

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	27 th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of CCAMLR, Hobart, Australia, 23 – 27 October 2008	Karl-Herman Kock (Germany)
B	Report from the 2008 activities in ICES	Tore Haug (Norway)
C	28 th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Rome, 2-6 March 2009	Dan Goodman (Japan)
D	Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council, Rome, 27--28 November 2008 and Conference of the Parties, Rome, 1-5 December 2008	Bill Perrin (USA)
E	Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Gosier, Guadeloupe, France 2-5 July 2008	Carole Carlson (USA)
F	Permanent Commission for the South Pacific. Progress in Implementing the Plan of Action for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Southeast Pacific	Fernando Felix (Ecuador)
G	17 th Annual Meeting of PICES, Dalian, People's Republic of China, October 23 – 2 November, 2008	Hidehiro Kato (Japan)
H	58 th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee. International Maritime Organisation, London, 6-10 October 2008	Nicky Grandy (IWC)
I	16th Meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), Bruges, Belgium, 20-24 April 2009	Meike Scheidat (Netherlands)
J	Report from IUCN, 2008-2009	Justin Cooke and Finn Larsen (IUCN)
K	17th Annual Meeting of NAMMCO, Greenland, September 2008	Ole Samsing (Denmark)
L	15th Meeting of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee, Greenland, 11-14 April 2008	Lars Walløe (Norway)

OBSERVER'S REPORT FROM THE 27TH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR), HOBART, AUSTRALIA, 23 – 27 OCTOBER 2008

Observer: Dr. Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany)

The 27th 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 Dr. K. Sullivan (New Zealand) at the CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart, Australia, from 23 to 27 October 2008. The Chairwoman of the Scientific Committee, Dr. E. Fanta (Brazil) had passed away in early May 2008. 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 results from the 60th Annual Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the IWC held in Santiago de Chile in June 2008 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 workshop which was held in Hobart from 11 – 15 August 2008 was provided in Annex 12 of the Report of the Scientific Committee and in document SC-CAMLR-XXVII/14 which are available through the CCAMLR Secretariat. Fourteen expert groups had been formed which were tasked to complete review papers on different topics related to the Southern Ocean. These groups were (group conveners in brackets):

- toothed whales (Mr R. Leaper)
- baleen whales (Dr A. Zerbin)
- pack-ice seals
- Antarctic fur seal
- seabirds
- fish
- squid
- krill
- primary production
- zooplankton
- sea-ice
- ocean processes
- exploitation
- penguins

Completion of the expert review papers was identified as the primary tasks in the follow-up to the workshop. The deadline for the submission of final papers from the different expert groups will be the end of June 2009. The format for the final publication of the papers has yet to be decided.

The Scientific Committee thanked the workshop conveners, the Joint Steering Group, the expert group coordinators, the participants in the expert groups and the workshop for making such good progress on collating important metadata for modelling in CCAMLR and the IWC. It expressed its satisfaction at what the workshop achieved with respect to the terms of reference, noting that it was important to recognise that it was the beginning of an ambitious process rather than an end point. It encouraged the Joint Steering Group to complete the publication of the papers and the compilation of the metadata base. It also encouraged the Joint Steering Group to consider what future work might be undertaken jointly between SC-CAMLR and SC-IWC, noting that future work could centre on the synergies between the two committees in ecosystem modelling.

Advice from WG-EMM with respect to the allocation of precautionary catch limits to Small Scale Management Units

- An important aspect in CCAMLR's current work is the allocation of the precautionary catch limits among Small Scale Management Units (SSMUs). The workload can be subdivided into 5 different tasks:
- Stage 1 allocation of the precautionary krill catch limit among SSMUs in Subarea 48.1 to 48.3,
- Validation and access to models advising on SSMU allocation,
- Allocation subsequent to stage 1
- SSMUs in Subarea 48.4 (South Sandwich Islands), and
- Concerns beyond the competency of the Scientific Committee.

The Scientific Committee had an extensive discussion on these matters. The interested reader should consult paragraphs 3.3 – 3.65 of the Report of the Scientific Committee.

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 Poland. The krill catch from December 2007 to October 2008 was 125 063 tonnes and entirely taken in Area 48 (Atlantic Ocean sector). The catch increased by some 20 000 tonnes compared to the previous season. The total krill catch notified for the subsequent 2008/09 season was 629 000 tonnes. Similar forecasts on the amount of krill catches have been made in years prior to 2008.

Norway notified an exploratory krill fishery in Subarea 48.6 (Bouvet). The Scientific Committee developed a data collection plan associated with the implementation of the exploratory krill fishing which has to be fulfilled. The Scientific Committee advised an annual catch limit of 15 000 tonnes for exploratory krill fisheries. The Scientific Committee further advised that no more than 75% of this catch limit should be taken from areas within 60 n miles of known breeding colonies of land-based krill-dependent predators.

Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem VMEs

The Scientific Committee following an UN Resolution on bottom trawling spent a considerable amount of time on the development of guidelines on the identifications of VMEs which require close collaboration between the Commission and the Scientific Committee. This discussion is detailed in paragraphs 4.274 to 4.283 of the report of the Scientific Committee.

Marine Protected Areas MPAs

The Scientific Committee:

- recalled that recent discussions by CCAMLR and the CEP (Committee of Environmental Protection) have concluded that the issues of where and how to establish a system of marine areas for the conservation of biodiversity in the Southern Ocean should be addressed as a matter of priority;
- agreed that the existing benthic and pelagic bioregionalisations developed by the 2007 CCAMLR Bioregionalisation Workshop were adequate for use in such work, although further refinement may be undertaken;
- noted that a number of methods could be used for designing a representative system of MPAs, including, *inter alia*, bioregionalisation and/or systematic conservation planning, and endorsed using MARXAN as one feasible method for undertaking the latter; and

- agreed that it should continue the process of consolidating scientific views to maintain a common basis for the development of representative systems of MPAs, as agreed by the Commission. Members were encouraged to use appropriate methodologies to further this work.

Scientific observers on krill vessels

At the 2008 Meeting of the CCAMLR Working Group on Ecosystem and Management Japan finally agreed to 100% observer coverage on krill fishing vessels in the Southern Ocean for an initial phase of 2 years. This agreement was withdrawn at the Scientific Committee and Korea and China who did not take part in the working group meeting objected to 100% observer coverage in the krill fishery as well.

Cetacean – fisheries interactions

No reports on cetaceans – fisheries interactions were submitted to CCAMLR in 2008. No cetaceans were killed in any of the fisheries in the Southern Ocean. Modifications to longline gear which had been trialled in the longline fishery in waters adjacent to the Southern Ocean in 2007/08 (IWC/60/O9) has introduced used in increasing numbers in the 2007/08 season in the Convention Area to deter cetaceans from longlines.

REPORT FROM THE 2008 ACTIVITIES IN ICES

Observer: Tore Haug, Institute of Marine Research, PO Box 6404, N-9294 Tromsø, Norway

ICES WGMME

The ICES Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology (WGMME) met 25-29 February 2008 in St Andrews, UK. The WG considered a wide range of issues. It was considered that there are currently no reliable long-term time series for abundance (or abundance indices) available for endemic arctic marine mammals. The lack of this data makes it difficult to reliably assess current impacts of changes in climate on these species' populations. WGMME also had to conclude that no current bycatch estimates for marine mammals in the North Sea are available. Furthermore, although required by the EC regulation, data on bycatch of seals is not reported at all. The WG considered the potential effect of bycatch on seals to be substantial.

