

**International Whaling Commission (IWC)**  
**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – Work Plan for the intersessional period 2016-20**

Revised as at February 2020

Aim	Deliverable/Action	Progress	Responsibility	Timescale	Funding allocated
<b>Strategic Planning and Reporting</b>					
Develop a coherent strategy to aid work planning and raise awareness of the work of the Conservation Committee.	Develop a broad vision statement and an outward facing Strategic Plan for its delivery.	Completed. Adopted at IWC66.	<b>Australia. UK.</b>		<b>N/A</b>
	Draft and agree thematic strategic plans for the priority areas of work identified in the outward facing Strategic Plan	A strategic plan for Bycatch was endorsed by the CC at IWC67 A thematic strategic plan for CMPs will be developed for consideration by the CC at IWC68. A ship strikes strategic plan was presented to IWC66.	<b>Relevant Standing Working Groups and other working groups</b>		<b>See below</b>
	Reach out to other IGO partners and identify potential funding donors to provide voluntary contributions to support conservation management actions.	Ongoing	<b>Secretariat</b>		
	Develop a coherent work plan with resources identified where possible.	Ongoing. Plans for the 2020-2024 workplan will be discussed by the Conservation Committee at IWC68	<b>Conservation Committee Vice Chair</b>		
Ensure effective implementation of Conservation Committee recommendations and cross-fertilisation with the Scientific Committee.	Establish a Steering Group to be made up of: Chair and Vice Chair of Conservation Committee, Chair and Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee, representatives from Australia, Argentina, Belgium, USA, Secretariat and convenors of the Conservation Committee preparatory meeting.	At IWC66, the Commission endorsed Terms of Reference (see Annex 1) for annual Conservation Committee Planning Group meetings which would help set the agenda for the biennial Conservation Committee meeting and ensure progression of the Conservation Committee work plan in the intersessional period.  The Work of the joint CC/SC has included the development of a database of recommendations that was endorsed by Conservation Committee and Commission at IWC67	<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Scientific Committee Chair</b>		

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	Establish regular joint meetings (including agreeing Terms of Reference) of the Conservation Committee/Scientific Committee to facilitate the progression of recommendations.	Joint CC/SC meetings were held immediately after the Scientific Committee meetings in 2015,2016,2017 and 2018	<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Scientific Committee Chair</b>		
	Undertake an analysis of Conservation Committee recommendations, including providing a consideration of successes and barriers to effective implementation	Initial analysis done and led to recommendations on the development of a database of recommendations.	<b>Intersessional preparatory drafting group of the CC/SC working group</b>		
Ensure effective reporting to and from the Conservation Committee	Review the current Conservation Committee country reporting template to ensure it remains fit for purpose and delivers the necessary information	Proposed revisions to the reporting process and template were endorsed at IWC67 and progress will be reported to IWC68	<b>Conservation Committee Chair/vice Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>		
	Ensure the information provided by countries in their reports to the Conservation Committee is used effectively in delivering its strategic goals		<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>		
	Increase the number of country reports provided to the Conservation Committee.		<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>		
Sustainable management of whale and dolphin watching					
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of whalewatching operations on cetaceans.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on whale watching.</p>	Revise and update, as necessary, the 5-Year Strategic Plan for Whale watching.	Revisions were endorsed at IWC67	<b>Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair</b>		
	Develop and publish the online whale watching Handbook, seeking input from the Scientific Committee as appropriate.	The Handbook has been completed and was warmly welcomed at IWC67. A consultancy contract has been awarded for some updates to the Handbook. Progress will be reported to IWC68	<b>Standing Working Group on Whalewatching Chair</b>  <b>IWC Secretariat</b>		
	Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing whalewatching and progress any opportunities for capacity building.	An Indian Ocean Rim Association network has been established to build sustainable whale and dolphin watching tourism in the Indian Ocean region and the IWC is exploring opportunities to engage with this network.	<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>  <b>Standing Working Group on Whale Watching Chair</b>		<b>N/A – Australia will coordinate network for first 12 months</b>
	Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities.	Ongoing	<b>Conservation Committee Secretariat</b>  <b>Standing Working Group on Whale Watching Chair</b>		

