

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

64th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

2-6 July 2012

Panamá, Republic of Panama

Detailed annotations for each item are provided at the end of the Agenda

NOTE:

Provisions adopted under agenda item 4 (Sanctuaries), 6 (Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling) and 12 (Socio-Economic Implications and Small-Type Whaling) may require amendment to the Schedule of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946).

When commenting on the Draft Agenda, Japan noted that it reserved the right to propose an amendment to paragraph 10 of the Schedule which would provide a catch quota of minke whales for its small-type whaling subject to the circumstances in the Future of the IWC process. If Japan does so decide, the proposal, document number IWC/64/9, will be discussed under Agenda Item 12 (Socio-economic implications and small type whaling).

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ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The interim Chair of the Commission, Mr H. Oosthuizen (South Africa) notified Commissioners and Contracting Governments on 21 February 2012 that South Africa is unable to stand for election as Chair of the Commission. Accordingly an elections procedure for Chair and also the vacant position of Vice-Chair may be necessary at the start of the Commission's 64th Annual Meeting.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission are elected according to Rules of Procedure F.1 and G.1 respectively.

2. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

2.1 Welcome Address

The 64th Annual Meeting will open formally at 10.00 on Monday 2 July 2012. Opening remarks will be provided by a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama.

2.2 Opening Statements

The Commission's practice is to accept opening statements from Commissioners and Observers in writing only, although the Chair will invite any new Contracting Governments to make a short opening statement during this part of the plenary session. Written opening statements will be collated by the Secretariat at the meeting and distributed as Commission documents in electronic format via the Commission's website.

2.3 Secretary's Report on Credentials, Voting Rights and Circular Communications

The Secretary will report on the received notifications of credentials (Rule of Procedure D.1.(d)) and on the situation with respect to voting rights (Rule of Procedure E.2.(a) and (b)). Additionally the Secretary will also report on instances of any confidential Circular Communications since the last Commission meeting (Rule of Procedure P.3).

2.4 Meeting Arrangements

Delegates will be informed of any practicalities or other meeting arrangements at registration and by the Secretary under this item.

2.5 Review of Documents

A draft list of documents will be available as IWC/64/2

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Secretary dispatched the Draft Agenda to all Contracting Governments and Commissioners on 23 March 2012 with a request for comments and additions (including annotations for additional items). The Annotated Provisional Agenda was made available on 3 May 2012. The Draft and Provisional Agendas were circulated in accordance with Rules of Procedure H.2.(d)(i) and (ii) respectively. Comments were received from the Governments of Australia, Japan and the USA and are detailed under the appropriate Agenda Items.

When providing overall feedback on the Draft Agenda, the Government of Japan noted that, as was the case for the 60th, 61st, 62nd and 63rd Annual Meetings, its comments on the draft agenda reflected Japan's efforts to reduce unnecessary conflicts by minimising the number of decisions taken by votes at the plenary session. It strongly urges other members to contribute in a similar manner by refraining from making controversial schedule amendment proposals since such proposals are likely to damage the atmosphere of calm and constructive dialogue which has been built during the last few years.

Japan further remarked that in the past, it has expressed the view that it would like to see the Commission focus on its core responsibilities consistent with the Convention and proposed the deletion of a number of items from the agenda including: whale killing methods and associated welfare issues, proposals for new sanctuaries, health issues, whalewatching, small cetaceans and the Conservation Committee. Its position on those matters is well known and remains the same. However, in keeping with its attempt to reduce conflicts within the IWC, it will not propose deletion of those or any other agenda items at the 64th Annual Meeting.

This item also provides the Commission to finalise the order of business for the meeting. Relevant to this, when commenting on the Draft Agenda, the Government of Japan and the Government of the USA both made suggestions for modifying the order of Agenda Items. Traditionally, the order of business has been discussed initially at the Private Commissioners meeting the day before the opening Plenary.

