

Small Cetaceans Task Team Initiative (SCTT) – Terms of Reference as of May 2021

The Small Cetacean Task Teams (SCTTs) are an initiative of the Scientific Committee (SC) of the International Whaling Commission.

Initiated in 2015, Task Teams are intended to provide a fast response in situations where a population of cetaceans is known or suspected to be in danger of a significant decline that could ultimately lead to extirpation or extinction. Specifically, Task Teams are created to provide timely conservation advice on immediate actions to support recovery and threat abatement activities.

1. Structure

- 1.1 The SCTT will have a steering committee that shall oversee the work of individual Task Teams:
- 1.2 The Steering Committee shall comprise a convener and members of the SC, who are appointed by the SC, the chair and/or co-chair of the Small Cetaceans Sub-Committee and the IWC Secretariat Science Lead¹;
- 1.3 The Steering Committee shall report annually to the IWC Scientific Committee via the Small Cetaceans Sub-Committee, and to the IWC Conservation Committee;
- 1.4 The role of the Steering Committee convener is to organise its meetings and to facilitate information exchange within the Committee and with the Task Teams;
- 1.5 The role of the Steering Committee is to recommend which populations may be suitable for the development of new Task Teams, subject to the approval of the Scientific Committee, and otherwise provide support and advice to the TTs as appropriate;
- 1.6 The Steering Committee shall appoint one or more coordinators to the Task Team and request that the coordinator(s) propose a Task Team membership list, to be approved by the Steering Committee;
- 1.7 The Steering Committee will also provide advice on Task Team-related funding opportunities to any relevant funding sources and works with the IWC Secretariat to help secure funds for Task Team activities.

2. Task Team Activities

Each Task Team:

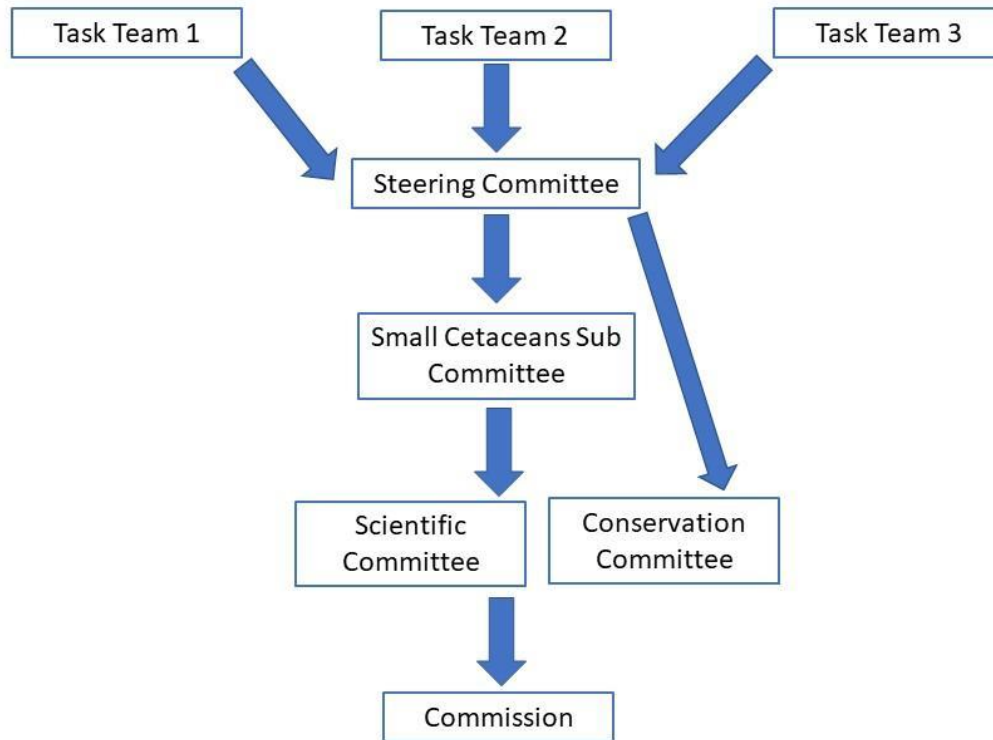
- 2.1 Continues to monitor and review information about the focal population(s);
- 2.2. Defines the specific purpose, aim(s) and broad activities, to include a timeline if possible;
- 2.3 Submits a detailed workplan of priority actions for the approval of the Steering Committee;
- 2.4 Works with the IWC Secretariat and Steering Committee to:
 - (a) Establish dialogue with the relevant country/countries;
 - (b) Provide advice and assistance to others concerned with the conservation of the focal population as proves appropriate;

¹ Usually, the membership of the Steering Committee and the Task Teams will not overlap.

(c) Identify funding sources for its activities

2.5. Provides a succinct annual report of its activities to the Steering Committee one month ahead of the meeting of the SC.

Task Teams reporting structure



4. Notes

There is no limit on the number of Task Teams that can operate simultaneously.