainty and Responses of the North Pacific Ecosystems) which was started in 2008. PICES met regularly once a year having regular business meetings and associated symposium, number of participants is sometimes over 500 people. PICES has had interests on marine birds and mammals since 1997 as ecosystem components from ecosystem and environment view points through having a special working group to assess feeding impact by marine birds and mammals to ecosystem (WG11 chaired by Hunt and Kato; 1997 - 99) and MBM advisory panel (AP-MBM) to understanding coupled climate-ecosystem fluctuations etc. in the North Pacific Ocean in collaboration with other study areas (co-chaired by Sydeman and Kato, 2000 – current) under auspices of *BIO* subcommittee.

The 18th annual meeting of PICES (PICES XVIII) was held at the International Convention Centre, Jeju, Republic of Korea October 23 – November 1, 2009. Kato participated in the meeting and associate working group and symposia especially in the *AP-MBM* meeting and it's sponsored theme session (W3) as an IWC observer. AP-MBM met afternoon on 27 October, 2009 and following discussions raised during regular session. Following two topics seems to be interesting ones and relevant to IWS/SC:

1. Theme session

W3: BIO Workshop (Oct. 27, ½-day) Co-Sponsored by ICES
“Integrating marine mammal populations and rates of prey consumption in models and forecasts of climate change-ecosystem change in the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans”

Co-Convenors:

Hidehiro Kato (Japan), Begoña Santos (ICES, Spain) and William J. Sydeman (U.S.A.)

The session was held under the leadership of AP-MBM and collaboration with Dr. Begona Santos being the ICES representative.

Background. *Marine mammals are showing considerable changes in abundance. In general, cetaceans, recovering from historical exploitation, are increasing, whereas some pinniped species are declining regionally, while others are increasing. Models of marine mammal prey consumption indicate that ~20-60% of secondary production may be taken by these top consumers. Mammals may exert «top-down» control on food webs, as well as functioning as competitors to fish, seabirds, and humans for mid-trophic level food resources. One of the goals of PICES and ICES science is to enhance forecasts of ecosystem change attributable to climate and anthropogenic forcings. Given this goal, the workshop will review and assess rates of marine mammal population and prey consumption changes in the North Pacific and North Atlantic. Discussion will focus on how to best integrate this information into models of ecosystem dynamics, with and without climate change and fishing impacts.*

Summary. A total of 9 oral presentations and 10 poster presentations were made covering diverse topics from marine mammal population trends to diet and estimates of prey consumption to models of trophic impact in disparate ecosystems. A total of 50 participants from all disciplines represented (physical and biological oceanographers, modelers, marine bird and mammal specialists). A number challenges are currently limiting the accuracy and utility of models of marine mammal prey consumption and ecosystem impacts. These include variation in life histories, foraging distribution, physiology, regional variation in population trends, macro-scale movements between ecosystems, stock and genetic structure, and variability in prey quality and characteristics such as size. These variables and others will be to be incorporated into ecosystem models of trophic impact. Understanding climate impacts on marine ecosystems is made more difficult by the partial recovery of marine mammals from prior over-exploitation and their trophic interactions. It is therefore of importance to further develop methods and models to estimate ecosystem change brought about by new fluctuations in marine mammal populations.

(2) The role of AP-MBM in FUTRE program.

As did last year as well, the AP reviewed aspects of the new PICES science program *FUTURE*. The panel and observers considered how to best contribute to this program, which is focused on: (i) understanding climate change and anthropogenic impacts on marine ecosystems in the PICES region, (ii) forecasting future ecosystem change, and (iii) better communications with society. The AP reiterated its primary mission to provide advice to the PICES community about the role of marine birds and mammals in marine ecosystems, and secondly to ensure that seabirds and marine mammals are included in PICES-related ecosystem research and communications, including *FUTURE*. The AP discussed that many long-term datasets on marine birds and mammals could and should be used in the analysis and models of marine ecosystem change. Marine birds and mammals are excellent indicators of marine ecosystem structure and functions and could be used in this capacity. Multi-decadal information on abundance, population variability, diet, prey consumption, and demographic attributes are available from numerous sites in the North Pacific for analysis. Changes in bird and mammal populations will also have an impact on the ocean as these predators consume large quantities of prey and may exert “top-down” control of food webs. The AP and observers agreed that models of hypothetical or measured changes mammal populations and rates of consumption based on either increasing or decreasing abundance would be revealing, with implications for future ecosystem dynamics and fisheries. In this manner, AP-MBM could play a role in the forecasting goals of *FUTURE*.

