

**Special Session of the F&A Committee
Wednesday 23 May, 2007**

**Possible options to consider regarding meeting frequency of the
Commission and its subsidiary bodies**

(prepared by the Secretariat)

1. THIS DOCUMENT

After outlining the background to this issue and describing the structure and timing of recent Annual Meetings, this document provides some possible options for consideration by the F&A Committee regarding the frequency of meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. It also discusses briefly the timing and implications of any decision. As the Special Session on the Frequency of Meetings is only of 1.5 hours duration (09.00 to 10.30), the Secretariat considered that the provision of possible options may help facilitate discussions. The options include the suggestions made by Contracting Governments at previous meetings. Their implications, including those of a financial nature, are identified.

This document should be read in conjunction with Documents IWC/57/F&A 9, IWC/58/F&A 5 and IWC/58/F&A 5 add (see background below).

Action required: The F&A Committee is invited to:

- (i) review the document, comment on the options and identify other options as appropriate; and*
- (ii) develop recommendations to the Commission regarding meeting frequency, including the timing of the introduction of any changes as appropriate.*

2. BACKGROUND

The possibility of moving away from annual meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies has been raised on a number of occasions over the years. Most recently discussions were renewed with the adoption at IWC/56 in Sorrento in 2004 of Resolution 2004-7 on 'the Frequency of Meetings of the International Whaling Commission' (see Annex 1).

To assist discussions, the following documents were prepared for meetings of the F&A Committee at IWC/57 in 2005 and IWC/58 in 2006:

- IWC/57/F&A 9: A preliminary exploration of the possibilities and implications of less frequent meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary groups;

This document reviewed the structure of other Conventions and identified a number of practical implications should IWC meetings be held less frequently, including any necessary revisions to the Schedule, Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations.

- IWC/58/F&A 5: Discussion document: Further thoughts on reducing the frequency of IWC meetings

This document: (1) summarised the background and discussions on the issue; (2) identified further considerations in relation to the Scientific Committee and the Commission and its other sub-groups; (3) identified cost implications of less frequent meetings for both the Commission as a body and for Contracting Governments; (4) considered an appropriate timing for any move to less frequent meetings; and (5) dealt briefly with the necessary amendments to the Schedule, Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations. This document also included IWC/58/F&A 5 add: A very hypothetical set of examples of how a 2-year cycle might work with respect to the review of catch limits.

Discussions in the F&A Committee and in the Commission during IWC/57 and IWC/58 have been similar.

Last year, a number of delegations spoke in support (principally related to cost savings) of moving to biennial meetings as soon as possible, noting that this should not lead to an increase in intersessional meetings. Several countries noted that savings from meeting only every two years could be used to help meet other expenses such as those for interpretation and document translation. Others, while not against the concept of moving away from

Annual Meetings, identified similar concerns as those expressed in Ulsan, including that the mechanics of such a move should be well thought through, that a decision should not be taken in haste, that consideration would need to be given to the size and composition of any Standing Committee/Bureau that the Commission may establish to guide it between meetings and that there needed to be recognition that Special Sessions of the Commission may be needed on occasion. One country noted that reducing the frequency of meetings may hinder the Commission's efforts to break the current deadlock, including development of an RMS, and that it would lead inevitably to an increase in intersessional meetings that would discriminate against developing countries who would find them difficult to attend.

Some delegations supported the continuation of Annual Meetings of the Commission. Noting that IWC is a resource-management organisation, one delegation believed that IWC should conduct its business on an annual basis; another did not believe that the cost savings were sufficient to make a move to a two-year cycle worthwhile. Another delegation suggested that the length of the Annual Meeting series could be reduced by, for example, not holding sub-group meetings. It suggested that this would be of advantage to those countries that are unable to attend both the sub-group and Commission meetings and would also contribute to cost savings.

Different views were expressed on whether the Scientific Committee should continue to meet on an annual basis.