Cetacean conservation objectives and criteria were reviewed and realistic monitoring options considered, including those recommended by the SCANS II project. The WG also discussed new results from the SCANS II project. The project evaluated and developed methods for monitoring trends in abundance of small cetacean species and provided a comparison of cost-effectiveness of the different methods. Additionally, a simulation model considering a wide range of parameters and incorporating uncertainties in e.g. abundance estimates, was used to tune a specific bycatch management procedure so that one would expect to achieve the conservation objective in practice. The results of the SCANS II work also showed that uncertainties within abundance estimates need to be considered when assessing bycatch of marine mammals in a reliable way.

In addition to focus particularly on the Saimaa and Ladoga ringed seals, the WG also discussed how data collected in different countries can be brought together in common databases.

ICES WGHARP

The ICES/NAFO Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals (WGHARP) met during 27 - 30 August 2008 in Tromsø, Norway to consider recent research and to provide catch advice on the North Atlantic stocks of harp and hooded seals. The WG received presentations related to stock identity and distribution, catch (mortality) estimates, abundance estimates, biological parameters, and ecological relationships of Greenland Sea and White Sea/Barents Sea harp seal stocks, and provided catch options in response to a request from Norway. WGHARP also received information on the Northwest Atlantic harp seal stock. Furthermore, the WG reviewed data available on Greenland Sea hooded seals (providing catch options for this stock) and Northwest Atlantic hooded seals. And, finally, WGHARP evaluated a proposed Norwegian management strategy with respect to the precautionary principle for harp and hooded seals, using Greenland Sea harp seals as model stock.

ICES ASC

The 2008 ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC) was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, 22-26 September 2008. Several ICES committees (e.g., Living Resource Committee and Marine Habitat Committee) deals with marine mammal issues. Thus, both present and future theme sessions at the ASC are designed with marine mammals included as an integral part. Relevant sessions at the 2008 ASC were:

- Theme session B ("The role of sea ice in polar ecosystems"): Presentations focussed on how changed ice conditions may have influenced distribution and migrations of minke whales and killer whales; the influence of changed ice quality on ice breeding seals such as ringed seals and harp seals was also assessed.
- In theme session C ("Mid-ocean ridges and seamounts: oceanography, ecology, and exploitation"), results were presented on the seasonal distribution of sperm whales.
- Theme session D addressed the issue "New trends in diseases of marine organisms: causes and effects", and included presentations with studies of seals and harbour porpoises.
- In theme session E ("Marine spatial planning in support of integrated management – tools, methods and approaches"), the question of how to keep vulnerable mammals away from fishing grounds was raised.
- Theme session J ("Comparative dynamics of populations in the Baltic Sea and Gulf of St Lawrence ecosystems") included presentations with ecological studies of blue whales and grey seals.
- Of particular relevance was theme session P ("New methodology for tracking fish, mammal, and seabird behaviour and migrations") where both case studies and new methodology were presented.

Upcoming theme sessions, relevant to marine mammal issues, intended for the ASC, 21-25 September 2009 in Berlin, Germany, include issues such as ecosystem research, climate impact and bycatches.

Symposium

In cooperation with NAFO and NAMMCO, ICES arranged the Symposium “The Role of Marine Mammals in the Ecosystem in the 21st Century” on September 29 – October 1, 2008 in Dartmouth, Canada. The symposium was attended by about 70 scientists from 10 countries.

In 1995, NAFO and ICES had sponsored a successful symposium on the ecological role of marine mammals. The current follow-up symposium presented new findings on the syntheses of information over ecosystem components, on biological and physical aspects of the environment, and on new research approaches to understanding the role of marine mammals. The symposium was organised in four theme session, each session starting with an invited key-note speaker.

Session 1 (Biological and environmental factors affecting life history traits) included a key-note talk given by Mark Hindell (University of Tasmania, Australia) who particularly examined the complex interplay between phylogenetic history and environmental factors in shaping life history traits in marine mammals. The session included 5 oral presentations and 4 posters that addressed issues related to the reproduction, recruitment and mortality in seal and whale populations. The influence of contaminants and environmental factors were discussed.

Session 2 (Foraging strategies and energetic requirements) started with a key-note talk by Dan Costa (University of Santa Cruz, USA) who addressed the issue by asking what would be the management and conservation implications of species specific foraging strategies and energetic requirements. The session included 8 oral presentations and 6 posters. Issues addressed in these included foraging behavior, strategies and ecology of baleen whales and dolphins, and habitat use and seasonal changes in energy intake and body condition in seals.

Session 3 (Theoretical considerations on apex predators and multispecies models): Key note Andrew Trites (University of British Columbia, Canada) suggested that, although it is evident that the interaction between marine mammals and their prey influence the structure and dynamics of marine ecosystems and, similarly, that predators and prey have shaped each other's behavior and life history traits, there is little empirical evidence of these influences. However, ecosystem models are valuable tools to better understand these problems. The session included 9 oral presentations and 5 posters. Issues addressed included diet reconstructions, prey selection, spatial distribution, uncertainty in abundance estimation and multispecies modeling.

Session 4: (Marine mammal – fisheries interactions): The key-note speaker was John Harwood (University of St Andrews, UK) who used his talk to quantify marine mammal – fisheries interactions (both direct and indirect ones) and to discuss how such interactions can be incorporated into the ecosystem approach to fisheries. The session included 10 oral presentations and 4 posters. These addressed various by-catch issues, direct interactions between seals/whales and particular fisheries, and the consumption of resources of interest to fishers by marine mammals.

After the symposium all contributors were invited to submit final papers which will subsequently follow a peer-review process for publication in a special symposium issue of the Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science. The issue will also include a more comprehensive summary of the entire symposium.

**IWC OBSERVER'S REPORT - 28TH SESSION OF THE FAO COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (COFI),
MARCH 2 – 6, ROME**

Observer: Dan Goodman, Japan

Many members reported on their legislation to incorporate the principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and their policies, plans and strategies related to implementation of the precautionary approach, the ecosystem approach, measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems and participatory management. Disappointment was expressed concerning the low response rate (33%) to the 2008 biannual questionnaire in view of the serious problems facing world fisheries. The responses are used, among other things, to monitor progress in implementation of the Code and related international plans of action. The Committee agreed on the fundamental importance of capacity building to assist developing countries to implement the Code. The Secretariat will develop a roster of experts that could be made available to countries to support them in their implementation efforts. The Committee also noted that many RFMO/As are currently undertaking performance reviews to strengthen regional governance, modernize mandates and adopt improved approaches to management.

The importance of aquaculture as a means of enhancing food security and sustainable livelihoods was emphasized by many members.

The Committee adopted amendments to the Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fish products from Marine Capture Fisheries. Many members stressed that developing countries required assistance and expressed concerns that ecolabelling schemes could become trade barriers.

The Committee recommended that FAO continue to provide technical advice to CITES in relation to listing proposals for commercially exploited aquatic species.

There was considerable discussion concerning; i) the draft international guidelines for the management of deep sea fisheries on the high seas, ii) efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing including current negotiations for the development of a binding instrument on port state measures to combat IUU fishing and, iii) climate change and fisheries and aquaculture.

Many members expressed the need for an international instrument on small-scale fisheries, which could comprise a new Article in the Code, an International Plan Of Action and/or the development of guidelines, which would guide national and international efforts to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries and create a framework for monitoring and reporting. In addition, many members called for the establishment of a new COFI Sub-committee on small-scale fisheries. The Secretariat will examine various options to carry these suggestions forward.