The focal points for AP-MBM, were thus defined as follows:

- Spatial Ecology of Predators in Marine Ecosystems
- Models of Prey Consumption of Top Predators
- Marine Birds and Mammals as Indicators of Ecosystem Change
- Marine Mammals as Autonomous Oceanographic Sampling Devices
- Providing Advice to PICES Community

The next PICES annual meeting (PICES 2010) will be held October 22–31, 2010, at the Oregon Convention Centre, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.

Appendix H

Observer's Report from the IWC-Observer to CITES (Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) Fifteenth Conference of the Parties, Doha, Qatar, 13 – 25 March, 2010

US Government

The thirteenth meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties took place in Doha, Qatar from 13 – 25 March 2010.

There were no proposals for changing the listing of whale stocks from Appendix I to Appendix II (down-listing). There were also no proposals for changing the listing of a dolphin or whale species from Appendix II to Appendix I (up-listing).

The CITES Secretariat review of all the Decisions that were in effect after the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, included a recommendation to delete Decision 14.81 relating to great whales. Decision 14.81 states that “No periodic review of any great whale, including the fin whale, should occur while the moratorium by the International Whaling Commission is in place.” The Secretariat recommendation also noted that if the substance of this Decision should remain in effect, it should be considered in the context of the draft resolution on the periodic review of the Appendices (CoP15 Doc. 62).

A number of Parties opposed its deletion on the basis that the draft resolution on the periodic review in (CoP15 Doc. 62) had not been accepted. The Chair put the issue to a vote, which resulted in 24 in favour of deletion of the decision, 46 against and 9 abstentions. The recommendation to delete the Decision was thus rejected.

Appendix I

Co-operation with IMO

IWC Secretariat

The General Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) held from 23 November to 4 December 2009 approved the proposed Agreement of Co-operation between IMO and IWC, which means that the IWC has now definitive IMO observer status. While the impetus for closer co-operation between the IWC and IMO was in relation to ship strikes on cetaceans, there are a number of other issues of potential mutual relevance including habitat degradation, particularly noise from shipping (e.g. via noise, chemical pollutants, oil spills, etc.). Closer co-operation is also in keeping with the suggestion coming from the process on the future of the IWC that co-ordination with other relevant international conventions be improved.

Recent discussions on collisions with whales and underwater noise from shipping took place within the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) at its 59th session in July 2009 and 60th session in March 2010.

In 2007, the MEPC had included a new item on “Development of a guidance document for minimizing the risk of ship strikes with cetaceans” in its work programme. This guidance was agreed and issued on 31 July 2009 as IMO circular (MEPC.1/Circ.674). The guidance noted the importance of gathering information and recommended that IMO member Governments should also establish a mechanism whereby ship strikes can be reported, and that any information gathered through national mechanisms should be provided to the IWC.

The MEPC has also had “Noise from commercial shipping and its adverse impact on marine life” on its work programme since 2008. A correspondence group was established to identify and address ways to minimize the introduction of incidental noise into the marine environment from commercial shipping to reduce the potential adverse impact on marine life, and in particular develop voluntary technical guidelines for ship-quieting technologies as well as potential navigation and operational practices. The IWC Secretariat is a member of this group. The most recent report from the correspondence group was considered at the 60th meeting of MEPC and it was agreed to continue the work and produce a further report for the 61st meeting in September 2010.

Appendix J

**21ST Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT),
9-15 November 2009, Porto de Galinhas, Brazil**

Observer: Luiz Maria Pio Corrêa (Brazil)

The 21st Regular Meeting of the The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) was held in Porto de Galinhas, Brazil, from November 9 to 15, 2009. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Fábio Hazin, current ICCAT Chairman.

During the meeting, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (the Science component of ICCAT), Dr Gerry Scott, presented the Annual Report, highlighting the following points:

- i) Certain stocks are facing a hazardous situation (including species that are subject to incidental catch), especially the bluefin tuna;
- ii) There is a need to incorporate, , in future ICCAT deliberations, the precautionary approach, which is more consistent, due to the lack of reliable scientific information about certain species. Dr Scott focused on this point because the unstable security situation in part of the Indian Ocean (with the menace of piracy), may incite the fishing fleet that operates in these waters to move part of its activities to the Gulf of Guinea. As a result, it is expected, in the short term, increased catches of Atlantic tropical species such as yellowfin tuna, albacore tuna and skipjack tuna, which could harm the health of the stock as a whole and its sustainability in the long term.