The Commission agreed to hold a special session of the F&A Committee at IWC/59 as a way of coming to a decision on this matter. However, it was also agreed that any move to a two-year cycle would not take effect until after 2008.

3. STRUCTURE AND TIMING OF RECENT ANNUAL MEETINGS

The structure and timing of recent Annual Meeting series is shown in Annex 2. Including set-up time prior to the Scientific Committee meeting (i.e. the time needed for the Secretariat to set-up its office and meeting rooms and to copy documents), the length of the meeting series for the last four meetings has been between 27 and 29 days. It is 28 days for IWC/59. The Scientific Committee meets for 12 days, and usually has pre-meetings over two days prior to the start of the main meeting. The number of days set aside for meetings of the Commission's other sub-groups varies has varied between four and five days for IWC/55 to IWC/58. Only three days have been set aside for IWC/59 since fewer groups needed to meet. The length of the Commission plenary was four days for IWC/55, 56 and 57, but was 5 days for IWC/58. Four days have been scheduled for the Commission plenary at IWC/59.

It should be noted that the transition between the three sections of the meeting (i.e. Scientific Committee, sub-groups and Commission plenary) also requires set-up time. Furthermore, for IWC/59, three, rather than the recent two, days have been scheduled between the end of the Scientific Committee and the beginning of the Commission sub-groups in recognition that (1) two days is insufficient to finalise the Scientific Committee report and (2) the Commission has now agreed that summaries of the Scientific Committee Report will be prepared in French and Spanish. An extra day has also been included at the end of the sub-group meetings and before the Commission to give more time for the preparation and adoption of sub-group reports and for the translation of documents as agreed by the Commission last year.

Subsidiary bodies of the Commission

The following subsidiary bodies currently exist:

- Technical Committee (TC);
- Scientific Committee (SC);
- Finance and Administration Committee (F&A)
 - Budgetary Sub-committee (BS-C)
 - Contributions Sub-committee
 - Contributions Task Force (CTF)
- Conservation Committee (CC)
 - Ship Strikes Working Group (SSWG)
- Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee (ASW);
- Infractions Sub-committee;
- Working Group on the Revised Management Scheme (RMS);
- Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Animal Welfare Issues.

Not all of the groups currently meet or meet every year. The Technical Committee has not met since IWC/51 in 1999. However, the Commission has agreed that the need for the TC be kept under review since it may have a role to play if and when the RMS is completed and catch limits set. The Contributions Sub-committee has not met since IWC/54 in 2002 since it was decided that the Contributions Task Force could report directly to the

F&A Committee and obviate the need for the Sub-committee. The CTF continued to meet (usually intersessionally) until IWC/55 in 2003 but then its work was put on hold pending the outcome of RMS discussions. It met briefly at IWC/58 last year when it was agreed that work to revise the contributions formula should not be linked to completion of the RMS and that work could therefore be resumed. Although the Commission agreed that up to two meetings of the CTF should be held intersessionally prior to IWC/59 in Anchorage, it was not possible to identify suitable dates for CTF members and so the group has not met. The remaining groups currently meet annually¹.

The scheduling and timing of the sub-group meetings for IWC/55 to IWC/59 is provided in Annex 3. The duration of the meetings of each of the sub-groups has varied, depending on the issues to be addressed. For example, the F&A Committee typically meets for ¾ day (3 sessions), while the ASW Sub-committee may only need 1 session in years when it is dealing only with routine matters, but may need two to three sessions when dealing with more technical matters such as the adoption of an *SLA (Strike Limit Algorithm)* or review of quotas. The meeting of the Infractions Sub-committee typically takes less than 1 session. Between IWC/55 and IWC/58, considerable time had been allotted to meetings on development of an RMS (either RMS Working Group meetings or private meetings of Commissioners). However, with the impasse now reached on RMS development, no time has been allotted for RMS discussions during the sub-group week at IWC/59. The Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues generally meets for ½ day during Annual Meetings, but every 3 years or so, longer workshops (2-3 days) have been held. Since its establishment, the Conservation Committee has met for at least ½ a day at each Annual Meeting.