FAO is going through a restructuring with what they call new “results-based program frameworks” that are now under preparation. This made it difficult for the Secretariat to present budget line items for its program of work in fisheries and aquaculture and for the Committee to provide comments on the prioritization of activities. Proposed allocation of funds will be submitted to the Council and Conference Committee in September and the Conference in November.

REPORT OF OBSERVER TO CMS MEETINGS¹

Observer: Bill Perrin, USA

Meeting of Scientific Council

The Council met at FAO Headquarters in Rome 27--28 November 2008. Several items relating to cetaceans were on the agenda. Progress was noted on development of a work plan to comply with a COP resolution on adverse human impacts on cetaceans. Proposals for listing species and regional populations on Appendices were reviewed and endorsed:

Appendix I (complete protection):

- Black-Sea bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*) - proposed by Monaco.
- Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) – proposed by Philippines.
- Atlantic humpback dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*) – proposed by Senegal.

Appendix II (would benefit from international cooperative research; appropriate for inclusion in regional agreement):

- Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) Northwest African population – proposed by Mauretania.
- Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*) Mediterranean population – proposed by Monaco.
- Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), change of listing from western Mediterranean population to Mediterranean population.
- Clymene dolphin (*Stenella clymene*) West African population - proposed by Guinea-Bissau.

The Council reviewed and endorsed with some minor modifications resolutions proposed for the COP on 1) the impacts of climate change on migratory species (including cetaceans) 2) adverse anthropogenic impacts of noise on cetaceans and other marine biota, and 3) bycatch. It reviewed progress in implementing a program of work on bycatch. The taxonomic split of *Orcaella brevirostris* into *O. brevirostris* and *O. heinsohni* was noted.

Conference of the Parties

The COP was held in Rome 1—5 December 2008. New parties joining in 2008 included Cuba, Estonia, Gabon, Iran, Palau and Serbia; the total is now 110. The proposed additions to Appendices I and II were adopted. The resolutions on climate change, impacts of noise, and bycatch were adopted with revision. Also adopted was a general resolution calling for increased research, increased international cooperation among IGOs, and elevation of other activities concerning migratory marine species. The Ganges River dolphin (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*) and the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin were added to the list of species for Concerted Action. The classification in the second edition of the Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals (Perrin, Würsig and Thewissen, eds., 2009) was adopted as the standard nomenclatural reference for marine mammals [This classification is in harmony with the list of scientific names used by the IWC.]

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of the Manatee and Small Cetaceans of Western Africa and Macaronesia

The MoU was signed at the second intergovernmental meeting on the aquatic mammals of western Africa and Macaronesia held in Lomé, Togo 2—3 October 2008. Signatories included representatives of 15 nations (Angola, Benin, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Togo). Three NGOs also signed the MoU: Wetlands International Africa, Wildlife Trust and GSM (Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals. Expected additional parties include Nigeria, Spain and Portugal (Macaronesia encompasses Madeira, the Canary Islands and the Cape Verde Islands). The MoU is the culmination of 8 years of effort to develop a regional agreement covering the aquatic mammals of West Africa; the first workshop to this end was held in Conakry in 2000. Also adopted were action plans for the manatee and for small cetaceans.

¹ IWC was also represented at the Conference of Parties by Nicky Grandy, Secretary to the Commission. A written Opening Statement was submitted by the Secretariat that *inter alia* summarised: (1) IWC's activities of particular relevance to CMS including work on ship strikes, habitat degradation and endangered species; and (2) co-operation with other organisation, particularly with CMS cetacean agreements (ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS).

**OBSERVER'S REPORT ON THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) TO THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING SPECIALLY PROTECTED
AREAS AND WILDLIFE (SPA W) IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION,
2-5 JULY 2008, GOSIER, GUADELOUPE, FRANCE**

Observer: Carole Carlson (Invited Participant)

The Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA W) in the Wider Caribbean Region (STAC4) was convened by UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) in Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, from 2 – 5 July 2008. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Dominique Deviers, France.

The main topic of the meeting relevant to the IWC was to review the Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMA P) in the Wider Caribbean Region, and agree on further action.

The SPA W Regional Activities center (RAC) presented the “Final Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMA P) in the Wider Caribbean Region: Priority Actions and Five-year Plan”, as well as the Report of the Working Group (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/4). These reports reflect the work undertaken by the Group since its establishment following the STAC2 Meeting (3–6 June 2003) and include final revisions.

In discussion following the presentation, delegations:

- noted the comprehensive nature of the MMA P and the many important activities that it outlines within various areas. It was proposed that activities be prioritized in order to accommodate the resources and capabilities of countries. It was further suggested that capacity building be considered a priority action and that training workshops on stranding response for marine mammals, such as the one previously conducted in Trinidad and Tobago into 2006, be replicated to allow for linguistic expansion to the other official languages of the region.
- requested that the work of the WG be extended to the next COP Meeting to allow for further consultation with specialists in the respective countries as this would ensure that the MMA P would have both achievable and tangible results in these countries.
- emphasized that the current document was the result of work undertaken over the course of a very long period and pointed out that the previous lack of concrete suggestions on the content and wording of the MMA P, had hindered the process of its adoption encouraged the Meeting to provide specific recommendations directed to the context of the document.

Several Parties expressed their satisfaction with the content of the document and their desire for the document to be approved, following a realistic prioritization of activities and a rapid internal consultation prior to the 5th Conference of the Parties (COP5) within those countries which had not yet provided comments.

The Meeting agreed on a number of priority areas in the MMA P, which included: the expansion of workshops on stranding response in other languages; workshops for building capacity and information gathering on whale-watching; workshop on pollution / marine mammal health; and to continue expanding knowledgebase and information-sharing on status, distribution, threats and management strategies, including the establishment of a user-friendly and informative web-based database. It was further agreed by the Meeting, that information exchange would occur among all SPA W Parties and invited experts and coordinated through the secretariat, with the assistance of the SPA W RAC.

The full report and related working documents are available via <http://www.cep.unep.org/events-and-meetings>

Note: The MMA P was adopted at the Fifth meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA W) in the Wider Caribbean Region. 8 September 2008, St. John's, Antigua & Barbuda. The full report and related documents are available via <http://cep.unep.org/events-and-meetings/v-spaw-cop>

The SPA W Secretariat is proceeding to develop and fundraise for identified MMA P priorities and welcomes interested potential partners and organisations with common objectives to collaborate.

Appendix F

**PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
MARINE MAMMALS IN THE SOUTHEAST PACIFIC**

Observer: Fernando Felix

Permanent Commission for the South Pacific - CPPS

*Executive Secretariat of the Plan of Action for the protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of
the Southeast Pacific, Av. Carlos J. Arosemena km 3, Edificio Classic, Piso 2., Guayaquil, Ecuador*
cpps_pse@cpps-int.org, www.cpps-int.org/plandeaccion;

In 1992 the countries of the Southeast Pacific (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru) adopted the Plan of Action for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Southeast Pacific (PNUMA, 1992). The main objective of the Plan is to assist participating governments to improve policies for the conservation of marine mammals in the region.

Most countries of the Southeast Pacific share similar problems related to marine mammals, the most relevant because of its impact on natural populations is the interaction and mortality of small cetaceans in fishing gear. Additionally, several countries of the region share the same stocks of marine mammals; therefore, conservation measures under a regional cooperation framework will be more effective.

