

62nd Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

THE IWC IN THE FUTURE

Further discussions on the future of IWC will start on 16 June and will continue into the plenary itself (i.e. under Agenda item 3). Sessions prior to the plenary are scheduled for Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 June and during the private meeting of Commissioners on Sunday 20 June. The sessions on 16 and 17 June and during plenary are open to observers, while that on 20 June will be a closed session.

This draft agenda is intended to guide the structure of the discussions throughout all these sessions.

DRAFT AGENDA

(see Annex for annotations)

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Annex

Annotations to the Draft Agenda

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1.1 Introductory remarks

The Chair of the Commission, Cristian Maquieira, will make some introductory remarks and indicate how he intends to handle discussions on the future of the IWC.

1.2 Reporting

Nicky Grandy and Greg Donovan (Secretariat) are proposed as rapporteurs.

The nature of any report prior to the plenary session will depend on the nature of discussions in the sessions on 16, 17 and 20 June.

1.3 Review of documents

The Chair will note briefly the documents relevant for the meeting (see IWC/62/FUTURE 2).

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. PROPOSED CONSENSUS DECISION TO IMPROVE THE CONSERVATION OF WHALES

At last year's meeting, the Commission reviewed progress with discussions on the future of IWC. Recognising that the work was not complete, the Commission agreed by consensus to extend the time allocated to the Small Working Group (SWG) on the Future of the IWC until IWC/62 in 2010. The SWG, that was opened up to observers, was tasked with intensifying its efforts to conclude a package or packages by 2010 that should allow the Commission to reach a consensus solution to the major problems it faces, building upon the concept of a two-phase process and the progress reported by the SWG in its report to IWC/61. The Commission also agreed that the Chair, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, should establish a Support Group containing equitable geographic and socio-economic representation and range of views to assist him in providing direction to the process and in the preparation of material for submission to the SWG. The Support Group comprised Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, St. Kitts and Nevis, Sweden and the USA. Norway was invited by the Chair to participate and attended the last two meetings of the Support Group as an observer.

On the basis of discussions of three meetings of the Support Group (in Santiago, Chile in September 2009; in Seattle, USA in December 2009 and in Honolulu, USA in January 2010), the Chair of the Commission submitted a report to the March 2010 meeting of the SWG in Florida that contained a set of ideas (a draft Consensus Decision to Improve the Conservation of Whales) as to how the IWC could function in the future (see Document IWC/M10/SWG 4). It was discussed thoroughly and a report of the SWG meeting is available as IWC/62/6rev.

The Support Group met again in Washington, USA in April to consider comments on the draft Consensus Decision made at the SWG meeting and subsequently in writing (see Document IWC/A10/SG 1).

The proposed Consensus Decision to Improve the Conservation of Whales (Document IWC/62/7rev) was developed by the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Commission on the basis of discussions of the Support Group and SWG described above.

3.1 Presentation of the proposed Consensus Decision (Document IWC/62/7rev)

The Chair of the Commission will present the proposed Consensus Decision. In doing so, he will provide a summary of the process leading up to the development of the document, including the discussions of the SWG in Florida in March this year. He will also refer briefly to: (1) Document IWC/62/8 concerning the amendments to the Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Rules of Debate that would be required to give effect to certain aspects of the proposed Consensus Decision; and (2) Document IWC/62/10 that provides cost estimates for a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme of possible whaling operations under the proposed Consensus Decision and how costs might be apportioned.

The Chair will allow questions for clarification under this agenda item, but suggests that in-depth discussions be postponed to item 3.3.

3.2 Scientific advice

The SWG meeting in Florida received a report from the Scientific Assessment Group (SAG) that had been instituted by the Support Group to provide a concise scientific view on whether it believed any proposed catches are such that the long-term status of the populations concerned will not be negatively affected. Following discussions of the SAG report, the SWG agreed that it was appropriate for the Scientific Committee to review: (1) the SAG report for clarity and completeness; and (2) the scientific aspects of the draft Consensus Decision. Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee's work were agreed (Annex G of IWC/62/6rev). The outcome of the Scientific Committee's discussions on these issues will be reported.

3.3 Discussion

Before opening the floor to discussion, the Chair will outline how he would like to like to structure the discussions.

4. FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERSESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE GROUP (ICG) ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

At IWC/61 last year, the Commission agreed to establish a joint Scientific and Finance and Administration working group on Scientific Committee matters to further the discussions of the ICG. Unfortunately, due to pressures of work resulting from the intesessional meetings related to discussions on the future of the IWC since IWC/61 last year, the Joint Working Group was never established. Instead, a discussion document prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with others will be available.

5. OTHER MATTERS

6. ACTION ARISING