4. POSSIBLE OPTIONS

Of the many options that could be developed, four options regarding length and frequency of meetings that the F&A Committee may wish to consider are given in this document:

1. the *status quo*, i.e. annual meetings of the Scientific Committee, Commission sub-groups and Commission;
2. annual meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, but reduce the overall length of the meeting series;
3. annual meetings of the Scientific Committee, but biennial meetings of the Commission and its other sub-groups;
4. biennial meetings of the Commission, Scientific Committee and other sub-groups;

The four options are expanded on in the sections below and summarised in Table 2. There are of course other options that the F&A Committee may wish to identify.

Finally, the Commission might decide that it is premature to make a decision at present given the uncertainty about the organisation and agree to retain the *status quo* for the present.

Option 1: Positive decision to continue the *status quo*, i.e. annual meetings of the Scientific Committee, Commission sub-groups and Commission over the same time-frame

Option 1 represents a positive decision of the Commission to continue the *status quo*, and is therefore not the same as postponing a decision until uncertainty over the organisations is resolved. With Option 1 there would obviously be no need to amend the Schedule or Rules of Procedure/Financial Regulations, and costs to the Commission, Contracting Governments and observers would continue as at present (noting possible implications of the discussions regarding the introduction of French and Spanish as working languages of the Commission – Document IWC/59/F&A 5).

¹ Due to a heavy programme of work of the Commission's sub-groups at IWC/56 in Sorrento in 2004, the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Animal Welfare Issues did not meet. However, there had been a 3-day technical workshop at IWC/55 in 2003 and the issue was on the Commission's agenda for IWC/56.

Option 2: Continue annual meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, but reduce the overall length of the meeting series

Scientific Committee

The present workload of the Scientific Committee is such that it requires a number of intersessional workshops and/or pre-meetings for it to complete its work. Furthermore, the iterative nature of much of its activities requires continuity and regular review of the work of the sub-groups by the full Committee to allow progress to be made. This is particularly true for work and timescales that the Commission has given the Scientific Committee, particularly in relation to the Comprehensive Assessment of stocks, RMP *Implementation* and *Implementation Reviews* and the development of *Strike Limit Algorithms (SLA)* for Greenlandic stocks and the conduct of *Implementation Reviews* for bowhead and gray whales.

Currently the Scientific Committee meets for 12 days, working each day from the early morning to late at night. There is little scope for reducing the length of its meeting unless the Commission changes its priorities and requests for advice. Re-scheduling of work over a longer time-frame, addressing some issues in alternate years or indeed deleting some elements from the Committee's work programme could reduce meeting length.

Commission sub-groups

If the Commission continues to meet on an annual basis, it is probably not possible to dispense with annual meetings of all sub-groups. For example, it is probably necessary for the F&A Committee to meet annually so long as the Commission agrees annual budgets. It is also probably necessary for the ASW Sub-committee to continue to meet until an *SLA* or *SLAs* is/are adopted for Greenland. However, once *SLAs* are agreed for all subsistence hunts, and assuming ASW quotas are set for 5 year blocks – and renewed all at the same time – annual meetings of the ASW sub-committee would probably not be necessary and routine matters could be dealt with by the Commission in plenary. Similarly the reporting and review of infractions could probably be done, at least at present, in plenary rather than scheduling a meeting of the Infractions Sub-committee. Depending on the Commission's priorities, it may be possible for some sub-groups to meet in alternate years rather than annually. In this way it may be possible to reduce the number of days set aside for sub-group meetings from the current 3-4 days to 1-1.5 days.

Commission

If the discussions that would normally take place in sub-groups are transferred to the Commission, the plenary meeting would probably need to be at least 4 days duration.

Need to amend Schedule and/or Rules of Procedure/Financial Regulations and other considerations

No amendments would be needed.