Addressing cetacean bycatch

In May 2009, with the support of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), began the implementation of pilot projects to reduce the impact of fisheries on marine mammal populations in the Southeast Pacific countries. The projects aim is developing applied research to address issues already identified that require funding for testing and development of mitigation measures. The projects were designed to promote participation of local actors (community) and partnerships between the public and private sectors. Ongoing projects include:

Country	Title	Institution
Chile	Implementation actions for the conservation of Chilean dolphin (<i>Cephalorhynchus eutropia</i>) in Constitution, VII Region Maule	Catholic University of Maule/ Eutropia Research Centre
Ecuador	Reducing the impact of fishing gear on cetaceans in the Machalilla National Park- Ecuador	Pacific Whale Foundation- Ecuador
Panama	Reducing the impact of gillnets on cetaceans in coastal areas of the Gulf of Chiriquí	Panamanian Authority for Aquatic Resources
Peru	Pilot Study to test the use of pingers to reduce the bycatch of small cetaceans in Peru	Prodelphinus

It is expected that recommendations arising from the critical and responsible analysis of the pilot projects, once implemented, will contribute to the effective reduction of the cetacean bycatch in the region. These recommendations should take into account the conditions in which small-scale fisheries in the region work and the cost- benefit analysis of implementing such measures.

Promoting responsible whalewatching

Whalewatching is an emerging activity in the five countries of the Southeast Pacific (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru). Most programs focus on the southern humpback whale (Breeding Stock G according to IWC, 2006) and coastal bottlenose dolphins, but also occasionally on other coastal and oceanic species. Some countries have developed regulations and codes in order to deal with the activity. In those countries with regulations, it is not clear how effective they have been, and in those countries without regulations, there is an urgent need to establish them. Control measures and enforcement are key elements of responsible operations; therefore, it is necessary to assess what has been effective and what not, and why.

The Executive Secretariat of the Southeast Pacific Plan of Action is organizing the Workshop on legal aspects of whalewatching in the Southeast Pacific, to be held in August 2009 in Salinas, Ecuador. The aim of the workshop is to review legal aspects around whalewatching activities in the five Southeast Pacific countries, as well as to promote the exchange of experiences among governmental officials in charge of the whalewatching regulation and management.

Information system

The Southeast Pacific Integrated System (SEPIS) is being developed with the support of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Government of Flanders. The project aims at developing an integrated information system in support of research and management in priority marine species and habitats in the Southeast Pacific, in the context of the Plan of Action for Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific, through three modules (cetaceans, marine turtles and marine protected areas).

The project includes the design, develop and operation an on-line information tool for searching, consulting and downloading information (publications, experts, contact information, geo-referenced spatial data on distribution, others) crucial to management and conservation of cetaceans and marine turtles. Besides, it will provide an infrastructure for linking oceanographic, biological and other spatially distributed environmental parameters to the observation and abundance data on these species.

References

- IWC. 2006. Report of the Scientific Committee. Annex H, report of the Sub-Committee on other Southern Hemisphere whale stocks. Saint Kitts, June 2006. 24pp.
- PNUMA. 1992. Plan de Acción para la Conservación de los Mamíferos Marinos en el Pacífico Sudeste. Informes y Estudios del Programa de Mares Regionales del PNUMA N° 143. 13pp.

OBSERVER REPORT OF THE 17TH ANNUAL MEETING OF PICES

Observer: Hidehiro Kato (Japan)

The PICES (North Pacific Marine Science Organization; Head office, Sydney, Canada) is an inter-governmental organization among Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Russia and US. It has four main 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 newly starts in 2009. 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 committee.

The 17th annual meeting of PICES (PICES XVII) was held at Kempinski Hotel in Dalian, People's Republic of China in October 23 – 2 November, 2008. Kato participated in the meeting and associate working groups and symposia especially in the AP-MBM meeting as an IWC observer. AP-MBM met afternoon on 26 October, 2008 and following discussions raised during regular session.

(a) The role of AP-MBM in FUTURE program.

Aspects of the new PICES science program (FUTURE) with the group were reviewed, and solicited feedback and discussion. 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. There are many long-term datasets on marine birds and mammals that could and should be used in the analysis of marine ecosystem change. Marine birds and mammals are excellent indicators of marine ecosystem structure and functions and should be used in this capacity. Multi-decadal information on populations, diet, and demographic attributes are available for analysis.

There have been many long-term changes in marine bird and mammal populations in the North Pacific, as well as changes in range and distribution, and changes in phenology and other life history characteristics that are likely to be related to climate variability and change in the North Pacific. In particular, the panel and observers thought that research on birds and mammals could be used to assess how much of the observed ecosystem variability could be attributed to natural or anthropogenic effects.

Changes in bird and mammal populations will also have an impact on the ocean as these predators consume large quantities of prey and may act as “top-down controls” of food webs and ecosystem dynamics. The panel and observers agreed that models of hypothetical changes in bird, but especially 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. A workshop on this topic should be proposed.

In summary, the AP-MBM recommended new efforts to integrate marine birds and mammals into PICES models of energy and trophic interactions, end-to-end food web studies, and comparative responses of ecosystems to climate changes.

(b) Workshop and Topic Session Suggestions

Following the discussion of FUTURE, AP-MBM members and observers discussed what could be put forth as a future workshop for PICES XVIII in Korea. It was decided that a workshop or topic session on seabirds and marine mammals as ecosystem indicators would be deferred until PICES XIX in the U.S. Eventually, the idea which rose to the top for PICES XVIII in Korea was how to incorporate marine mammals in ecosystem modelling and forecasting. A description for a workshop on this topic is appended. Co-conveners will be Drs. Sydeman and Kato.

For PICES XVIII, AP-MBM proposed to have a full day topic session as follows;

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 next PICES annual meeting (PICES XVIII) will be held at Jeju Island, Korea October 23 – November 1, 2009.

**REPORT FROM THE 58TH SESSION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
COMMITTEE. INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION, LONDON, 6-10 OCTOBER 2008**

Nicky Grandy, Secretary to the Commission

As reported to the Commission at last year's Annual Meeting, the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) Council approved the Agreement of Co-operation with IWC at its 100th session in June 2008. The Agreement will now be submitted to the IMO Assembly for final approval at its session in November 2009. In the meantime, IMO has extended to IWC the privileges and facilities envisioned in the Agreement on a provisional basis. While the initial driver of seeking an Agreement of Co-operation with IMO was in relation to ship strikes, habitat degradation (e.g. via noise, chemical pollutants, oil spills etc) is another area of mutual relevance.

IWC was invited to observe the 58th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) held at IMO's Headquarters in London from 6-10 October 2008. IWC was represented by Nicky Grandy and Greg Donovan of the Secretariat.

Items on the agenda of the MEPC meeting of particular relevance to IWC were those concerning ship strikes with cetaceans and noise from commercial shipping. With respect to the former, a guidance document (proposed by the USA) on minimising the risk of ship strikes with cetaceans was agreed. With respect to the latter, a correspondence group (led by the USA) was tasked with, *inter alia*, developing voluntary technical guidelines for ship-quieting technologies as well as potential navigation and operational practices. The IWC is a member of this correspondence group.

The Chair of IWC's Ship Strikes Working Group (SSWG), Alexandre de Lichtervelde, Belgian Commissioner to IWC, was also present at the MEPC meeting and together with Australia and in collaboration with IFAW, organised a side event on work on ship strikes. Further information is provided in the SSWG's Fourth Progress Report to the Conservation Committee (IWC/61/CC 11).