In addition to the order of business, the Commission also agrees on the final Agenda itself under this Item. Attention is drawn to the notes under Item 15 regarding the placement of discussions on 'Safety at Sea'.

4. SANCTUARIES

In commenting on the Draft Agenda, Japan noted that in the past it has proposed amendments to paragraph 7 (b) of the Schedule to the effect that the paragraph becomes consistent with Article V (2) of the Convention. As in recent years and in keeping with its attempts to reduce unnecessary conflicts within the IWC, Japan does not intend to propose a schedule amendment under this agenda item.

4.1 South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary

At its 63rd Annual Meeting in 2011 the Commission resolved to continue to discuss the establishment of a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary as the first substantive agenda item at IWC/64, and that, if consensus cannot be reached on the item a decision will be taken in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

4.2 Other sanctuary issues raised in the Scientific and Conservation Committees

The outcome of discussions on any issues will be reported in IWC/64/Rep 1 (the report of the Scientific Committee) and IWC/64/Rep 4 (the report of the Conservation Committee).

4.3 Other

This item allows for discussion on any other issues related to sanctuaries not previously raised through the Scientific and Conservation Committees.

5. THE IWC IN THE FUTURE

In commenting on the Draft Agenda, Japan requested the continued inclusion of an item on the IWC in the future. It noted that at the last annual meeting the Commission agreed to: (1) encourage continuing dialogue amongst Contracting Governments regarding the future of the IWC; (2) continue to build trust by encouraging Contracting Governments to co-ordinate proposals or initiatives as widely as possible prior to their submission to the Commission; and (3) encourage Contracting Governments to continue to cooperate in taking forward the work of the Commission, notwithstanding their different views regarding the conservation of whales and the management of whaling. Accordingly, this agenda item will provide members of the Commission with an opportunity for continuing dialogue, building trust and encouraging cooperation, all of which are essential for any consensus solution to substantive matters within the IWC.

6. WHALE STOCKS

The Scientific Committee will report on the progress of its work on the assessments of a number of whale stocks identified in its report from its last meeting in 2011(IWC/63/Rep 1) and approved by the Commission. Information on stocks that are either subject to aboriginal subsistence whaling, or are relevant to discussions of Conservation Management Plans, or are being discussed under the Implementation process of the RMP are dealt with under Items 7, 9 and 13, respectively. The Scientific Committee will meet at the El Panama Conference Centre from 11-23 June 2012. Its report will be available prior to the opening of the Commission meeting as document IWC/64/Rep 1.

A sub-item on research cruises is also included.

7. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING

The Sub-Committee on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling is scheduled to meet Wednesday 27 June. Its report will be made available as IWC/64/Rep 3.

The Sub-committee's Terms of Reference are to consider relevant information and documentation from the Scientific Committee, and to consider nutritional, subsistence and cultural needs relating to aboriginal subsistence whaling and the use of whales taken for such purposes, and to provide advice on the dependence of aboriginal communities on specific whale stocks to the Commission for its consideration and determination of appropriate management measures (*Rep. int. Whal. Commn 48:31*).

The Scientific Committee will report in detail to the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee. Accordingly the report of the ASW Sub-committee will include a summary and conclusions from the Scientific Committee report (IWC/64/Rep 1).

7.1 Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure

Commission Resolution 1994-4 established objectives for aboriginal subsistence whaling and requested the Scientific Committee to develop management regimes that would implement these objectives. In fulfilment of that request the Scientific Committee developed and agreed a management procedure which ensures that proposed ASW catches are safely within the Commission's objectives.

The Commission has adopted the Scientific Committee's recommended long-term methods for providing advice for hunts of bowhead and gray whales. In 2008 the Commission also adopted the Scientific Committee's interim approach for providing safe advice on the Greenlandic hunts. This agenda item will allow the Scientific Committee to report on its on-going work to finalise its long-term methods for the Greenlandic hunts. It will also report on its on-going progress with the *Implementation Review* for eastern North Pacific gray whales.