After the end of the Scientific Committee meeting, around 4 days are required to finalise preparation of its report, prepare translations of a summary in French and Spanish (as agreed last year) and to make copies for distribution to the Commission and observers. This implies that there will need to be an interval of at least x days between the end of the Scientific Committee meeting and the start of the Commission sub-groups or plenary. Similarly, if some sub-groups continue to meet, there will need to be an interval of 2-3 days between the end of the sub-group meetings and the start of the Commission plenary to allow for finalisation and copying of sub-group reports (and possibly translation) and setting-up the plenary meeting room (in most venues used recently for IWC Annual Meetings, the Commission has met in the same meeting room space as used for the Scientific Committee and sub-groups).

Potential cost savings

Unless the Commission revises its priorities for the Scientific Committee, it would appear difficult to reduce significantly the overall length of the Annual Meeting series. Cost and time savings to both the Commission and Contracting Governments (and observers) would therefore be minimal.

Option 3: Annual meetings of the Scientific Committee, but biennial meetings of the Commission and its other sub-groups

This option assumes that the Commission does not revise its priorities for, and requests to, the Scientific Committee with the consequence that the Scientific Committee needs to continue to meet annually.

Scientific Committee

In the current circumstances, without revision of the Commission's priorities, it would be difficult for the Scientific Committee to conduct its business without meeting annually. Pre-meetings in association with the Committee's Annual Meeting would continue to be held when possible to keep the number of intersessional meetings to a minimum.

Commission sub-groups

Given the terms of reference of the Commission's other sub-groups (see Annex 3 of IWC/57/F&A 9) there are no particular implications should the Commission decide that they meet on a less frequent basis than annually

Commission

There is nothing in the Convention that requires the Commission to meet annually. However, moving to biennial Commission meetings has a number of practical implications (as identified in IWC/58/F&A 5), including the following:

- (1) The Commission's budget would have to be developed and agreed for a two-year period, but with financial contributions from Contracting Governments being invoiced on an annual basis.
- (2) The Commission would have to agree a two-year Scientific Committee work programme which could probably be detailed for the first year (i.e. as at present), with an outline for the second year (as at least some of the work needed for the second year will depend on the outcome of work during the first year). A two-year budget cycle would mean that money allocated to research would also have to be done on a two-year basis. It may therefore be practical to set-up some sort of contingency fund for research to allow for unforeseen activities that would be necessary, for example, to meet priorities and timelines set by the Commission. There would obviously have to be an agreed mechanism for seeking permission to use money from any contingency fund (but see (3) below).
- (3) Commission decisions could only be made every two years unless by postal ballot or by calling a Special Meeting (for which there is precedence). The intergovernmental organisations reviewed in Document IWC/57/F&A 9 that have meetings of their decision-making bodies every 2-3 years have a Standing Committee or Bureau, with restricted membership, to guide implementation of their Conventions and to provide guidance to the Secretariat during the intersessional period. In the context of IWC, this could also include the granting of permission to spend monies from any contingency fund (see (2) above). The Commission may need to consider whether it needs a Standing Committee/Bureau, and if so, whether (a) the Advisory Committee under the current Rules of Procedure (M.9) could fulfil such a function, or (b) whether another body would need to be established. The current remit of the Advisory Committee is to assist and advise the Secretariat on administrative matters upon request by the Secretariat or in agreement with the Commission. It is not a decision-making body and does not have the competence to deal with policy matters or administrative matters that are within the scope of the Finance and Administration Committee other than making recommendations to this Committee.
- (4) The current term of the Commission Chair and Vice-Chair, which is currently three years, would have to be changed. Possibilities include: (1) having a term of 4 or more years; (2) having the term equivalent to the period between meetings (i.e. 2 years). The former may be considered preferable as the Chair would be available to conduct two Commission meetings, thus allowing him/her to not only gain experience in the role but also to provide some continuity. However, a 4 (or more)-year term implies an 8 (or more)-year commitment if, as is usually the case, the Vice-Chair becomes Chair. A two-year term has the disadvantage that the Chair would only manage a single meeting, thus providing less time to gain experience and less continuity even if the Vice-Chair becomes Chair.
- (5) With respect to the review of proposals for research under special permit, if the Scientific Committee was to continue to meet annually, it would have an opportunity to review and comment on any proposals. However, if a proposal was reviewed by the Scientific Committee in a year that the Commission did not meet, the Commission would not have an opportunity to discuss collectively the proposal or to engage in dialogue with the Chair of the Scientific Committee.