The next meeting of the MEPC, which will be held from 13-17 July 2009 will review any comments on the ship strikes guidance document and the outcome of the work of the correspondence group on noise. The Secretariat will be present at this meeting also.

OBSERVER'S REPORT ON THE 16TH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE AGREEMENT ON SMALL CETACEANS OF THE BALTIC, NORTH EAST ATLANTIC, IRISH AND NORTH SEAS (ASCOBANS), BRUGES, BELGIUM, 20TH TO 24TH APRIL 2009

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

The 16th meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) to the Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), was held in Bruges, 20th to 24th April 2008. The scientific session was chaired by Stefan Bräger (Germany), the administrative session was chaired by Paulus Tak (Belgium).

The main topics at the AC meeting, as far as relevant to the IWC, were:

1. Workshops and meetings held in conjunction with ASCOBANS in 2007/2008:

- Jastarnia group fourth meeting (23rd to 25th February 2008) in Sweden.
- Joint ASCOBANS/HELCOM Workshops, 8-10 October 2007 (AC15/Doc.20)
- Workshop on "Selection Criteria for Marine Protected Areas for Cetaceans" held at the European Cetacean Society's 21st Annual Conference, The Aquarium, San Sebastian, Spain, 22nd April 2007 (AC15/31)

2. Jastarnia Plan:

- The Jastarnia Plan final draft (**AC16/Doc.20**) will be forwarded to the MoP-6 (Bonn, September 2009) along with a draft resolution.

3. ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea:

- The Conservation Plan (**AC16/Doc.21**) is expected to be presented to the MoP-6 (Bonn, September 2009).

4. Review of new information on bycatch and other causes of mortality

- several working papers (**AC16/Docs 33, 40, 60, 62**) were presented highlighting the high level of bycatch of harbour porpoises in the Western Baltic Sea. New information on local densities indicates that the current bycatch estimates are not sustainable.

5. Review of New Information on Population Distribution, Sizes and Structures

The results of the joint ASCOBANS/HELCOM workshops on genetics and population structure held in Bonn in October 2007 in Bonn were presented (**AC16/Doc.29**). These include recommendations for management units for five species (harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphin, white-beaked dolphin, Atlantic white-sided dolphin and short-beaked common dolphin).

6. Review of new information on pollution, underwater sound and disturbance

- The potential implications for harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea of the fixed Fehmarn-Belt link were discussed (see also **AC16/Doc.63**).
- Documents were presented indicating historical declines and disappearance of coastal bottlenose dolphins (**AC16/Docs 34, 56**) in the UK and the correlation between the timing of this decline and the peak time of PCB concentrations in the environment.
- It was highlighted that in view of the current increase of construction of marine wind farms research on the potential impact of noise and disturbance coming from these widespread developments should be investigated (**AC16/Doc.42; AC15/Doc.42**).
- The issue of the controlled detonation of unexploded ordnance in German waters and its potential danger to small cetaceans and other animals was discussed (see also **AC14/Docs 27, 28**). The use of a mitigation method using bubble curtains was presented by Germany. The munitions issue was also being raised in IWC and OSPAR and links to reports prepared for these forums would be put on the ASCOBANS website.
- At the ASCOBANS meeting noise pollution was of great concern. Several projects are under way in the ASCOBANS agreement area to investigate potential effects of noise on cetaceans (**AC16/Docs 39, 46, 47, 57**).
- The ASCOBANS secretariat gave an account of progress achieved by the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee Correspondence Group on incidental noise from commercial shipping, at which it represented ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and CMS (**AC16/Doc.27**).

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

REPORT FROM IUCN 2008-09

Observers: Justin Cooke and Finn Larsen

This report covers three items:

- (i) cetacean-related events and resolutions from the 4th World Conservation Congress;
- (ii) publication of revised Red Listings for all cetacean species and certain subspecies and subpopulations;
- (iii) work on western gray whales including the Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel and the Rangewide Initiative.

World Conservation Congress, Barcelona 5-14 October 2008

IUCN held its 4th Quadrennial World Conservation Congress in Barcelona 5-14 October 2008. The Member's assembly 11-14 October was preceded by the World Conservation Forum 5-9 October consisting of over 500 separate symposia and Knowledge Cafés. The following three Forum events related specifically to cetaceans:

- Ship Strikes with Cetaceans: Solutions for a Global Issue.
- Whales and Fisheries Interactions: Are the Great Whales a Threat to Fisheries?
- Whales of the Mediterranean Sea.

In addition there were several events related to the management of Marine Protected Areas where cetaceans were also mentioned.

The following three cetacean-related Resolutions were passed by the Members' Assembly:

- 4.027 Relationship between fisheries and great whales
- 4.115 Non-lethal utilization of whales
- 4.025 Avoiding extinction of the vaquita *Phocoena sinus*

The texts of these Resolutions are attached as Annex 1.

Revised Red List entries for Cetacea

The Red List entries for mammals have been subject to a major overhaul as part of the Global Mammal Assessment (GMA). The new entries for cetaceans were released in August 2008. They are attached as Annex 2. The individual species accounts are available on www.redlist.org. The criteria for the categories of threat were last reviewed in 2001. They can be downloaded from: www.iucnredlist.org/static/categories_criteria_3_1.

Western gray whales

Two meetings of the Western Gray Advisory Panel (WGWAP) have been held since IWC/60. The task of WGWAP is to advise on the impact of industrial activities on western gray whales in their main feeding area on the Sakhalin shelf and on appropriate mitigation measures. In view of the apparent shift in distribution away from the main feeding ground in 2008, and the possibility that this was linked to industrial activities, the Panel at its 5th meeting in December 2008 recommended a moratorium on industrial activities with the potential to impact the gray whale feeding ground from the 2009 season, pending new information on gray whale distribution and development of mitigation measures. At its 6th meeting in April 2009 the Panel specifically recommended that a proposed seismic survey close to the feeding ground be postponed until the changes in gray whale distribution are better understood. Two task forces of the WGWAP met during the year: one on photo-id research and one on seismic surveys. Reports of the WGWAP and its Task Forces can be downloaded from www.iucn.org/wgwap/.

IUCN launched its Western Gray Whale Rangewide initiative with a workshop in Tokyo in September 2008. The aim of the initiative is draw up and seek involvement in a conservation plan for western gray whales that addresses the threats throughout the known and likely year-round range. The report of the workshop was made available to the Scientific Committee as document SC/61/ For Information 40, and will be posted on the internet shortly.

