

64th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

09.00 Hrs Tuesday 26 June 2012

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA
and annotations****1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

- 1.1. Appointment of Chair [*Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho, Mexico, is proposed*]
- 1.2. Appointment of Rapporteurs [*Cherry Allison, Secretariat, is proposed with support from a national delegate*]
- 1.3. Review of documents

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**3. INVESTIGATION OF INEDIBLE 'STINKY' GRAY WHALES**

During the meeting of the Conservation Committee at IWC 57 in 2005 it was agreed to establish a research programme to address the issue of inedible 'stinky' gray whales caught by the Chukotkan aboriginal subsistence hunters. This item will provide an opportunity for the Committee to review and discuss progress with this work.

- 3.1. Report on Progress
- 3.2. Committee discussions and recommendations

4. SHIP STRIKES

At IWC 57 in 2005 the Conservation Committee agreed to address whales being killed or seriously injured by ship strikes, recognising that this is also a matter considered by the IWC's Scientific Committee. Ship strikes appear on the Scientific Committee agenda because the Revised Management Procedure (RMP) requires that recommended catch limits take into account estimates of mortality from all factors including, for example, ship strikes and bycatch. The Conservation Committee's Ship Strikes Working Group's (SSWG) role is to develop more detailed proposals and co-ordinate any work initiated.

The SSWG submitted progress reports to the 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 meetings of the Conservation Committee.

This agenda item will allow the Committee to receive the relevant work of the Scientific Committee, to review the SSWG's progress and any other material that may be submitted by Contracting Governments.

- 4.1 Report from the Scientific Committee
- 4.2 Report from the Ship Strikes Working Group
- 4.3 Committee discussions and recommendations
- 4.4 Appointment of Chair for the Ship Strikes Working Group

5. SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALE POPULATION OF CHILE-PERU

At IWC 60 in 2008 the Conservation Committee received the report of a workshop on the status of this right whale and a number of complimentary recommendations from the Scientific Committee. In response the Conservation Committee: (1) stated the importance of continuing work on the status of right whales and recommended that this issue remain a high priority in the future work of the Scientific Committee; and (2) agreed the item be retained on the Conservation Committee's agenda.

Accordingly this agenda item will provide an opportunity for the Committee to receive updates on work related to Chile-Peru right whale population. Of particular interest this year will be the report of the

Scientific Committee's workshop to assess the status of southern right whales held in Buenos Aires in September 2011.

A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) nomination for South American populations of Southern Right Whales was endorsed at IWC/63 in 2011 and the draft CMP is linked to and will be considered under Agenda Item 8 (Conservation Management Plans).

- 5.1 Report of the Scientific Committee's Southern Right Whale Assessment Workshop
- 5.2 Update on Progress
- 5.3 Committee discussions and action arising

6. WHALEWATCHING

In 2011 the Commission endorsed an IWC Five Year Strategic Plan for Whalewatching pending review by the Scientific Committee of the Plan's research and assessment objectives prior to the Commission's meeting in 2012. Also in 2011 the Commission reviewed and updated the terms of reference for the Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Whalewatching (SWG-WW), and expanded its membership to include two members of the Scientific Committee.

The Scientific aspects of whalewatching are discussed by the Scientific Committee in response to a request in Resolution 1994-14 for it to provide advice relating to whalewatching.

This item will allow the Conservation Committee to hear the report of the intersessional work undertaken by the SWG-WW and to receive an update on the Scientific Committee's continued progress with whalewatching.

- 6.1 Report from the Scientific Committee
- 6.2 Report from the Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Whalewatching
- 6.3 Committee discussions and recommendations

7. WHALE SANCTUARIES

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Conservation Committee to review information related to whale sanctuaries & marine protected areas, including the review of any new sanctuary proposals. Following discussions at IWC/63 in 2011, a proposal to create a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary will continue to be debated as the first substantive Agenda Item at the Commission's 64th Annual Meeting.

- 7.1 Report from the Scientific Committee
- 7.2 Committee discussions and recommendations

8. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

At IWC/63 in 2011 the Commission endorsed a Conservation Committee recommendation to establish a Small Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (SWG-CMP) with membership drawn from both the Conservation Committee and the Scientific Committee. This item will allow the Conservation Committee to hear the report of the SWG-CMP's intersessional work, and to receive an update on the development of new plans, including the proposed CMP for South American populations of right whales that was endorsed at IWC/63.

The Scientific Committee also addresses CMPs as a separate part of its work on Whale Stocks, and at IWC 62 in 2010 it commended to the Commission via the Conservation Committee a CMP for the western North Pacific gray whale which was developed through collaborative work with the IUCN.

- 8.1 Report from the Scientific Committee
- 8.2 Report from the Conservation Committee's Small Working Group
- 8.3 Committee discussions and recommendations

9. NATIONAL REPORTS ON CETACEAN CONSERVATION

Contracting Governments may submit voluntary national reports on cetacean conservation to the Conservation Committee. The Committee welcomes these reports and has encouraged more countries to submit them.

9.1 Introduction of national reports

9.2 Committee discussion and recommendations

10. MARINE DEBRIS

At IWC/63 in 2011 the Commission endorsed a recommendation from the Conservation Committee to include a standing item on Marine Debris on the Committee's agenda. This item will allow Contracting Governments to report progress on initiatives related to marine debris as relevant to cetaceans.

The IWC's intersessional work on co-ordination of responses to large whales entangled in marine debris will be discussed by the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues at its meeting on 25 June.

11. PROGRESS UNDER THE VOLUNTARY FUND FOR SMALL CETACEAN CONSERVATION RESEARCH

In 2011 the Conservation Committee received a strong recommendation from the Scientific Committee's Sub-committee on small cetaceans for funding nine high-standard research and conservation projects under the Commission's voluntary fund. This item will allow the Conservation Committee to receive progress updates from the nine projects.

12. OTHER

13. ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Rule of Procedure C.2

Observers accredited in accordance with Rule [of procedure] C.1.(a) and (b) are admitted to all meetings of the Commission and Technical Committee, and to any meetings of subsidiary groups of the Commission and Technical Committee, except the Commissioners-only meetings and the meetings of the Finance and Administration Committee.