Most of the implications for biennial Commission meetings listed above should be relatively easy to address if it is decided that biennial meetings should occur. Perhaps the major difficulty would be in setting and reviewing catch limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling and, should it be resumed, commercial whaling. It is assumed that reviewing catch limits by correspondence is not appropriate.

The SLAs that have been/are being developed as part of the management procedure for aboriginal subsistence whaling are intended to set strike limits for 5-year blocks. Except in exceptional circumstances, therefore, there should be no need to review them annually. Similarly, if commercial whaling resumes under an RMS, the RMP is intended to set catch limits for blocks of 5 years and again, except in exceptional circumstances, there should be no need to review them annually. The amount of work involved in *Implementations* (which have a strict two-year timetable once it has been agreed that a *Pre-Implementation* has been completed) and *Implementation Reviews* for the AWMP and RMP means that it is not practical to schedule them all for the same year.

Thus, if the Commission moves to biennial meetings, care will need to be taken to ensure a practical timetable for the review of catch limits. Given the current priorities set by the Commission, this would not be possible until after 2009 because the RMP *Implementation assessment* for western North Pacific Bryde's whales is set to be completed in 2007 and that for North Atlantic fin whales probably in 2009. An illustration of how this could be done was provided last year in IWC/58/F&A 5 add.

Need to amend Schedule and/or Rules of Procedure/Financial Regulations and other considerations

Minor amendments would be needed (see Annex 2 of IWC/57/F&A 9).

During last year's meeting of the F&A Committee, one delegation noted that if the Commission moved to biennial meetings but the Scientific Committee continued to meet annually, the Commission would have difficulty in dealing with two-years worth of information.

Potential cost savings

The current budgetary provision for Annual Meetings, covering the Scientific Committee, Commission sub-groups and Plenary, is currently around £334,000². Keeping meetings of the Scientific Committee on an annual basis but moving to biennial meetings of the Commission and its sub-groups would not yield particularly large savings in terms of the Commission's budget (e.g. somewhere in the order of £167,000 over two years (£83,500 per year) assuming, for simplicity, that the 2-week Scientific Committee costs about half of the full 4-week meeting series) and would also lead to a reduction in income from NGOs (currently around £50,000/year). Thus the overall saving per year would be in the region of £33,500.

However, as indicated last year in IWC/58/F&A 5, savings to individual Contracting Governments and observers would not be insignificant (see illustration given in Table 1) given the cost of travel, hotel accommodation, subsistence, time spent preparing for meetings and time spent at meetings.

Table 1

Examples of potential savings (in pounds) for delegations if the Commission meets biennially. It assumes: (a) a length of stay of two weeks (i.e. sub-groups as well as plenary); (b) return air fares of £1000; (c) subsistence rates of £150. NB it does not include savings related to only having to prepare for biennial meetings.

Delegation size	Flight cost	Hotel and subsistence	Total cost per meeting	Potential savings
1	1,000	2,100	3,100	1,550
3	3,000	6,300	9,300	4,650
7	7,000	14,700	21,700	10,850
13	13,000	27,300	40,300	20,150

Option 4: Biennial meetings of the Commission, Scientific Committee and other sub-groups

Scientific Committee

If the current priorities and workload of the Scientific Committee was retained but the Committee met only every two years, it may be necessary to (a) increase the number of intersessional workshops and (b) have a longer meeting (say additional 3 days) because of the need to review more reports from intersessional meetings. In addition, the provision for IP (Invited Participant) funding within the research budget may need to increase to fund IP's participation in more intersessional meetings, although this may be off-set to some extent by not having to fund IP attendance to Scientific Committee meetings each year.