7.2 Aboriginal Whaling Scheme

This item covers ASW management considerations outside of the direct calculation of catch limits, such as carry over, survey guidelines and data collection.

7.3 Aboriginal subsistence whaling catch limits

Catch limits for the majority of the ASW stocks listed below were agreed at the 2007 Annual Meeting for a period of five years, with the exception of the catch of West Greenland humpback whales which was agreed at the 2010 Annual Meeting for a period of two years. Thus current pre-agreed catch limits will expire after 2012. In some cases it was agreed that the catch limits should be reviewed annually and in other cases they were dependent on additional Scientific Committee advice.

This item will allow the ASW Sub-committee to report on catches taken in the 2011 and 2011/12 season, and will also allow Contracting Governments to propose setting of future catch limits by amendment to the wording of paragraph 13.(b) of the Schedule to the ICRW(1946).

- Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort stock of bowhead whales (annual review)
- North Pacific eastern stock of gray whales (annual review)
- Central and west Greenland common minke whale stocks (annual review for minke whales off west Greenland)
- West Greenland stock of fin whales (no Schedule provision for annual review but will be considered in case there are any relevant Scientific Committee comments or recommendations)
- West Greenland stock of bowhead whales (the quota for each year only becomes operative when the Commission has received advice from the Scientific Committee that strikes are unlikely to endanger the stock)
- Humpback whales off west Greenland (no Schedule provision for annual review but will be considered in case there are any relevant Scientific Committee comments or recommendations)
- North Atlantic humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines (no Schedule provision for annual review but will be considered in case there are any relevant Scientific Committee comments or recommendations)

8. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Conservation Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday 26 June and its report will be available as IWC/64/Rep 5.

Its work on Conservation Management Plans and Whalewatching which will be reported separately under Agenda Items 9 and 10 respectively, and its work on Sanctuaries under Agenda Item 4.

8.1 Investigation of inedible 'stinky' gray whales

8.2 Ship Strikes

The Conservation Committee will report on the work of its Ship Strikes Working Group, and also the information it will receive from the Scientific Committee's Bycatch Sub-committee to quantify the number of whales killed or injured by ship strikes.

8.3 Southern Right Whales of Chile-Peru

The Scientific Committee convened a workshop to assess the status of Southern Hemisphere Right Whales from 13-16 September 2011. The workshop was held at the invitation of the Government of Argentina, and the Scientific Committee will report the findings arising from the workshop under Agenda Item 6.5.1 (Whale stocks) and also directly to the Conservation Committee.

A Conservation Management Plan (CMP) nomination for South American populations of Southern Right Whales was endorsed at IWC/63 in 2011. The Scientific workshop referred to above was directly followed by a meeting of representatives of the Conservation Committee tasked with developing the CMP. The draft CMP will be considered under Agenda Item 9 on Conservation Management Plans.

8.4 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.

8.5 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 and reported under Agenda Item 11.

8.6 Voluntary fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research

At IWC/63 in 2011 the Conservation Committee congratulated the Scientific Committee on its work to select nine high standard research and conservation projects for funding under the Commission's small cetaceans fund. This year the Committee will hear a report from the Scientific Committee (and see Item 19.1) on the progress achieved by those projects, and this item will provide an opportunity for the Conservation Committee to report its discussions.

8.7 Other

9. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

At its 63rd Annual Meeting in 2011 the Commission endorsed a proposal from the Conservation Committee to establish a Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (CMP Working Group). The role of the working group involves providing assistance to CMP proponents and facilitating cooperation between the Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee in areas relating to CMP nomination, development, implementation, monitoring and review. This item will allow the Conservation Committee to report on the progress of the CMP working group, including its work to develop new plans, in particular for South American populations of right whales. The Scientific Committee's report on its work on Conservation Management Plans will be provided directly to the Conservation Committee at its meeting on 26 June.