Annex 1

Cetacean-related Resolutions adopted at the 4th World Conservation Congress

4.027 Relationship between fisheries and great whales

CONCERNED about the global status of fisheries resources, which are, according to the UN Food and Agriculture organization (FAO) more than 50% fully exploited and 25% overexploited, depleted or recovering from depletion;

NOTING that this situation has arisen as a result of human activities, predominantly documented overfishing on a global scale including illegal, unregulated, unreported (IUU) fishing and wasteful and destructive fishing methods;

ACKNOWLEDGING that better understanding of marine ecosystems would contribute to the conservation and management of living marine resources and is of interest to nations as well as to Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and international research organizations;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the improvements in the global status of fisheries resources should first and foremost be addressed through direct improvements in the management of fisheries;

ALSO NOTING that the International Whaling Commission (IWC) determined in 2003 that it was not in a position to provide quantitative management advice on the impact of cetaceans on fisheries or of fisheries on cetaceans, and that the IWC Scientific Committee has established a sub-committee on ecosystem modelling; and

RECALLING that Articles 61(4) and 119(1)(b) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which are also reflected in the *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, require states to manage fisheries in such a way as to, *inter alia*, take into consideration the effects on species associated with or dependent upon harvested species and to ensure that they are not threatened by those fisheries;

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October, 2008:

1. ACKNOWLEDGES that the great whales play no significant role in the current crisis affecting global fisheries;

2. URGES its members that are engaged in fisheries management to improve the status of commercial fish stocks and marine biodiversity, including great whale populations, by:

(a) relieving excessive fishing effort;

(b) controlling and preventing wasteful and destructive fishing methods;

(c) improving gear selectivity and fishing exploitation patterns;

(d) protecting habitat and endangered species; and/or

(e) designating and effectively managing new and additional Marine Protected Areas;

3. REMINDS members of the need to apply the Precautionary Approach in fisheries management, in line with the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement; and

4. ENCOURAGES the use of non-lethal research methods by members engaged in studies on the biology and behaviour of whales, including their feeding habits;

In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008, provides the following guidance concerning implementation of the IUCN Programme 2009–2012:

5. REQUESTS the Director General to forward this decision to the Secretary of the IWC, the Secretary of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), the Secretary General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Executive Secretary of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and the Director General of FAO.

4.025 Avoiding extinction of the Vaquita porpoise *Phocoena sinus*

RECALLING that the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* has classified the Vaquita – a porpoise species endemic to the Upper Gulf of California, Mexico – as ‘Vulnerable’ in 1978, ‘Endangered’ in 1990 and ‘Critically Endangered’ since 1996;

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 19.61 *By-Catch of Non-Target Species* adopted by the 19th IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994), which expressed concern that the by-catch rate at that time posed a serious threat to the Vaquita, and urged states and organizations to adopt reasonable measures to minimize the by-catch of non-target species, including limiting the fishing of target species if necessary;

RECOGNIZING that the scientific committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita (CIRVA) agree on the need to eliminate gill nets from the Vaquita’s entire habitat immediately, since they constitute the greatest single cause of Vaquita mortality;

THANKING the President of Mexico for his commitment to the Vaquita, by including it in the Conservation Programme for Endangered Species 2007–2012, and the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources for developing a socio-economic compensation strategy for the reduction of fishing, the elimination of gill nets and the increased surveillance of the Upper Gulf of California and Colorado River Delta Biosphere Reserve;

ALSO THANKING the Governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States, and Mexican and international conservation groups that have supported the scientific, technical and financial side of the process to provide the institutional support needed to ensure that the proposal for the recovery of the Vaquita becomes a reality in the medium term;

COMMENDING IWC Resolution 2007-5 for the concern expressed about the Vaquita, and its request to the international community to support Mexico’s efforts to eliminate by-catch of the Vaquita;

ALARMED that, despite two decades of generalized international concern, the species’ population is believed to have decreased to a mere 150 individuals;

NOTING that the market demand for shrimp from the

Upper Gulf of California drives the fishing activities in the Vaquita’s habitat;

RECOGNIZING that the socio-economic effect on the region’s fishing communities of the elimination of gill nets should be taken into account; *World Conservation Congress / Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain 5–14 October 2008*

CONCERNED that the implementation of the current recovery plans lacks the support of Mexico’s National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries (CONAPESCA), which is delaying the elimination of permits and gill nets from the Vaquita’s habitat, by focusing on a lesser threat to the species, such as the level of the flow of the River Colorado towards the Upper Gulf; and

ALSO CONCERNED that illegal fishing continues in the Vaquita’s habitat and because surveillance efforts are insufficient;

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008:

1. URGES the National Commission for Natural Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT-CONANP), and the National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPACONAPESCA) of Mexico to sign an intersectoral agreement, the contents of which:

(a) establish immediately a gill-net fishing exclusion zone that covers the entire Vaquita Refuge decreed by the SEMARNAT on September 8th, 2005;

(b) continue withdrawal of fishing and gill-net permits in the Upper Gulf of California and River Colorado Delta Biosphere Reserve between 2009 and 2012, simultaneously promoting productive alternatives and means of fishing that are safe for the Vaquita;

(c) allocate financial resources to ensure the long term strategy;

(d) implement effectively the Action programme for the protection of the Vaquita (PACE); and

(e) reinforce the monitoring and surveillance of the Upper Gulf of California and River Colorado Delta Biosphere Reserve;

2. URGES CONAPESCA, the fishing agency of the Mexican Government, to:

(a) complete a register of all legal fishermen in the Upper Gulf of California in order to gain a better understanding of the fishing activities in the Vaquita's habitat;

(b) publish this register on their website and the transparency portal of the Federal Institute of Access to Public Information (IFAI);

(c) work in collaboration with the Federal Attorney's Office for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) in order to ensure compliance with the fishing and environmental regulations in the Vaquita Refuge;

(d) implement, in collaboration with CONANP, a single registration and identification system for vessels authorized to operate in the Upper Gulf of California, in order to eradicate illegal fishing;

(e) ensure that a mechanism for the provision of economic compensation is developed for the withdrawal of fishing permits in the Upper Gulf of California before the end of the 2008 shrimp fishing season; and

(f) promote a change to Vaquita-friendly fishing techniques among fishing communities in the Upper Gulf of California;

3. RECOMMENDS that all organizations, states, sponsors and private importers of shrimp from the Upper Gulf of California, including, but not limited to,

Ocean Garden Products, support the Mexican Government, providing technical and financial support in order to eliminate gill nets, and to promote economic alternatives and means of fishing that are safe for the Vaquita in the Upper Gulf of California region;

4. ENCOURAGES the Governments of Canada and the United States of America to continue to support the strategy for the conservation of the Vaquita and to provide Mexico with technical and financial assistance in order to protect the Vaquita through the

North American Conservation Action Plan for the Vaquita (NACAP Vaquita), which has the approval of the Canadian Government; and

5. URGES governments and appropriate international organizations to follow the example of Mexico and its many partners that have mobilized to prevent the extinction of the Vaquita, seeking solutions to prevent the extinction of other cetaceans, which are threatened through incidental capture in fisheries;

In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008, provides the following guidance concerning implementation of the *IUCN Programme 2009–2012*:

6. ASKS the Director General to provide, as far as possible, technical and scientific help to Mexico in order to avoid the extinction of the Vaquita.

4.115 Non-lethal utilization of whales

BEARING IN MIND that under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) all species of baleen whales and the Sperm Whale *Physeter macrocephalus* are included in Appendix I (threatened with extinction), except the West Greenland population of Minke Whales *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, which is listed on Appendix II;

RECALLING that, pursuant to Article 65 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), States

have the right and the duty to ensure conservation, management and study of cetacean species;

EMPHASIZING that marine areas protected on the basis of population studies, habitat use and cetacean home ranges may benefit marine ecosystems;

NOTING that whale-watching tourism provides economic and social benefits to many more communities and countries than commercial whaling, and that currently more than 500 coastal communities worldwide benefit directly from this activity, which attracts 10 million visitors and generates more than US\$ 1 billion of direct income per annum;

RECALLING resolution 2007-3 *Resolution on the non-lethal use of cetaceans* adopted by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) at its 59th annual meeting (Anchorage, 2007), in which the Commission *inter alia* recognized the valuable benefits that can be derived from the nonlethal uses of cetaceans as a resource, in terms of both socio-economic and scientific development, and recognized non-lethal use as a legitimate management strategy;

FURTHER NOTING that in a number of countries where whaling is also conducted, including *inter alia* Norway, Iceland and Japan, whale watching is a multi-million dollar industry; and

RECOGNIZING that the IWC allows for aboriginal subsistence whaling quotas provided that conditions set by the IWC are met;

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008:

1. AFFIRMS that non-lethal utilization of cetaceans can provide valuable benefits in terms of socio-economic development;

2. CALLS ON governments and IUCN members to strengthen cetacean management and conservation strategies, and as appropriate consider *inter alia* extending or designating marine protected areas and sanctuaries; and

3. URGES IUCN members and Commissions and other relevant organizations including the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to promote whale-watching tourism, which, when carried out in a responsible and sustainable manner, can contribute to the conservation of whales while providing economic and livelihood benefits for coastal communities.