Commission sub-groups and plenary

The same comments as for Option 3 apply.

Need to amend Schedule and/or Rules of Procedure/Financial Regulations and other considerations

Minor amendments would be needed (see Annex 2 of IWC/57/F&A 9).

Potential cost savings

Given that the Annual Meeting provision is currently around £334,000 per year, the saving to the Commission by moving to biennial meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies would be in the order of £334,000 over two years, i.e. £167,000 per year. However, income from NGOs would reduce by around £50,000 giving a net saving to the Commission of around £117,000 per year. If it was necessary for the Scientific Committee to hold more intersessional workshops (as mentioned above), provision would need to be made for these in the

² The budget provision for Annual Meetings is supposed to represent the cost of a meeting should it be organised by the Secretariat at a 'generic' venue in the UK. When a meeting is held outside the UK at the invitation of a Contracting Government, it is understood that any costs additional to those budgeted will be met by the host Government. It has been known for some time that the current level of budgetary provision for the Annual Meeting would not be sufficient to cover the costs of an Annual Meeting in the UK and that in recent years, host Governments have incurred additional expenses.

Research Budget (generally in the order of £10,000-£15,000 per workshop to cover IPs and some venue costs), resulting in smaller cost savings.

Cost savings to individual Contracting Governments and observers would be significant and roughly double those provided in Table 1 above, depending on size of delegation to the Scientific Committee.

5. TIMING OF ANY MOVE TO LESS FREQUENT MEETINGS

Given the current uncertainties over the organisation, including the impasse on development of an RMS, the Commission may consider that it is premature to take a decision now regarding frequency of meetings. As noted by at least one delegation last year, a move to less frequent meetings may hinder the Commission's efforts to break the current deadlock, including development of an RMS. The Commission could therefore keep the possibility in mind, but postpone any decision for the time-being.

If, however, there was consensus among the F&A Committee in Anchorage on one of the four options described above (or variation thereof) which was endorsed by the Commission, then it should be possible to make a decision at IWC/59 regarding meeting frequency, recalling that in any case there will be annual meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies at IWC/60 in Santiago, Chile, in 2008. If there was a decision in Anchorage to alter the frequency of meetings, the Secretariat could prepare any necessary amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations for adoption at IWC/60 as appropriate. Any changes to Commission priorities for the Scientific Committee would need to be agreed at IWC/60.

If there was no consensus, and assuming that the matter is not taken to a vote in plenary, then further work would need to be done for discussion and decision-making at IWC/60 in 2008. However, because the venue for Annual Meetings should be decided two years in advance, with the location for IWC/61 in 2009 being decided in Anchorage then it would probably be necessary to delay any move to less frequent meetings of the Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies until after 2009 (i.e. have a meeting in 2009). This would also enable the Scientific Committee and Commission to keep to the schedule for completion of the RMP *Implementation* for North Atlantic fin whales and also provide time for the Commission to discuss its future.