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	Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of whalewatching.	Not currently prioritized, but will be considered for next CC meeting.	Conservation Committee Chair Secretariat  Standing Working Group on Whale Watching Chair		
Conservation Management Plans					
Further the development and implementation of conservation management plans (CMPs)	Complete a mid-term review of the 2014-2020 CMP WG work plan, to identify progress to date and to inform future priorities, including the status of expenditure under, and guidelines for the use of, the CMP fund.	Completed.  A mid-term review of the work plan was undertaken during the 2016-18 intersessional period, and a revised work plan was submitted to the Conservation Committee and Commission for endorsement at IWC67.  A revised workplan will be presented to the CC at IWC68.	Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans	Complete	N/A
	Develop a work plan to progress the development of regional inventories, including the Arctic and Indian Oceans.	A review of the usefulness of the Pacific inventory will be conducted over the next intersessional period. Recommendations on future inventories will be provided to the CC at IWC68.	Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans	Intersessionally	TBC
	Maintain CMP guidelines, templates and funding principles on the IWC website for use by members wishing to undertake a CMP.	These were reviewed and updated, as necessary, as part of the mid-term review of the CMP work plan. They will remain under biennial review as needed.	Secretariat	Biennial	N/A
	Develop a list of priority species for future CMPs	A list of priority species is included in CMP work plan. It will be updated annually based on advice from the SC-CMPs group.	Scientific Committee  Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans	Annual aligned with SC meeting	N/A
	Refine the inventory of cetacean conservation measures in the Pacific Islands Region and report to the next meeting of the SWG-CMP;	As above, a review of the usefulness of the Pacific inventory will be conducted over the next intersessional period.	Secretariat  Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans	Intersessionally	TBC

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			SPREP/Australia		
	Request the Scientific Committee to review the <b>Oceania Humpback Recovery Plan</b> and assess whether there are gaps that can be addressed by the IWC; and submit reports on the implementation of the Humpback Recovery Plan.	The SWG-CMP will discuss this with the SC-CMPs group, along with other suitable candidates for CMPs.	Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans SC-CMP Group SPREP/Australia		
	Support discussions between scientists and relevant range state governments to continue to further progress development of an <b>Arabian Sea humpback whales</b> CMP	At the CMS CoP in October 2017, a Concerted Action for the Arabian Sea Humpback Whale was agreed. Strong supporting statements were made by Pakistan, UAE, Ecuador, India, Oman, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the IWC Secretariat. Letters were sent to Omani and Indian Commissioners in December 2017. India responded in April 2018 expressing support for developing a CMP. The IWC continues to actively engage with Countries and stakeholders in the region regarding the opportunity for a CMP on this species	Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans	Ongoing	TBC
	Implement the nine high priority actions that were identified in the <b>Southwest Atlantic Southern right whale</b> CMP.	CMP is in place and being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC68.	Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans CMP Coordinator (Brazil)	Ongoing	
	Implement the <b>Southeast Pacific Southern right whale</b> CMP, focusing on the short term objectives in the early implementation stages.	CMP is in place and being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC68.	Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans CMP Coordinator (Chile)	Ongoing	
	Implement the <b>Northwest Pacific Gray Whale</b> CMP, focusing on CMP review and operationalising the MoU	CMP is in place and is being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC68.	Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans CMP Coordinator (Japan)	Ongoing	
	Implement the <b>Franciscana dolphin</b> CMP, focusing on establishing coordination and monitoring processes	CMP is in place and is being implemented. Progress will be reported to the CC at IWC68.	Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans CMP Coordinator (Argentina)	Ongoing	
	Consider actions arising from May 2013 meeting of the SWG-CMP, to determine if these still remain a priority in light of the 2014-2020 work plan and the proposed mid-term review: The actions are listed below.	An action plan focusing on deliverables for 2018-2020 is included in the revised work plan.	Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans	Intersessionally	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review guidelines on the use of the CMP fund.</li></ul>	Complete. CMP funding guidelines were reviewed and updated as part of the mid-term review.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop a list of recommendations to be provided to the IWC communications officer for the development of media to promote CMPs</li></ul>	Complete. The revised work plan includes new actions aimed at better promoting the CMP program.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Draft a proposal for submission to the Scientific Committee on how CMPs can be addressed by the Scientific Committee, and how Scientific Committee information related to CMPs can be provided to proponents.</li></ul>	A new SC-CMPs group was established in 2017. Ensuring effective two-way communication between the groups will be a key focus for the next two years.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Request the ICG-SF to review the World Bank’s Global Program on Oceans guidelines, and if appropriate, draft a proposal seeking funding for marine debris.</li></ul>	N/A – decision not to proceed with threat-based CMPs at this point. We are working with the ICG-SF on funding for CMPs generally.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop a 10-year framework for CMPs to guide the work of the SWG.</li></ul>	New CMPs thematic strategic plan to be developed for IWC68.			May require funding – TBC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review the SWG-CMP terms of reference in light of the group’s broader working agenda.</li></ul>	Complete.			
Whale Sanctuaries and protected areas					
Provide conservation and management input into reviews of proposed and existing whale sanctuaries as appropriate.	Work with the Scientific Committee to ensure the Conservation Committee contributes to the review of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SoS) from a policy and management perspective.	Draft SOS management plan was reviewed by the CC at IWC67.	Conservation Committee Chair		
	Work with the Scientific Committee to ensure the Conservation Committee contributes to the review of the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary proposal (SAWS) from a policy and management perspective.		Conservation Committee Chair		
Ship Strikes					
Seek opportunities to implement the Ship Strikes Strategic Plan.  Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of ship strikes on cetaceans at a population and individual level.	Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing ship strikes and progress any opportunities for capacity building.	Secretariat and Scientific Committee have continued engagement with the International Maritime Organization (IMO).  The IWC joined with ACCOBAMS and IUCN in April 2019 to host a workshop exploring how Important Marine	Conservation Committee Chair  Secretariat  Ship Strikes Working Group		SC Research budget  Netherlands  USA