Annex 2

Red List entries for Cetacea

Species	Common name	2008 Status
<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Bowhead whale	LC
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Common minke whale	LC
<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>	Antarctic minke whale	DD
<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Sei whale	EN
<i>Balaenoptera edeni/brydei</i>	Bryde's whale complex	DD
<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue whale	EN
<i>Balaenoptera omurai</i>	Omura's whale	DD
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Fin whale	EN
<i>Berardius arnuxii</i>	Arnoux' beaked whale	DD
<i>Berardius bairdii</i>	Baird's beaked whale	DD
<i>Caperea marginata</i>	Pygmy right whale	DD
<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>	Commerson's dolphin	DD
<i>Cephalorhynchus eutropia</i>	Chilean dolphin	NT
<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i>	Heaviside's dolphin	DD
<i>Cephalorhynchus hectori</i>	Hector's dolphin	EN
<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	Beluga whale	NT
<i>Delphinus capensis</i>	Long-beaked common dolphin	DD
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Short-beaked common dolphin	LC
<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	Gray whale	LC
<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	Southern right whale	LC
<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	North Atlantic right whale	EN
<i>Eubalaena japonica</i>	North Pacific right whale	EN
<i>Feresa attenuata</i>	Pygmy killer whale	DD
<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>	Short-finned pilot whale	DD
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Long-finned pilot whale	DD
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Risso's dolphin	LC
<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Northern bottlenose whale	DD
<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>	Sothorn bottlenose whale	LC
<i>Indopacetus pacificus</i>	Tropical bottlenose whale	DD
<i>Inia geoffrensis</i>	Boto	DD
<i>Kogia breviceps</i>	Pygmy sperm whale	DD
<i>Kogia sima</i>	Dwarf sperm whale	DD
<i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i>	Fraser's dolphin	LC
<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	Atlantic white-sided dolphin	LC
<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	White-beaked dolphin	LC
<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>	Peale's dolphin	DD
<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>	Hourglass dolphin	LC
<i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>	Pacific white-sided dolphin	LC
<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>	Dusky dolphin	DD
<i>Lipotes vexillifer</i>	Baiji	CR/PE
<i>Lissodelphis borealis</i>	Northern right whale dolphin	LC
<i>Lissodelphis peronii</i>	Southern right whale dolphin	DD
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback whale	LC
<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>	Sowerby's beaked whale	DD
<i>Mesoplodon bowdoini</i>	Andrew's beaked whale	DD
<i>Mesoplodon carlhubbsi</i>	Hubb's beaked whale	DD
<i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i>	Blainville's beaked whale	DD

<i>Mesoplodon europaeus</i>	Gervais' beaked whale	DD
<i>Mesoplodon ginkgodens</i>	Ginkgo-toothed beaked whale	DD
<i>Mesoplodon grayi</i>	Gray's beaked whale	DD
<i>Mesoplodon hectori</i>	Hector's beaked whale	DD
<i>Mesoplodon layardii</i>	Strap-toothed whale	DD
<i>Mesoplodon mirus</i>	True's beaked whale	DD
<i>Mesoplodon perrini</i>	Perrin's beaked whale	DD
<i>Mesoplodon peruvianus</i>	Pygmy beaked whale	DD
<i>Mesoplodon stejnegeri</i>	Stejneger's beaked whale	DD
<i>Mesoplodon traversii</i>	Spade-toothed whale	DD
<i>Monodon monoceros</i>	Narwhal	NT
<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides</i>	Finless porpoise	VU
<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i>	Irrawaddy dolphin	VU
<i>Orcaella heinssohni</i>	Australian snubfin dolphin	NT
<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Killer whale	DD
<i>Peponocephala electra</i>	Melon-headed whale	LC
<i>Phocoena dioptrica</i>	Spectacled porpoise	DD
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Harbour porpoise	LC
<i>Phocoena sinus</i>	Vaquita	CR
<i>Phocoena spinipinnis</i>	Burmeister's porpoise	DD
<i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>	Dall's porpoise	LC
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Sperm whale	VU
<i>Platanista gangetica</i>	South Asian river dolphin	EN
<i>Pontoporia blainvillei</i>	Franciscana	VU
<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	False killer whale	DD
<i>Sotalia fluviatilis</i>	Tucuxi	DD
<i>Sousa chinensis</i>	Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin	NT
<i>Sousa teuszii</i>	Atlantic humpback dolphin	VU
<i>Stenella attenuata</i>	Pantropical spotted dolphin	LC
<i>Stenella clymene</i>	Clymene dolphin	DD
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	Striped dolphin	LC
<i>Stenella frontalis</i>	Atlantic spotted dolphin	DD
<i>Stenella longirostris</i>	Spinner dolphin	DD
<i>Steno bredanensis</i>	Rough-toothed dolphin	LC
<i>Tasmacetus shepherdii</i>	Shepherd's beaked whale	DD
<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin	DD
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Common bottlenose dolphin	LC
<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	Cuvier's beaked whale	LC

Subspecies

<i>Balaenoptera musculus brevicauda</i>	Pygmy blue whale	DD
<i>Balaenoptera musculus intermedia</i>	Antarctic blue whale	CR
<i>Cephalorhynchus hectori maui</i>	Maui's dolphin	CR
<i>Delphinus delphis ponticus</i>	Black Sea common dolphin	VU
<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides asiaeorientalis</i>	Yangtze finless porpoise	EN
<i>Phocoena phocoena relict</i>	Black Sea harbour porpoise	EN
<i>Platanista gangetica gangetica</i>	Ganges dolphin	EN
<i>Platanista gangetica minor</i>	Indus River dolphin	EN
<i>Stenella longirostris orientalis</i>	Eastern spinner dolphin	VU
<i>Tursiops truncatus ponticus</i>	Black Sea bottlenose dolphin	EN

Subpopulations

<i>Balaena mysticetus</i> Okhotsk Sea	Okhotsk Sea bowhead whale	EN
<i>Balaena mysticetus</i> Svalbard-Barents Sea	Svalbard-Barents Sea bowhead whale	CR
<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i> Cook Inlet	Cook Inlet beluga whale	CR
<i>Delphinus delphis</i> Mediterranean	Mediterranean common dolphin	EN
<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i> Northwest Pacific	Northwest Pacific gray whale	CR
<i>Eubalaena australis</i> Chile-Peru	Chile-Peru right whale	CR
<i>Eubalaena japonica</i> Northeast Pacific	Northeast Pacific right whale	CR
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> Arabian Sea	Arabian Sea humpback whale	EN
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> Oceania	Oceania humpback whale	EN
<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i> Ayeyarwady River	Ayeyarwady River Irrawaddy dolphin	CR
<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i> Mahakam River	Mahakam River Irrawaddy dolphin	CR
<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i> Malampaya Sound	Malampaya Sound Irrawaddy dolphin	CR
<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i> Mekong River	Mekong River Irrawaddy dolphin	CR
<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i> Songkhla Lake	Songkhla Lake Irrawaddy dolphin	CR
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> Baltic Sea	Baltic Sea harbour porpoise	CR
<i>Pontoporia blainvillei</i> Rio Grande do Sul/Uruguay	Rio Grande do Sul/Uruguay franciscana	VU
<i>Sousa chinensis</i> Eastern Taiwan Strait	Eastern Taiwan Strait humpback dolphin	CR

Key

Critically Endangered	CR
Endangered	EN
Vulnerable	VU
Near Threatened	NT
Least Concern	LC
Data Deficient	DD
Possibly extinct	PE

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**IWC-OBSERVER REPORT ON THE 17th ANNUAL MEETING OF NAMMCO,
GREENLAND, SEPTEMBER 2008.**

Observer : Ole Samsing (Denmark)

NAMMCO – the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, a regional body for cooperation on the conservation, management and study of whales, seals and walruses in the North Atlantic, held its 17th annual meeting in September 2008 in Greenland (Sisimiut).