Table 2. Summary of options, considerations and potential cost savings

Option	Frequency of meetings of:			Considerations	Potential cost savings
	Scientific Committee	Commission sub-groups	Commission		
1	Annual	Annual	Annual	No need to amend the Schedule or Rules of Procedure/Financial Regulations.	None
	Positive decision to keep <i>status quo</i>				
2	Annual	Annual, but not necessarily for all sub-groups	Annual	No need to amend the Schedule or Rules of Procedure/Financial Regulations. Probably not possible to dispense with all sub-group meetings, e.g. it will probably be necessary to have an annual F&A Committee meeting if the Commission continues to meet annually. Annual meetings of the ASW Sub-committee may also be needed in the short-term. However, consideration could be given to some groups meeting in alternate years or to some issues (e.g. infractions) being dealt with directly in Plenary.	Unless the Commission revises its priorities, particularly for the Scientific Committee, it may be difficult to reduce significantly the overall length of the Annual Meeting series. Cost savings would therefore be minimal for both Commission and Contracting Governments and observers.
	Retain annual meetings but reduce overall length of meeting series				
3	Annual	Biennial	Biennial	Moving to biennial meetings of the sub-groups has no particular implications. Moving to biennial meetings of the Commission has a number of practical implications relating to: (1) developing a 2-year budget; (2) agreeing a 2-year research programme; (3) how the Commission makes decisions intersessionally (e.g. should a Standing Committee or Bureau be established to help guide implementation of the Convention and provide guidance to the Secretariat during the intersessional period?); (4) term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair; (5) review of proposals for research under scientific permit; (6) setting and reviewing catch limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling and, should it be resumed, commercial whaling. Minor amendments would be needed to the Schedule and Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations as identified in IWC/57/F&A 9.	<u>For the Commission:</u> Around £33,500/year. Although there would be savings from the sub-groups and Commission meeting every 2 years, there would be a loss of income from NGOs. <u>For Contracting Governments & observers:</u> Would be quite significant for those attending the sub-group and Commission weeks. For a delegation of 3 persons cost savings on travel and subsistence would be in the order of £4,650/year, not including salary costs for time at the meeting and time spent preparing for the meeting.
4	Biennial	Biennial	Biennial	As for Option 3. If the current priorities and workload of the Scientific Committee were retained, it may be necessary to (a) increase the number of intersessional workshops and (b) have a longer meeting (say additional 3 days) because of the need to review more reports from intersessional meetings.	<u>For the Commission:</u> Around £117,000 per year. As with Option 3, although there would be savings from meeting every 2 years, there would be a loss of income from NGOs. <u>For Contracting Governments & observers:</u> Would be significant and roughly double those for Option 3, depending on size of delegation to the Scientific Committee.
5	Annual	Annual	Annual	None for the time-being.	None at present
	Too much uncertainty about organisation to make a decision now but keep under review.				

Annex 1

Resolution 2004-7

**Resolution on the Frequency of Meetings of the
International Whaling Commission**

AWARE that the Rules of Procedure of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) provide for a regular Annual Meeting of the Commission, and that the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the IWC shall serve for a period of three years;

NOTING that other international Conventions dealing with fisheries, species, biodiversity and the environment organise their affairs very effectively on the basis of biennial or triennial meetings;

CONCERNED that the costs of the annual meetings of the IWC are increasing from year to year;

NOTING that many Contracting Parties, especially from developing countries, have difficulty in meeting the high costs of attending annual meetings of the Commission;

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION HEREBY DECIDES:

That the principle of meetings of the IWC being held less frequently than regular Annual Meetings be explored;

That, in applying this principle, the intention should be to avoid holding more frequent inter-sessionary meetings as a counter-balancing measure;

That a working group be established by the Commission to investigate and make recommendations on the implications of less frequent meetings of the IWC;

That, in its deliberations, the working group should have particular regard to the implications of less frequent meetings for the term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission; for the work of the other Committees of the IWC; and, with specific regard to the deliberations of the Scientific Committee, that the group should examine whether the current pattern of holding annual meetings should be maintained in the initial years of the new arrangements at least;

That the working group should report to IWC 57 in Ulsan, Republic of Korea.

Annex 2: Timing and scheduling of recent Annual Meetings

IWC/59, Anchorage, May 2007 ³																												
	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Day	Set-up			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Set-up			1	2	3	Set-up			1	2	3	4
		Pre-mtg		Scientific Committee												CM	Prep SC report		Committees/Working Groups		Review reports & doc translation		Priv C mtg	Plenary				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

IWC/58, St. Kitts and Nevis, May/June 2006																															
	May									June																					
	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues		
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
Day	Set-up			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Set-up			1	2	3	4	5	Set-up			1	2	3	4	5
		Pre-mtg		Scientific Committee												CM		Committees/Working Groups & WKM workshop					Priv C mtg	Plenary							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		