10. WHALEWATCHING

A Five Year Strategic Plan for Whalewatching was endorsed at the Commission's 63rd Annual Meeting in 2011 pending a review by the Scientific Committee of the Plan's research and assessment objectives prior to the next meeting of the Commission in 2012. This item will allow the Conservation Committee to report on the intersessional work undertaken to progress the other objectives of the Strategic Plan covering capacity building, development and management. The Scientific Committee's work on the scientific aspects of whalewatching and its review of the research and assessment objectives of the Strategic Plan will be reported to the Conservation Committee at its meeting on 26 June.

11. WHALE KILLING METHODS AND ASSOCIATED WELFARE ISSUES

The working group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues is scheduled to meet on Monday 25 June and its report will be available as IWC/64/Rep 6. It was established to review information and documentation available with a view to advising the Commission on whale killing methods and associated welfare issues (*Chairman's Report of the 52nd Annual Meeting*).

This year the report will include the work undertaken by the IWC's second intersessional workshop on disentanglement of large whales as endorsed by the Commission at its 63rd Annual Meeting in 2011. The workshop's report is document IWC/64/WKM&AWI Rep 1.

In addition, the working group is expected to report on further work undertaken by the UK to develop recommendations for the IWC arising from a non-IWC workshop on welfare and ethics held in March 2011.

12. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS AND SMALL TYPE WHALING

In discussions prior to and following the adoption of the moratorium on commercial whaling¹ it was agreed that questions related to the implementation of the moratorium should be considered and that data on the social and economic trends in the whaling industry should be collected.

In commenting on the Draft Agenda, Japan noted that it reserved the right to propose an amendment to paragraph 10 of the Schedule which would provide a catch quota of minke whales for its small-type whaling subject to the circumstances of the Future of the IWC process. If Japan does so decide, the proposal, document IWC/64/9, will be discussed under this agenda item.

13. REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP)

The RMP is a method of calculating sustainable removal levels which are consistent with the Commission's objectives for commercial whaling as developed at the 1990 annual meeting. The Commission adopted the RMP in 1994 through Resolution 1994-5, although the same Resolution reaffirmed that the RMP should not be implemented until all aspects of the Revised Management Scheme (RMS) are incorporated into the Schedule. The Commission recognised that discussions on the RMS had reached impasse at IWC/58 in 2006. The Scientific Committee continues to work on several issues related to how the RMP could be implemented, and this item allows the Scientific Committee to report its progress.

14. SCIENTIFIC PERMITS

Paragraph 30 of the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946) states that 'Proposed permits [issued under Article VIII of the ICRW] shall be reviewed and commented upon by the Scientific Committee at Annual Meetings when possible'. This item will allow the Scientific Committee to report on its review.

Since IWC/63 in 2011 Japan has issued permits for taking minke, fin and humpback whales in the Antarctic through its JARPA II programme and for taking minke, Bryde's sei and sperm whales in the North Pacific through its JARPN II programme. Note, however, that Japan agreed to continue to suspend the take of humpback whales in its Antarctic programme in the 2011/12 season as long as progress is being made in the discussions on the future of the IWC.

15. SAFETY AT SEA

In responding to the Draft Agenda, the Government of Japan requested inclusion of this item in order to provide information as follow-up to this issue discussed at past plenary and intersessional meetings of the Commission. In spite of the related resolutions and statement adopted by the Commission, violent activities by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society have continued. Japan also indicated its desire to make a PowerPoint presentation under this item within the meeting.

When responding to the Draft Agenda, the Government of Australia commented that if it was suggested that 'Safety at Sea' be considered by the Commission, this should occur under Item 18 (Co-operation With Other Organisations) in view of its belief that it relates to interactions with the International Maritime Organisation.

Determining the placement of Agenda Items and sub-items takes place under Item 3 (Adoption of the Agenda).