Members of NAMMCO are Norway, Iceland, Faroe Island and Greenland. A number of countries, IGO's and NOG's are observers. The Commission was established in 1992 through an agreement which provides the organization with competence to make recommendations to member countries and areas on conservation and management measures for all stocks and species of whales and seals in the region.

Major points discussed during the meeting:

- Greenland:

In the light of interest expressed by Greenland in resuming a catch of humpback whales in its waters, the Cetacean Management Committee of NAMMCO recommended that the total quota of humpbacks in West Greenland in 2009, including by-catches, should not exceed 10 animals. This recommendation was based on the 2006 advice from the NAMMCO Scientific Committee that such a level of catch is well within sustainable limits, and noting that the most recent abundance estimate for West Greenland humpbacks from 2007 is higher than the previous estimate from 2005. The recommendation is in conformity with the 2008 recommendation from IWC's scientific Committee on the same subject.

- Abundance estimates for other whale stocks in the North Atlantic.

NAMMCO noted that new abundance estimates for a number of other key whale stocks in the North Atlantic, including fin whales, minke whales and pilot whales were expected to be completed in the near future. These will be based on data from the comprehensive Trans North Atlantic Cetacean Sightings Survey (T-NASS) carried out in July 2007 and coordinated by the NAMMCO Scientific Committee. T-NASS has been the largest continuous cetacean sighting survey of its kind ever conducted, spanning the North Atlantic with participation by Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Norway and Russia, and in partnership with surveys carried out at the same time in the USA and in European waters.

- Changes in the Marine ecosystems.

The results of the T-NASS survey, as well as the Icelandic minke whale research programme, fisheries surveys and other studies point to significant changes in North Atlantic marine ecosystems in recent years. NAMMCO has therefore requested its Scientific Committee to examine the latest information on these changes and the nature of predator-prey relations, and their implications for the management of all marine resources.

- Sealing.

Sealing was a major focus on the NAMMCO meeting. The Commission has requested a special meeting of experts to assess best practices in different forms of seal hunting. The NAMMCO Committee on Hunting Methods brings veterinary experts and hunters together on a regular basis to review and exchange experiences on methods and equipment used in whaling, sealing and walrus hunting and to make recommendations for improvements.

- Health benefit of whale and seal oil.

The health benefits of consuming whale and seal oil were the subject of a specialist workshop organised by NAMMCO and its report on the most recent research findings and further research requirements was presented to the meeting. The health risks associated with high levels of pollutants in some species of small whales and seals warrants continued monitoring. But the documented health benefits of a diet rich in marine fats need to be balanced against these risks. NAMMCO members stressed that stronger global efforts to reduce pollution in the marine environment were crucial to ensuring that the high quality food provided by marine mammals.

- Appointment

Halvard P. Johansen of the Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs in Norway was elected as the new chair of the NAMMCO Council.

THE NAMMCO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Observer : Lars Walløe (Norway)

The Fifteenth Meeting of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee was held at the Arctic Station of the University of Copenhagen in Qeqertarsuaq, Greenland, on 11-14 April 2008. There were observers from Japan and the Russian Federation. The report of NAMMCO SC is confidential until it has been received by the NAMMCO Council which is usually held in the autumn. For this reason much of the information in this report to the IWC SC is outdated.

The report by Gunnar Stefansson as NAMMCO observer to the workshop on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) coordinated by FAO and held 2-6 July 2007 in Tivoli, Italy, was presented. The purpose of this workshop was to define “best practice” standards for developing, testing and applying ecosystem models in relation to an EAF. A direct benefit of using an EAF is that it allows issues to be addressed that cannot be dealt with using a single-species approach.

The Committee recommended the revival of the Working Group on Marine Mammal-Fisheries Interactions, as there are sufficient new developments in the field to justify such an action. In light of the new survey results, the SC requested the WG to expand its terms of reference to include all areas under NAMMCO jurisdiction and investigate dynamic changes in spatial distribution due to ecosystem changes and functional responses.

The Committee was informed about the joint NAFO - NAMMCO symposium on “The Role of Marine Mammals in the Ecosystem in the 21st Century” which would take place in Dartmouth, Canada, 29 September – 1 October 2008. The proceedings of the symposium will be published in the NAFO publication “Journal of North West Atlantic Fisheries Sciences”.

Iceland presented preliminary results from the research programme on the feeding ecology of minke whales which significantly correct the prey composition data input to the model presented to ICES.

Results from the Trans North Atlantic Sightings Survey (T-NASS) were discussed at a meeting of the Working Group on Abundance Estimate (AE WG) in Copenhagen 8 April 2008. Preliminary results from the analysis of T-NASS data were presented and discussed, particularly for fin, minke, humpback and pilot whales, and also harbour porpoises.

Updates on the 4-year Greenlandic research programme on narwhal and beluga were presented. A narwhal tagging programme has been run in West and North Greenland. Six animals were equipped with harpoon-delivered satellite transmitters in the Qaanaaq area in August 2007, while three animals were instrumented with backpack transmitters in September 2007. Another animal was tagged with a backpack transmitter in the Uummannaq area in November 2007. An aerial survey for narwhals was planned for 2008 in East Greenland and an East Greenland narwhal tagging programme was planned, depending on funding. Similarly, surveys in 2009-2010 in the North Water area are planned for both Walrus and Beluga, depending on funding.

The Committee noted that the catch quotas are still higher than the advised maximum take of 135 animals (NAMMCO 2005, 2006) and expresses continued concern about the quota level. At the same time, the Committee recognises that the preliminary data on abundance of narwhal and beluga show higher estimates and encourages Greenland to submit fully corrected estimates derived from the March 2006 and August 2007 surveys to the Committee.

The report from the WG on pilot whales was presented. This WG had been established in response to a request from Council to the SC “to develop a proposal for the details of a cost-effective scientific monitoring programme for pilot whales in the Faroes.” The WG had decided to define their work and concluded that, although this was not expressed directly in the Terms of Reference, the aim of the monitoring programme was to assess the continued sustainability of the Faroese catch. Whilst the WG regretted that it was unable to conclude its work at this meeting, it nevertheless made some important recommendations and suggestions for designing and implementing a monitoring programme.

The Sixteenth Meeting of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee was held in Reykjavik, Iceland, 19-22 April 2009. The report is currently confidential, but will be released following the Council meeting in Tromsø on 8-10 September. It will then be available on the NAMMCO web-page: www.nammco.no