IWC/57, Ulsan, May/June 2005																																	
	May								June																								
	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sa
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Day			Set-up				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			1	2	3	4	5	Set-up			1	2	3	4	
				Pre-mtgs			Scientific Committee													CM	Set-up	Committees/Working Groups					Priv C mtg	Plenary					
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

³ Three, rather than the recent two, days have been scheduled between the end of the Scientific Committee and the beginning of the Commission sub-groups in recognition that (1) two days is insufficient to finalise the Scientific Committee report and (2) the Commission has now agreed that summaries of the Scientific Committee Report in French and Spanish will be produced. An extra day has also been included at the end of the sub-group meetings and before the Commission to give more time for the preparation and adoption of sub-group reports and for the translation of documents as agreed by the Commission.

Annex 2: Timing and scheduling of recent Annual Meetings (cont.)

IWC/56, Sorrento, June/July 2004																																	
June										July																							
	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Day				Set-up				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Set-up		1	2	3	4	Set-up			1	2	3	4	
						Pre-mtg	Pre-mtg	Scientific Committee												CM		Sub-groups					Priv C mtg	Plenary					
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		

IWC/55 Berlin, May/June 2003																																	
May													June																				
	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Day							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	1	1	2	3	4		
					Pre mtg	Pre mtg	Scientific Committee												WK	WK	WK	Sub-groups				Priv C mtg	Plenary						
					Set-up														CM		Set-up						Set-up						
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		

- Set-up** - time needed for Secretariat to set-up office and meeting rooms and copying of documents (note that the transition between each of the three sections of the meeting requires set-up time)
- Pre mtg** - small-scale pre-meetings of the Scientific Committee.
- CM** - Scientific Convenors meeting – debrief, work plan and arrangements of sub-committees and selection of convenors for next meeting
- WK** - Workshop on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues
- Priv C mtg** - Private Commissioner's meeting

Annex 3

Schedule of Commission sub-group meetings (excluding Scientific Committee) for IWC/55, 56, 57, 58 and 59

IWC/55, Berlin, 2003					IWC/56, Sorrento, 2004				
	June	Morning		Afternoon		July	Morning		Afternoon
Sat	7	WKM workshop				Tues	13	Set-up and registration	BS-C
Sun	8	WKM workshop				Wed	14	ASW	CC
Mon	9	WKM workshop				Thur	15	INF	CC
Tues	10	BS-C		RMS		Fri	16	F&A	RMS 2
Wed	11	RMS		INF		Sat	17	Review sub-group reports	
Thur	12	AS		Review BS-C & RMS reports		Sun	18	Registration	Private Comms' meeting
Fri	13	F&A							
Sat	14	Review sub-group reports							
Sun	15	Registration		Priv Comms'					

IWC/57 Ulsan, 2005						IWC/58, St Kitts and Nevis, 2006						IWC/59, Anchorage, 2007							
	June	Morning		Afternoon	Evening		June	Morning		Afternoon		Evening		May	Morning		Afternoon		Evening
Mon	13	WKM		CC		Fri	9	CC		CC	INF	BSC	Tues	22	CC		WKM	BSC	
Tues	14	INF	ASW	CTF (if needed)	BSC	Sat	10	CTF		RMS			Wed	23	F&A special session	ASW	ASW	ASW	
Wed	15	RMS		RMS		Sun	11	RMS		ASW	WKM		Thur	24	INF	F&A	F&A		
Thur	16	RMS		RMS		Mon	12	WKM		WKM			Frid	25	Preparation & review sub-group reports/document translation				
Fri	17	F&A		F&A		Tues	13	WKM		F&A			Sat	26	Review sub-group reports/document translation				
Sat	18	Review sub-group reports						F&A					Sun	27	Registration		Priv Comms meeting		
Sun	19	Registration		Priv Comms		Wed	14	Review sub-group reports											
						Thur	15	Registration		Priv Comms mtg									