¹ See, for example, Chairman's Report of the 32nd Annual Meeting (*Rep. int. Whal. Commn* 31, item 7, p18) and Chairman's Report of the 38th Annual Meeting (*Rep. int. Whal. Commn* 37, item 6.2, p11)

16. CATCHES BY NON-MEMBER NATIONS

This item provides the opportunity for Contracting Governments to raise issues related to catches by non-member nations. The Scientific Committee will report on communications received during the intersessional period from the Government of Canada.

17. INFRACTIONS, 2011 SEASON

The Infractions Sub-committee is scheduled to meet on 25 June 2012 and its report will be available as IWC/64/Rep 4. The Sub-committee allows Contracting Governments to report Infractions as required under Article IX.4 of the ICRW (1946). The Sub-committee also considers matters and documents relating to national inspection schemes, information required under Sections VI of the Schedule and updates to national laws and regulations.

The Sub-committee will consider the following issues:

- Infractions reports from Contracting Governments;
- Surveillance of whaling operations – this gives Governments the opportunity to comment on their own national inspection schemes;
- Checklist of information required or requested under Section VI of the Schedule – this checklist was developed as an administrative aid to the Sub-committee in helping it determine whether obligations under Section VI of the Schedule were being met;
- Submission of national laws and regulations concerning whaling.

18. ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH ISSUES

Under Resolution 1998-5 the Commission agreed to establish a regular Agenda Item under which the Scientific Committee would report annually on its progress in non-lethal research on environmental concerns, and Contracting Governments could report annually on national and regional efforts to monitor and address the impacts of environmental change on cetaceans and other marine mammals.

The Scientific Committee will report its work on environmental issues in IWC/64/Rep 1 and the issues will be covered under the agenda items as listed below.

In addition, Resolution 1998-11 on concern about human health effects from consumption of cetaceans invites member and non-member governments directly affected to:

- Submit, when possible, reliable information to the IWC relating to possible human health effects resulting from the consumption of cetacean products;
- Encourage the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other appropriate agencies to put this issue on their own agenda; and
- Request further collaboration between the WHO and the IWC on this matter.

Contracting Governments are invited to raise any health issues under item 18.11 (Health Issues).

- 18.1 State of the Cetacean Environment (SOCER)
- 18.2 POLLUTION 2000+ research programme
- 18.3 Cetacean diseases
- 18.4 The impacts of oil and dispersants on cetaceans
- 18.5 Marine renewable energy developments and cetaceans
- 18.6 Anthropogenic sound
- 18.7 Climate Change
- 18.8 Ecosystem modelling
- 18.9 Proposal for a workshop on anthropogenic impacts to cetaceans in the Arctic
- 18.10 Reports from Contracting Governments on national and regional efforts to monitor and address the impacts of environmental change on cetaceans and other marine mammals.

- 18.11 Health Issues
- 18.12 Other

19. OTHER SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES, ITS FUTURE WORK PLAN AND ADOPTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE REPORT

The Scientific Committee will hold its annual meeting in Panama from 11-23 June 2012 under its Chair, Dr Debi Palka (USA). It will be preceded by a two day meeting on marine renewable energy developments and cetaceans.

The report of the Scientific Committee (IWC/64/Rep 1) will be made available to Commissioners and posted on the Commission's public website in advance of the opening of the Commission's annual meeting.

This item will allow opportunity for the Scientific Committee to report its work on items not covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

19.1 Small cetaceans

In 1990 and 1991 the Commission adopted Resolutions 1990-3 and 1991-5 on Small Cetaceans. Together these requested the Scientific Committee to commence and continue a process of collecting information on those stocks of small cetaceans subject to significant directed and incidental takes. Additionally, in 1994 the Commission adopted Resolution 1994-2 which *inter alia* commended the work of the Scientific Committee, agreed that the Commission and non-member coastal states should be involved in the selection of priority topics and established a voluntary fund to enhance the participation of developing countries in small cetacean work.

Of particular interest this year will be the Scientific Committee's review of the taxonomy, population structure and status of beaked and bottlenose whales in the North Pacific and northern Indian Ocean.