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Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on ship strikes.		Mammal Areas (IMMAs) might be overlaid with shipping information to help identify high risk areas from ship strikes			
	Review progress of outreach activities and information dissemination, specifically offering advice on how best to enhance and expand outreach efforts.		<b>Ship Strikes Working Group</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>  <b>David Matilla (IWC entanglement adviser)</b>		
	Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of ship strikes.	Can be undertaken using outputs from the database of recommendations. To be considered for IWC68	<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b> <b>Secretariat</b>		
	Ensure the continued maintenance, updating and promotion of the ship strike database. Work to foster the submission of data to the IWC ship strike database and finalize assessment of existing records.		<b>Conservation Committee</b>  <b>Scientific Committee</b>		
	Maintain dialogue with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government of Sri Lanka with regards the risk of ship strike to blue whales</li> <li>The Government of Greece with regards ship strike risk to sperm whales</li> </ul>	The Secretariat has established a dialogue with the Sri Lanka Government, including a meeting between the Secretary and Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife (Gamini Jayawickrama) to draw attention to the discussion of ship strikes and ways in which the Commission may assist. The Secretariat wrote again to the Greek authorities in June 2018 to offer assistance.	<b>IWC Secretariat</b>  <b>Scientific Committee</b>		
	Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications. Work with the Scientific Committee on the proposed workshop to assess Important Marine Mammal Areas and the applicability of this approach for identifying high risk areas for ship strikes.		<b>Ship Strikes Working Group</b>  <b>Scientific Committee</b>		
	Support funding applications to implement the Ship Strikes Strategic Plan				
	Developed a costed work plan for presentation to IWC68 to ensure effective delivery of the Ship Strikes Strategic Plan, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee.	To be presented at IWC68	<b>Ship Strikes Working Group</b>  <b>Conservation Committee</b>		
Marine Debris					