At the Meeting of the Commission, it was possible to reach agreement on fishing for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. A Recommendation limiting the total catch of the species to 13,500 tons in 2010 was approved, which is below the limit of 15,000 tons proposed by the Scientific Subcommittee. Therefore, it is expected that the stock of this species has a greater chance to recover, in a span of 10 to 13 years. The next meeting of ICCAT will be reviewing the level of compliance to this agreement, and, in that occasion, a recovery plan for the triennium 2011-2013 will be prepared.

The ICCAT meeting exposed the growing concern within the organization with species that are usually victims of incidental catch ("by-catch"), such as sharks, seabirds and turtles. It was possible to approve an important recommendation concerning the thresher shark, which is a very vulnerable species. However, it was not possible to reach consensus on conservation measures for other species of shark. The same was true for turtles and seabirds.

Dr Fábio Hazin was reelected Chairman of the organization for another term of two years. The next meeting of ICCAT will be held in Paris from November 17 to 27, 2010.

Generally speaking, the outcome of the meeting was positive. Firstly, because an auspicious agreement regarding the bluefin tuna was reached. Secondly, because it was emphasized the need to revise the Convention in order to modernize the ICCAT, making it more efficient from the point of view of sustainable management of those stocks. And finally, despite the fact that reinforcing compliance mechanisms was shown to be a special need, major improvements in this subject were achieved.

Eleven Conservation and Management Recommendations and one Resolution were adopted by the Commission at its 21st Regular Meeting:

- Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi/year Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna [Rec. 09-01].
- Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish [Rec.09-02].
- Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits [Rec. 09-03].
- Recommendation by ICCAT for a Management Framework for the Sustainable Exploitation of Mediterranean Swordfish and Replacing ICCAT Recommendation 08-03 [Rec. 09-04].
- Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program on North Atlantic Albacore [Rec. 09-05].

- Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 08-05 to Establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 09-06].
- Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Thresher Sharks caught in Association with Fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 09-07].
- Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area [Rec. 09-08].
- Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Three Recommendations in Conformity with the 2009 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area [Rec. 09-09].
- Recommendation by ICCAT Further Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to have Carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 09-10].
- Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 08-12 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program [Rec. 09-11].
- Resolution by ICCAT for the Pilot Application of the Kobe 2 Decision Matrix [Res. 09-12].

The Recommendations entered into force on June 1, 2010.

REPORT FROM IUCN 2009-10

Observers: Justin Cooke and Finn Larsen

Western gray whales

The IUCN Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel has continued its work (www.iucn.org/wgwap). The Panel had earlier advised that a seismic survey commissioned by Sakhalin Energy and scheduled for 2009 in the Astokh area be postponed, in view of the anomalous (and possibly disturbance-related) distribution of gray whales off Sakhalin in 2008. Given the apparent return to normal gray whale distribution in the area in 2009, the Panel approved carrying out of the survey in 2010, subject to improved monitoring and mitigation measures and completion of the survey early in the season before large numbers of whales arrive in the Piltun feeding area.

The Panel was extremely concerned to learn that a further seismic survey is planned for July-September 2010 by the company Rosneft Shelf – Far East, to cover the Lebedenskoie field which underlies the northern part of the prime near-shore feeding ground of western gray whales. The IUCN Director General has written to Prime Minister Putin urging the Russian government to order the postponement of the survey at least until 2011 to enable satisfactory mitigation measures to be put in place to minimise the disturbance to whales (see www.iucn.org/wgwap/wgwap/public_statements/ for the text of this and other letters).

The completed report of the “Western Gray Whales Range Wide Workshop: Status, Threats and the Potential for Recovery” held in Tokyo, September 2008, is now available on the web as cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/tokyo_workshop_report.pdf. A draft Western Gray Whale Conservation Plan has been developed with the help of the IUCN Marine Programme as part of its Range-Wide Conservation Initiative for western Gray Whales (presented to the IWC Scientific Committee as document SC/62/BRG 24).

Red List updates

Following the comprehensive updating of the Red List entries for cetaceans in 2008, the Cetacean Specialist Group has completed separate assessments of the two species of *Sotalia*, the freshwater tucuxi and the coastal marine and estuarine Guiana dolphin. Draft assessments of a number of Mediterranean subpopulations (fin whale, sperm whale, long-finned pilot whale, Risso’s dolphin, striped dolphin, common bottlenose dolphin and Cuvier’s beaked whale) are in review.