Additionally, the Committee will report on progress with the nine small cetacean research and conservation projects for which funding was endorsed at IWC/63 in 2011 under the Commission's voluntary fund (and see Item 8.6).

19.2 Regional non-lethal research partnerships

The Southern Ocean Research Partnership (SORP) was proposed by the Government of Australia in 2008 to develop a multi-lateral scientific research programme so as to deliver relevant scientific information to the IWC. The Scientific Committee will report on progress with a suite of projects being delivered under the Partnership, including the outcomes of an intersessional workshop held in March 2012 in Puerto Varas at the invitation of the Government of Chile.

19.3 Other activities

This item allows the Commission to receive updates on other aspects of the Scientific Committee's work, including Stock Definition, DNA Testing, and its working methods and rules. DNA testing is discussed in response to Commission Resolution 1998-8.

19.4 Scientific Committee Future Work Plan

The Scientific Committee will put forward its proposals for the priority work that it believes it should carry out in the next year for comment and endorsement by the Commission.

19.5 Adoption of the Scientific Committee's report

Following discussion of individual sections of the report of the Scientific Committee (IWC/64/Rep 1) during earlier agenda items, this item allows for the formal adoption of the entire report.

20. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Reports from IWC observers attending meetings of other Inter-governmental organisations will be compiled as document IWC/64/4. The Scientific Committee will include its discussions and comments on co-operation with other organisations in its report (IWC/64/Rep 1).

21. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Finance and Administration Committee is scheduled to meet on 28 June 2012 and its report will be available as IWC/64 Rep 2.

21.1 Meeting arrangements and Procedures

This item will allow the F&A Committee to report on its discussions on the following areas:

- (1) The need for a Technical Committee. The IWC's Technical Committee is constituted under Rule of Procedure M.7 and its primary functions are to provide advice on the management of whaling. The Technical Committee has not met at Annual Meetings since IWC 51 in 1999 although the Commission has agreed to keep the need for a Technical Committee under review.
- (2) The outputs and any recommendations arising from the work of the Commission's intersessional group on quorum. Following discussions on the proposed South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary at IWC/63 in 2011 the Commission agreed to establish an intersessional group (the IG-Q) to consider the interpretation of its Rules of Procedure regarding the quorum necessary for a decision to be taken. This item will allow the F&A Committee to report on the work of the Intersessional Group and its subsequent discussions and recommendations.
- (3) The frequency of meetings and establishment of a Bureau. The 2011 meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee noted a widespread support for moving to biennial Commission meetings. As a result, a small group was convened to prepare a series of actions to enable the Commission to meet every two years from 2012 onwards. The report of the small group was adopted by the Commission at IWC/63 who also established the Intersessional Group on Biennial Meetings and establishment of a Bureau (IG-BB). The Intersessional Group was tasked with compiling a checklist and associated options for moving to biennial meetings. This item will allow the F&A Committee to report on the work of the IG-BB and its subsequent discussions and recommendations.
- (4) The role of observers at Commission meetings. Resolution 2011-1 adopted at IWC/63 requested the Secretary to convene a working group of Contracting Governments and Observers immediately prior to IWC/64 to consider the role of observers at meetings of the Commission based on experience gained in that regard at IWC/63. The working group is scheduled to meet on 27 June and this item will allow the F&A Committee to report on the group's work and its subsequent discussions and recommendations.
- (5) Options for providing assistance to member governments with limited means. At IWC/63 the Commission adopted Resolution 2011-1 which *inter alia* requested the Secretary to report 100 days before the 64th Annual Meeting of the Commission on potential options for providing assistance to member governments with limited means to participate actively in the Commission's work, while retaining consistency with the Convention. The Secretary convened a working group for the purpose of developing the requested options (the WG-AGLM), and this item will allow the F&A Committee to report on the groups work and its subsequent discussions and recommendations.