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<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of marine debris on cetaceans at a population and individual level.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on marine debris.</p>	Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing marine debris and progress any opportunities for capacity building.	Marine Debris was the topic of an IWC workshop 3-5 December 2020. The report will be presented to IWC68 and further actions identified.	<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>		
	Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities.		<b>Conservation Committee Secretariat</b>  <b>David Mattila (IWC entanglement adviser)Secretariat</b>		
	Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of marine debris.	Can be undertaken using database of recommendations. To be considered for IWC68	<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b>  <b>Secretariat</b>		
	Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications.		<b>Conservation Committee</b>		
Bycatch					
Further develop and implement the work of the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative.	<p>Identify strategic opportunities for the BMI to work on cetacean bycatch</p> <p>Develop and implement 2020-2024 costed Workplan and continue to implement Strategic Plan for the initiative.</p>	<p>Workplan (2018-2020) progress reported separately. Pilot project locations identified and IWC Commissioners contacted about possible collaboration; RFMO &amp; FAO engagement underway; Capacity building programme initiated. Indian Ocean bycatch workshop held &amp; priorities identified</p> <p>New BMI workplan (2020-2024) to be submitted at IWC68</p>	<b>Bycatch coordinator</b> <b>Standing Working Group</b> <b>Bycatch Expert Panel</b> <b>Conservation Committee</b>	<b>2020-ongoing:</b> <b>Implementation of Strategic Plan</b>	



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	<p>Identify capacity development needs of IWC contracting governments and non-contracting governments and main barriers in relation to tackling cetacean bycatch.</p> <p>Provide technical advice and capacity building to contracting and non-contracting governments in tackling bycatch, through experience gained in pilot projects, affiliated projects etc. Provide advice in response to direct requests for assistance and a dedicated capacity/training programme in collaboration with external partners and existing IWC programmes (e.g. CMPs, GWERN etc).</p>	<p>Indian Ocean cetacean bycatch workshop held in May 2019, identifying key challenges and needs for IWC and non-IWC governments across region for addressing this issue. Outreach with experts and government representatives in priority countries for pilot projects.</p> <p>Planned workshop on bycatch risk assessment (ByRA toolkit) in conjunction with GWERN dis-entanglement training – Colombia. ByRa toolkit translated into Spanish.</p> <p>Discussion with CMP-SWG Chairs on how to engage more closely with CMPs for bycatch action. Involvement in discussions on Asian River dolphin CMP development.</p>	<p><b>Bycatch Coordinator</b></p> <p><b>Bycatch Expert Panel</b></p> <p><b>Standing Working Group on Bycatch</b></p> <p><b>Conservation Committee</b></p> <p><b>Secretariat including IWC entanglement adviser/ Human Impact Reduction</b></p>	2020-ongoing	
	<p>Engagement with relevant IGOs (including FAO, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations &amp; Bodies, CMS, NAMMCO), international bodies (e.g. World Bank, MSC, ICES), industry groups (ISSF etc) and research bodies and NGOS to strengthen collaboration and coordination in relation to bycatch work.</p>	<p><b>FAO.</b> BMI coordinator participated in <a href="#">2019 FAO expert workshop on developing technical guidelines to reducing marine mammal bycatch</a>. Detailed comments from Coordinator, Expert Panel and Secretariat provided to FAO on draft 1 &amp; 2 of guidelines. IWC Secretariat released a Circular alerting IWC Commissioners, national representatives and Scientific Committee members to comment period for draft guidelines. *Planned attendance at FAO COFI 2020 meeting *tbc</p> <p><b>RFMOs.</b> <i>Kobe bycatch working group</i> IWC Secretariat participated in 2019 Joint tuna RFMO working group on bycatch (Kobe bycatch working group) meeting, December 2019. Held a dedicated side event (55 attendees) to raise awareness of cetacean bycatch &amp; the need for RFMOs to assess and address this issue in a multi-taxa bycatch context.</p>	<p><b>Bycatch Coordinator</b></p> <p><b>Conservation Committee</b></p> <p><b>Standing Working Group on Bycatch</b></p> <p><b>Expert Panel</b></p>	2020-ongoing	



