

63rd Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

09.00 Hrs Wednesday 6 July 2011

**DRAFT 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 has submitted progress reports to the 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 meetings of the Conservation Committee. A sixth progress report will be available this year for the Committee’s consideration.

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. Of particular interest this year will be the report of the joint IWC/ACCOBAMS workshop on ship strike mitigation which was held in Beaulieu-sur-Mer in September 2010.

- 4.1 Report of the joint IWC/ACCOBAMS workshop
- 4.2 Report from the Scientific Committee
- 4.3 Report from the Ship Strikes Working Group
- 4.4 Committee discussions and recommendations

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.

5.1 Update on Progress

6. WHALEWATCHING

At IWC/59 in 2007 it was noted that while the Scientific Committee's Whalewatching Sub-committee deals exclusively with the scientific aspects of whalewatching, the Conservation Committee could usefully address aspects related to management, including the implementation of the Scientific Committee's recommendations, socio-economic aspects and international co-operation. Accordingly in 2008 the Conservation Committee established an intersessional correspondence group to look at all aspects of whalewatching. This group made a series of recommendations to IWC/61 in 2009 which included setting up a Standing Working Group (SWG) on Whalewatching.

The SWG presented its preliminary strategic plan for the five year period 2010-2015 at IWC/62 in 2010. Following IWC/62 a workshop was held in Argentina in November 2010 to commence discussion and initiate work on the key themes identified in the strategic plan.

This item will allow the Conservation Committee to review the relevant work of the Scientific Committee and the SWG on Whalewatching, including the report of the November 2010 workshop and the final Five-Year Strategic Plan for Whalewatching.

- 6.1 Report of the November 2010 workshop on whale watching
- 6.2 Report from the Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Whalewatching
- 6.3 Report of the Scientific Committee
- 6.4 Strategic Plan for Whalewatching 2011-2016 and the Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Whalewatching
- 6.5 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.

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

8. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

At IWC/61 in 2009 the Conservation Committee endorsed the formation of a small, specialist group (SSG) to construct a list of candidate conservation management plans (CMP). This group reported to IWC/62 in 2010 and provided a draft framework for producing CMPs. A number of comments were received and the SSG is working towards the presentation of a final proposal to the Conservation Committee at IWC/63.

At IWC/62 there was also discussion on future CMPs. A number of candidates were suggested including the Chile-Peru population of southern right whales, and also the possibility of including all South American right whales given the recent and unexplained die off of right whale calves in Argentinean waters. At IWC/62 members of the Conservation Committee proposed that a workshop to consider the first CMP proposal be arranged to immediately follow the Scientific Committee right whale assessment workshop which will be held in Argentina in September 2011.

The Scientific Committee also addresses CMPs as a separate part of its work on Whale Stocks. It had previously agreed an approach for developing CMPs, 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.

This agenda item will provide an opportunity for the Conservation Committee to review any progress and new information related to CMPs.

- 8.1 Report from the Scientific Committee
- 8.2 Report from the Conservation Committee's Small Specialist Group
 - 8.2.1 Proposed framework for Conservation Management Plans
 - 8.2.2 Management of voluntary funds for Conservation Management Plans
- 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. OTHER MATTERS

10.1 Consideration of report of 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 terms of reference stated the group would 'develop proposals for strengthening the financing of conservation with a view to striking a balance between funding for conservation and funding for management'. While the discussion of the ICG report will take place at the F&A Committee, the Chair of the ICG has requested that Contracting Governments at the Conservation Committee consider providing preliminary information on possible projects which could benefit from external funding under the proposals given in the ICG report.

10.2 Establishment of Conservation Committee Vice-Chair

In commenting on the draft Agenda the Government of Belgium proposed that the Conservation Committee may wish to consider the establishment of a Vice-Chair position. They considered that this is justified by the increasing number of issues which being dealt with by the Committee and the increasing need for intersessional work.

10.3 Other

11. 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.