INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

Conservation Committee: Strategic Plan 2016-2026

Vision

Healthy, well managed, and recovered cetacean populations worldwide

Objectives

Robust conservation advice	Best practice threat management	Conservation agenda collaboration	Securing finance
Deliver effective and relevant conservation advice to the Commission and the international community that contributes to global efforts for cetacean conservation	Identify and promote best practice and collaborative management to address priority global threats facing cetaceans	Coordinate and deliver the conservation agenda across the Commission and in partnership with relevant organisations	Establish and leverage financing mechanisms to resource global cetacean conservation efforts

Priorities

Priority actions					Priority threats*					
Sustainable management of whale and dolphin watching	Conservation management planning	Whale sanctuaries and protected areas	Effective financing	Effective data collection and reporting	Ship strikes	Marine debris	Bycatch	Anthropogenic sound	Chemical pollution	Climate change

Measures of Success

Near term

Priority actions to mitigate threats are identified, agreed and regularly reviewed by the Committee in liaison with sub-committees	Committee reporting demonstrates progress against Scientific Committee and Commission recommendations, and priority actions and threats	Conservation Management Plans are implemented and monitored, with an ongoing process to develop new plans	Conservation and management advice contributes to priority actions and threats, including for reviews of whale sanctuaries and protected areas	A strategy is being implemented to attract additional voluntary contributions for whale conservation	The Ship Strike database is resourced and maintained	The Committee collaborates with range states, the Scientific Committee and regional and international bodies to address priority threats	The Committee's communication products are used by a wide range of stakeholders	Decline of the most at-risk cetacean populations has been halted

Long term

The Committee has increased buy-in from the Commission and is better resourced to achieve its objectives	The Committee's advice supports the Commission's decision-making and leads to wider uptake and global reach of conservation efforts	The most at-risk cetacean populations are recovering

* The Committee is aware that there are a broader range of threats to cetaceans, including cetacean diseases, marine energy developments, intentional killing and habitat degradation in riverine and coastal areas. The Committee has prioritised threats that are within its resourcing capacity and scope of influence over the next 10 years, and commits to regularly review these priorities.

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HOW WE WORK

Structure

Secretariat

International Whaling Commission

Bureau

Wider Commission

- Finance and Administration Committee
- Scientific Committee
- **Conservation Committee** (Chair: Mexico; Vice-chair: UK)
- Working Group on Whale Killing methods and Welfare Issues
- Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-Committee
- Infractions Sub-Committee

Committee

- ***Ship Strikes Working Group*** *Chair: USA* — Develops detailed proposals for mitigation of ship strike events and coordinates work between Contracting Governments
- ***Standing Working Group on Whale Watching*** *Chair: USA* — Provides advice on the impacts of whale watching on cetacean conservation
- ***Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans*** *Chair: Australia* — Provides advice on the nomination, development and implementation of Conservation Management Plans

Partnerships

Partnerships across the Commission

Scientific Committee: the Committee collaborates with the Scientific Committee and its sub-committees to implement conservation decisions and understand and address a range of threats to cetaceans and their habitats. This includes the formation of intersessional and ad-hoc joint working groups

Other Commission bodies: the Committee collaborates with the Secretariat, Bureau and other committees to ensure cetacean conservation remains a critical focus of the Commission. This includes relevant standing, intersessional and ad-hoc groups

Partnerships external to the Commission

The Committee collaborates with other international organisations, multilateral environmental agreements, the private sector and non-government organisations on cetacean conservation

Resourcing

Commission resourcing

Voluntary Conservation Fund: aims to leverage donations from Contracting Governments, international organisations and other appropriate donors to support the Commission's conservation priorities

Small Cetacean Conservation Fund: aims to enhance international cooperation to conserve and rebuild depleted populations of small cetaceans

Conservation Management Plans Fund: provides support for collaborative efforts of Contracting Governments to nominate, develop, or implement Conservation Management Plans

'Other Work' Fund: supports conservation and research efforts across the Commission. Under this fund, resourcing has historically been available for conservation efforts that may not fall under other funds, for example through the Whale Entanglement Response Training Programme

External resourcing

Other funding mechanisms: the Committee works to leverage additional funding for cetacean conservation in liaison with the Finance and Administration Committee and relevant sub-committees