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		<p><i>Common Oceans ABNJ</i> Collaboration with Common Oceans ABNJ Phase 2 development team. Development and submission of cetacean bycatch project concept 'capsule'.</p> <p><i>RFMO review document</i> IWC Secretariat intern produced a review document assessing 16 RFMOs for their cetacean bycatch management measures &amp; suggested prioritisation for IWC engagement. External review by IOTC and ICCAT Secretariat staff, Bycatch Expert Panel, SWG and NGOs.</p> <p><i>IOTC</i> BMI Coordinator remotely participated in the IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch. Presentation on outcomes from BMI Indian Ocean Workshop. Chair of IOTC Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch attended the BMI Indian Ocean bycatch workshop in Nairobi where specific opportunities for engaging IOTC on cetacean bycatch were discussed.</p> <p><b>ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS.</b> BMI Coordinator part of the joint working group on bycatch. Planned attendance for first in-person meeting Oct 2020.</p> <p><b>NGOs</b> BMI coordinator regularly engages with a number of NGOs including Pew Foundation, WWF, WDC, HSI. Including engaging NGO support (financial, in-kind, contacts etc) for Nairobi bycatch workshop (e.g. Pew, WWF). Collaboration planned in potential pilot projects (e.g. WWF, WDC). Coordination on RFMO engagement (WWF, Pew, WDC)</p>			

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	Report to the Commission on progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of bycatch through the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative.	Progress report to be submitted to IWC68	<b>Standing Working Group on Bycatch</b> <b>Conservation Committee Secretariat</b> <b>Bycatch Coordinator</b>	2020- ongoing	
	Develop recommendations based on the findings and outputs arising from the BMI, including pilot studies, affiliated projects and engagement with IGOs and relevant workshops and publications.	Draft recommendations from Indian Ocean cetacean bycatch workshop waiting approval from IWC68	<b>Conservation Committee</b> <b>Standing Working Group on Bycatch</b> <b>Bycatch Coordinator</b>	Ongoing	
	IWC Contracting Governments to Support the BMI as appropriate according to national circumstances including: -Through the development of appropriate national legislation and plans to tackle bycatch -Reporting of experiences and plans on bycatch into the BMI and through Conservation Committee Reports -Assistance in identifying potential funding sources to support the BMI (pilot projects/capacity development), and work with the Bycatch Coordinator to develop collaborative joint proposals.		<b>Conservation Committee</b> <b>Standing Working Group on Bycatch</b>	Ongoing	
<b>Anthropogenic Sound</b>					
<p>Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans.</p> <p>Establish linkages between the IWC and other relevant bodies to ensure the dissemination of IWC advice on anthropogenic noise.</p>	Further identify and engage with appropriate regional and international bodies addressing anthropogenic noise and progress any opportunities for capacity building, in particular with regards the IMO ( <i>IWC/64/Rep5</i> , <i>IWC/64/Rep1</i> ).	<p>Provision of a paper to the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), providing an update of recent information on underwater noise from shipping Since then the IWC has continued engagement with the International Maritime Organization on this issue, including attendance at a workshop on 'Quieting Ships to Protect the Marine Environment: Technical Workshop' organised jointly by the IMO and Canada.</p> <p>Engagement with the UN including contribution to the report of the UN Secretary General on Anthropogenic Underwater noise to the Open Ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (18-22 June 2018) and Executive Secretary</p>	<b>Conservation Committee Secretariat</b>  <b>Intersessional Group on Anthropogenic Sound</b>		

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		participation as a panellist at this meeting.			
	Review progress of outreach activities and information flow, specifically providing advice on how the IWC could further enhance its outreach and capacity building activities.		<b>Conservation Committee</b> <b>Secretariat</b> <b>Intersessional Group on Anthropogenic Sound</b>		
	Provide a report to the Commission synthesising progress in addressing IWC Recommendations on the mitigation and management of anthropogenic noise.	Can be undertaken using outputs from the database of recommendations. To be considered for IWC68	<b>Conservation Committee Chair</b> <b>Secretariat</b>		
	Consider recommendations arising from relevant workshops and publications including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased Marine Activities on Cetaceans in the Arctic (<i>IWC/65/Rep07 Rev1</i>)</li> <li>Planned workshop on the evaluation of stress and sound (<i>IWC66 rep1 (2015) 12.4.3</i>).</li> </ul>	SC and CC workshops on underwater noise will be held during this intersessional period and, amongst other objectives will consider recommendations arising from other relevant workshops and publications. The reports of these workshops will be presented to IWC68.			
<b>Other Threats</b>					
Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of chemical pollution on cetaceans.		Intersessional work ongoing and progress will be reported to IWC68			
Consider and act upon, as appropriate, the advice and recommendations from the SC on the impacts of climate change on cetaceans.		Intersessional work ongoing and progress will be reported to IWC68			