Asian freshwater cetaceans

The Cetacean Specialist Group has undertaken several initiatives in Asia over the past year. These have included, most notably a workshop in Samarinda, East Kalimantan, Indonesia in October 2009 on freshwater protected areas for dolphins; a special meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in November 2009 on the conservation of Irrawaddy dolphins in the Mekong River; and a meeting in Patna, India in February 2010 to assist in the development of a national action plan for the conservation of Ganges river dolphins (*susus*).

NAMMCO Scientific Committee

Observer: Lars Walløe

The 16th meeting of the NAMMCO SC was held at the Marine Research Institute, Reykjavík, Iceland, 19-22 April 2009. Observers from The Russian Federation, Japan and Canada participated.

Reports of three NAMMCO Working Groups (WG) were available at the meeting:

- Joint NAMMCO/JCNB Scientific WG on narwhals and belugas;
- WG on Large Whale Assessment;
- WG on Marine Mammal and Fisheries Interactions (MMFI).

The MMFI WG meeting was structured to consider in sequence a) new developments in the quantitative description of marine mammal diet by species (minke whale, harp seal, other species), b) new development in the estimation of energy consumption, and then c) recent developments in multi-species modelling.

In the light of the report of the WG, the SC agreed that multi-species modelling is a valid approach for a better understanding of the ecological relations between species. However, the SC also recognizes that the general public and managers have very high expectations concerning the usefulness of ecosystem models to provide quantitative management advice. Interactions between marine mammals and other components of their ecosystem are often viewed as direct predation that can be described through simple models. It is important to recognize that the multi-species modelling required in order to address management questions such as the impact of changes in the abundance of certain marine mammal populations on allowable catch levels for some commercial fish species is, in fact, quite complex. Ecosystem models have significant data requirements, many of which are currently unavailable.

The SC recognizes that additional research is required in order to develop ecosystem models to a point where they may be used for providing management advice. It is particularly important to understand how different models depict ecosystem interactions and their sensitivity to the inherent assumptions. The best way identified to improve the understanding of multi-species models is to use different modelling approaches to describe the same ecosystem.

The planned exercise includes four different modelling approaches:

- Minimal realistic model implemented using GADGET (Stefansson)
- Ecopath with Ecosim (Morissette)
- Time series regression (Hjermann)
- A biomass-based model such as one recently applied in eastern Canada (Stenson)

The exercise is planned to be carried out for two areas, the Barents Sea and the region around Iceland.

A successful survey of narwhal was performed in East Greenland in August 2008, covering the summering areas (Scoresby Sound, Blosseville Coast, Kangerlussuaq and Tasiilaq). The abundance estimates developed for East Greenland are the first estimates in the Scoresby Sound fjord system south to Ammassalik. The abundance estimate for narwhals in Melville Bay, developed from the August 2007 survey, is the first estimate from this locality, since past aerial surveys had failed with no narwhals detected. The SC recommended catches be set so that there is at least a 70% probability that management objectives (population increase) will be met for West and East Greenland narwhals, i.e. maximum total removals of 310 and 85 narwhals in West and East Greenland respectively.

SC15 recognized that the preliminary data on abundance of narwhal and beluga show higher estimates and encouraged Greenland to submit fully corrected estimates derived from the March 2006 and August 2007 surveys to the NAMMCO/JCNB Joint Working Group (JWG). The recommendation was followed and estimates were submitted to and endorsed by the JWG in February 2009.

The full NAMMCO SC report also contains large sections and WG reports on seals and walrus and can be found at

<http://www.nammco.no/Nammco/Mainpage/Publications/ScientificCommitteeReports/>

Report of the observer to the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS

Greg Donovan (IWC Secretariat)

The ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee met in Casablanca from the 11-13 January 2010, primarily to prepare information for the forthcoming Meeting of Parties. It was attended by members of the Scientific Committee, representatives from the Sub-Regional Coordination Units, representatives from International Organisations and observers including partners of ACCOBAMS.

Nine recommendations and a Declaration expressing the Committee's concern about the slow and/or limited level of implementation of the Agreement to effectively address the conservation problems affecting cetaceans in the Agreement area were adopted by the SC during the meeting.

Recommendation	Topic
6.1	ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative
6.2	Programme of work on population structure
6.3	Conservation of Mediterranean Common Dolphins
6.4	Ship strikes
6.5	Marine Protected Areas
6.6	Anthropogenic Noise
6.7	Monitoring, assessment and reducing cetacean bycatches in the Black Sea
6.8	Climate change
6.9	Minimum funding for the Scientific Committee

The full report of the Scientific Committee can be found on the ACCOBAMS website: www.accobams.org

The next meeting of the Scientific Committee is planned for early 2011.