21.2 The Commission's Website

The F&A Committee will report on progress of work to maintain, expand and otherwise improve the Commission's website

21.3 Operational effectiveness

At IWC/63 the Commission adopted Resolution 2011-1 which *inter alia* resolved to include the effectiveness of the operations of the IWC as a regular item on the Commission's agenda so as to ensure the Commission's rules and procedures are kept up to date with international good practice, and to address any specific problems or issues arising in the operation of the Commission.

21.4 Cost saving measures

At IWC/63 in 2011 the F&A Committee stressed the importance of continued examination of savings that could be brought about by changes in the Commission's working practices. A key item this year will be the F&A Committee's discussions regarding the costs savings that may arise from a move to a paper-free way of working for the Commission and Scientific Committee meetings.

22. FORMULA FOR CALCULATING CONTRIBUTIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

The F&A Committee will report on its discussions on the formula for calculating financial contributions or any other related matters.

23. REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON STRENGTHENING IWC FINANCING

At IWC/62 in 2010, the Commission endorsed a recommendation from the F&A Committee that it convene a small group to work by correspondence to examine ways to integrate conservation funding into the overall budget of the IWC. The group's terms of reference were refined at IWC/63 in 2011, and the group has continued to work intersessionally. The F&A Committee will report on its discussions under this item.

24. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, BUDGETS AND OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE BUDGETARY SUB-COMMITTEE

These matters will first have been discussed by the Budgetary Sub-committee who will make recommendations to the F&A Committee. The discussions of the F&A Committee will be reported in IWC/64/Rep 2.

Financial matters arising under this agenda item, i.e. the review of the provisional financial statement for the current year (2011-2012), and consideration of future budgets are dealt with in documents IWC/64/5 and IWC/64/6 respectively.

Given the option to move to biennial meetings, the F&A Committee will present two options for the future budget. One will be predicated on a decision to move to biennial meetings immediately and so will cover a 24 month period. The other will cover the status quo (i.e. a 12 month financial period).

Discussions under this item may also include consideration of changing the timing of the Commission's current financial year so as to run from 1 January – 31 December, rather than from 1 September – 31 August as presently.

25. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

This item allows for formal adoption of the report of the F&A Committee and all recommendations made under Items 21, 22, 23 and 24.

26. DATE AND PLACE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The date of the next Commission meeting will depend upon the outcome of discussions on meeting frequency under Item 21.1.

The Commission has previously agreed that before the end of each meeting it will decide upon the length of the subsequent meeting. Accordingly the F&A Committee will propose two options for the next meeting to cover dates in either 2013 or 2014 which will include (1) proposed duration and dates for the Scientific Committee; (2) proposals for which Commission sub-groups need to meet and when; (3) the length of the plenary meeting. It will be based upon the outcome of earlier discussions within the Scientific Committee, Finance and Administration Committee and plenary discussions up to this point in the agenda.

The Secretariat requested Contracting Governments to consider hosting either the Scientific Committee meeting in 2013, or a future Commission meeting in Circular Communication IWC.CCG.988 of 8 February 2012. At the present time no Contracting Government has expressed interest in hosting a meeting of the Commission in either 2013 or 2014. The Secretariat reiterates its request and reaffirms that it is able to provide background information to any Contracting Government interested in hosting either Scientific Committee or Commission meetings.

27. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The constitution of the Advisory Committee may be influenced by the outcome of discussions under Item 19.1 on the possible formation of a Bureau. If, however, the Commission decides to maintain the current Advisory Committee then a replacement for the Commissioner of Guinea (elected at IWC/62 in 2010) will be required.

28. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND REQUIRED ACTIONS

The Chair will refer to the daily reports written by the Secretariat and posted on the IWC's website. He will not allow discussions under this item except for points of clarification.

29. OTHER MATTERS

This item may be used to raise any other matters not previously identified in the agenda, and which do not require immediate substantive action by the Commission.