

**Workshop on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues,
IWC/58 in St. Kitts and Nevis**

Sunday 11 to Tuesday 13 June 2006

DRAFT AGENDA
and annotations

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1.1 Appointment of Chair

1.2 Appointment of rapporteur(s)

Sidsel Grønvik (Norway) and Pam Eiser (Australia) are proposed.

1.3 Review of Documents

All documents submitted for consideration by the workshop should be submitted by or through Contracting Governments and should be relevant to items on the agenda and within the purview of the Workshop's Terms of Reference.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND BACKGROUND TO THE WORKSHOP

The Terms of Reference adopted by the Commission at IWC/57 in Ulsan were:

'The Workshop shall build on advances from previous years to consider the following issues and make recommendations as appropriate:

- 1. Practical criteria for determining the onset of irreversible insensibility and death;*
- 2. Means of improving the efficiency of whale killing methods;*
- 3. Reducing times to death and other associated welfare issues;*
- 4. Means for reducing struck and lost rates in whaling operations;*
- 5. The welfare implications of methods used to kill whales caught in nets where they are not released alive; and*
- 6. Practicable methods of reviewing and collecting data from aboriginal hunts*

Safety issues for the crew members of whaling vessels shall be taken into account in all proposals regarding improvements to existing and new methods, and gear, e.g. killing methods for whales caught in nets. Cost issues for aboriginal subsistence hunters shall also be taken into account.

In considering these issues the Workshop shall have regard, inter alia, to data furnished to the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues and also to relevant comparative data from the killing of other large mammals.'

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. DESCRIPTION OF WHALE HUNTING/EUTHANASIA PRACTICES, IMPROVEMENTS SEEN AND REMAINING PROBLEM AREAS

Hunters or experts with direct experience in whale hunting or whale euthanasia are invited to give an overview of their current whale hunting or euthanizing practices with a particular emphasis on the explanation of any improvements seen, the identification of any remaining problem areas and suggestions on what additional improvements might be feasible. It would be helpful if reports could include (but not necessarily be restricted to) information on the following:

- *Concise description of killing methods (primary and secondary) in use and under development;*
- *Estimates of times to death and difficulties in assessment (if improvements have been seen in recent years, it would be helpful to have an explanation of why these improvements have been seen);*
- *Struck and lost rates (if improvements have been seen in recent years, it would be helpful to have an explanation of why these improvements have been seen);*
- *Brief description of training programmes currently in place and any requirements for the 'certification' of gear and hunters;*

All Contracting Governments are invited to submit estimates of time to insensibility or death for the killing of other large mammals. Such information will be helpful in putting estimates of time to insensibility or death from whale hunts/euthanasia into context.

Information provided in this agenda item will be used in subsequent agenda items to identify whether and how changes might be made to hunting practices to address animal welfare concerns while at the same time taking into account hunter safety.

- 4.1 Aboriginal subsistence whaling
- 4.2 Commercial whaling
- 4.3 Whaling under special permit
- 4.4 Euthanasia of stranded or entrapped cetaceans

5. CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE ONSET OF IRREVERSIBLE INSENSIBILITY AND DEATH

5.1 Review of current criteria and practicality of application in:

- 5.1.1 Aboriginal subsistence whaling
- 5.1.2 Commercial whaling
- 5.1.3 Whaling under special permit
- 5.1.4 Euthanasia of stranded or entrapped cetaceans

Hunters or experts with direct experience in whale hunting or whale euthanasia are invited to describe the criteria they use currently, why they use them and any difficulties involved.

5.2 Recommendations for revision of existing criteria or addition of alternative criteria as appropriate.

Recommendations will be reviewed in the context of their practical application. Criteria may therefore differ depending on the whaling operation or situation under which animals are killed and must take hunter safety into account. Those making recommendations should therefore be prepared to explain how their proposed criteria can be implemented in the different operations/situations under which whales are killed and/or identify those operations/situations for which they believe the proposed criteria are applicable.

- 5.2.1 Aboriginal subsistence whaling
- 5.2.2 Commercial whaling
- 5.2.3 Whaling under special permit
- 5.2.4 Euthanasia of stranded or entrapped cetaceans

6. SUMMARY OF RECENT ADVANCES & OUTSTANDING ISSUES, AND DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

A summary of recent improvements and remaining problem areas will be prepared by the Chair with assistance from the workshop organising committee and rapporteurs as necessary (on the basis of the information provided and discussed under items 4 and 5) for review by the workshop participants. The summary can then be used to encourage the development of new recommendations, as required.

6.1 ADVANCES AND OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The objective of this agenda item is to help focus further discussions and, if applicable, to identify similarities and differences within and among different hunts and euthanasia practices as a mechanism of ascertaining where improvements might realistically be made and where lessons can be learned from each other (be this in weapons technology, methods, training, etc.).

- 6.1.1 Aboriginal subsistence whaling
- 6.1.2 Commercial whaling
- 6.1.3 Whaling under special permit
- 6.1.4 Stranded and entrapped cetaceans

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

On the basis of information provided in items 4 & 5, and summarised in item 6.1, the workshop should establish what, if any, improvements can be made under each of the following categories (including improvements in equipment, methods and training) and make recommendations accordingly. Particular consideration should be given to: a) means of improving the efficiency of whale killing methods; b) reducing times to death; and c) reducing struck and lost rates. In any recommendations, due consideration should be given to hunter safety and, for aboriginal subsistence hunts, to cost implications.

- 6.2.1 Aboriginal subsistence whaling
- 6.2.2 Commercial whaling
- 6.2.3 Whaling under special permit
- 6.2.4 Stranded and entrapped cetaceans

6.3 Other recommendations

7. OTHER MATTERS

8. REVIEW OF THE REVISED ACTION PLAN

The workshop participants are invited to review the Revised Action Plan adopted by the Commission at IWC/55 in Berlin to:

- *assess the extent to which the actions contained in the plan are being met; and*
- *on the basis of workshop discussions, to recommend further revisions to the Action Plan.*

9. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT