

PROVISIONAL AGENDA
(with Annotations)

67th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

Monday-Friday 10-14 September 2018

Costao do Santinho Resort, Florianopolis, Brazil

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21. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 Welcome Address

The 67th Meeting will open formally at 10:00 am on Monday 10 September 2018. Opening remarks will be provided by representatives (tbc) of the Brazilian Ministries of Environment, Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Florianopolis local Government and the IWC's Executive Secretary.

1.2 Opening Statements

The Commission's practice is to accept opening statements from Commissioners and Observers in writing only. However, as usual, the Chair will invite any new Contracting Governments to make a short opening statement during this part of the Plenary session. Written opening statements from Contracting Governments and observer organisations should be submitted to the Secretariat by 6 pm on the first day of Plenary. The documents will be available for download via the Document link from the [IWC67 webpage](#).

1.3 Secretary's Report on Credentials and Voting Rights

The Executive Secretary will report on the status of credentials as requested under [Rule of Procedure](#) D.1.(d). The Secretary will also report on any current suspensions of voting rights under Rule of Procedure E.2.(a) and (b).

1.4 Meeting Arrangements

Delegates will be informed by the Chair, the Secretariat, and the local hosts of any practicalities or other meeting arrangements for the week of the Plenary meeting.

1.5 Review of Documents

The list of documents will be available as document IWC/67/GEN/02.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was prepared by the Secretariat under guidance from the Commission Chair and the Bureau. It was circulated to Commissioners and Contracting Governments on 2 June 2018 (100 days prior to the opening of the meeting) with a request for comments and additions. There were requests for several modifications to the Plenary agenda, and this version reflects those revisions, as approved by the Chair.

This agenda item will also provide an opportunity for the Chair to advise on the time schedule for the meeting.

3. Scientific Committee Presentation

This agenda item will allow the Chair of the Scientific Committee to provide a summary of the Committee's progress and main recommendations arising from its intersessional work and from its meetings in 2017 and 2018. The discussion of the Scientific Committee's future work plan will be addressed under this agenda item and also as part of the budget discussion at Agenda item 19.5 (Financial Statements and Budget).

The Chair and other members of the Scientific Committee will also provide input on specific agenda items throughout the Plenary meeting.

4. Conservation Committee Presentation

This agenda item will allow the Chair of the Conservation Committee to provide a summary of the Committee's progress and main recommendations. It will also provide a report from the meetings of the Joint Conservation Committee and Scientific Committee Working Group in 2017 and 2018. Of particular interest this year will be the draft database of IWC recommendations and developments under the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative, the Whale Watching Handbook and Conservation Management Plans.

The Chair and other members of the Conservation Committee will also provide input on specific agenda items throughout the Plenary meeting.

5. Governance Review

This agenda item addresses the Commission's review of the Final Report of the external Governance Review Panel, which will be presented by Dr Fabio Hazin, one of the three Panel members. Following that presentation, the Chair will provide an opportunity for a response to the report from the Scientific Committee (2018 meeting), the Conservation Committee, and the Finance and Administration Committee. Following those responses, the Chair of the Operational Effectiveness Working Group will discuss the deliberations of that Working Group and the recommendations for next steps in the overall Governance Review.

6. Proposals to amend the Schedule

6.1 Proposed Schedule amendment on aboriginal subsistence whaling

The governments of the Kingdom of Denmark, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the United States of America have jointly submitted an amendment to the Schedule for aboriginal subsistence whaling quotas (IWC/67/01). The proposal addresses the quota levels as well as carryover provisions. In addition, there is a proposal for a one-time 7-year extension of the ASW quota through 2025 in order to accommodate issues arising from the "objections" procedure and provide an additional year for the Commission to agree upon catch/strike limits, if needed. This proposal also includes a schedule amendment to allow limited automatic renewal for status quo catch limits with safeguards to protect whale stocks.

This proposal was submitted 90 days ahead of the Commission meeting, following the timetable agreed at IWC66 on a pilot basis (see item 8.1).

6.2 Proposed Schedule amendment to create a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary

The governments of Argentina, Brazil, Gabon and Uruguay have submitted a proposal to modify the Schedule to establish a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary (IWC/67/10). The proposal and its associated management plan were previously reviewed by the Scientific Committee and the Conservation Committee in advance of IWC66.

6.3 Proposed Schedule amendment for setting catch limits for certain whale species

The Government of Japan has submitted IWC/67/08 which is a package of documents on the Way Forward – a Proposal for IWC Reform, including a Schedule Amendment proposing catch limits for commercial purposes from stocks which abundance has been confirmed as sufficient.

7. Resolutions

7.1 Draft Resolution on Anthropogenic Underwater noise

This item will address a proposal submitted by the EU and its Member States on anthropogenic noise (IWC/67/05). The draft Resolution makes recommendations to contracting members, the Conservation Committee, Scientific Committee and the IWC Secretariat on ways to better understand, reduce, and mitigate against underwater noise.

7.2 Draft Resolution on Food Security

This item will address a proposal submitted by the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Ghana and Guinea (IWC/67/07). This draft resolution makes proposals in relation to food security including the establishment of an ad hoc committee to recommend how the IWC can take into account considerations on food and nutritional security when making changes to the Schedule.

7.3 Draft Resolution on the Way Forward of the IWC

This item is part of package of documents submitted by the government of Japan (IWC/67/08) setting out a programme of reform of the IWC. This draft Resolution includes proposals to establish a Sustainable Whaling Committee and convene a Diplomatic Conference of Contracting Governments in order to amend the Convention.

7.4 Draft Resolution on Ghost Gear Entanglement among Cetaceans

This item will address a proposal submitted by the government of Brazil (IWC/67/12). The draft Resolution makes recommendations to Contracting Members, the Secretariat, the Scientific Committee and the Conservation Committee on mitigation of entanglement in Abandoned Lost and Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) and on engagement with the Global Entanglement Response Network (GWERN).

7.5 Draft Resolution on the 2030 Agenda

This item will address a proposal submitted by the government of Brazil (IWC/67/12). This draft resolution makes proposals relevant to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 14 to “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.

7.6 Florianopolis Declaration

This item will address a proposal submitted by the government of Brazil on the role of the IWC in the conservation and management of whales in the 21st century.

7.7 Draft Resolution on the Response to the Independent review of the IWC

This draft resolution on the independent review of the IWC (IWC/67/14) proposes that the Commission directs the OEWG to develop a plan for improving the institutional and governance arrangements of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. If agreed, this plan would be prepared according to the terms of reference in the proposed Resolution and then presented to the 68th meeting of the Commission. Subsidiary bodies, Contracting Governments, Observers and the Secretariat would be requested to continue working with OEWG for the development of the plan, while the work already underway to improve governance and accountability at the Bureau, Secretariat or other relevant subsidiary bodies should continue.

7.8 Draft Resolution on the allocation of Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Quotas for Greenland

This item will address a proposal submitted by the Dominican Republic with respect to the allocation of Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Quotas for Greenland (IWC/67/15).

7.9 Draft Resolution on Advancing the Commission's Work on the Role of Cetaceans in the Ecosystem Functioning

This item will address a proposal submitted by Chile with respect to the advancing of the Commission's work on the role of cetaceans in the ecosystem functioning.

8. Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling

The Sub-committee on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (ASW) will meet on Thursday 6 September and its report will be available prior to the Plenary meeting.

The Sub-committee's Terms of Reference are to 'consider relevant information and documentation from the Scientific Committee, and to consider nutritional, subsistence and cultural needs relating to aboriginal subsistence whaling and the use of whales taken for such purposes, and to provide advice on the dependence of aboriginal communities on specific whale stocks to the Commission for its consideration and determination of appropriate management measures'.

8.1 Report of the Ad-hoc Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Working Group (ASWWG)

The Ad-hoc group was established at IWC63 in 2011 and its terms of reference are to identify and consider unresolved ASW issues. Of particular interest this year will be consideration of the report of the ASWWG held in Barrow, Alaska, 10-13 April 2018 (IWC/67/ASW/Rep/01). At this workshop, the ASWWG concluded discussions on the recommendations from the 2015 workshop in Maniitsoq, Greenland, first considered at the 2016 Biennial Meeting. The 2018 workshop also proposed a way forward on several long-standing and complex topics. This included approaches to improving communication and agreement on ASW issues including a timeline for the provision of information (e.g. web-based descriptions of the hunts) and comments in advance of discussions of quota renewals.

In this regard, a draft Schedule Amendment to set annual strike limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling, proposed by the Kingdom of Denmark, the Russian Federation, St Vincent and the Grenadines and the United States of America, was submitted according to the pilot process and timelines agreed at the Barrow workshop. The proposed catch limits and descriptions of the hunt were posted on the IWC website on 12 June 2018 i.e. 90 days in advance of the meeting. The pilot process also requests comments on these proposals within 30 days of the start of IWC67, and responses from the ASW countries within 10 days of the ASW Sub Committee meeting.

This agenda item will allow discussion of the report and recommendations of the ASWWG.

8.2 Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure

In 2014, the Commission adopted Resolution 2014-4 which emphasized the need to regulate ASW in the future through a more consistent and long-term approach. *Inter alia*, the Resolution requested the Scientific Committee to give high priority to all AWMP-related objectives.

The Commission has set objectives for the management of aboriginal subsistence whaling. These objectives were agreed in Resolution 1994-4 and they are to:

- a) Ensure that the risks of extinction to individual stocks are not seriously increased by subsistence whaling (highest priority);
- b) Enable aboriginal people to harvest whales in perpetuity at levels appropriate to their cultural and nutritional requirements, subject to the other objectives, and
- c) Maintain the status of stocks at or above the level giving the highest net recruitment and to ensure that stocks below that level are moved towards it, so far as the environment permits.

The Scientific Committee responded by developing an AWMP and in particular *Strike Limit Algorithms* (SLAs); these algorithms have been designed to ensure the sustainability of proposed hunts, in line with the Commission's objectives. This work is reported to the ASW Sub-committee and this agenda item allows the Chair of the ASW Sub-committee to summarise the work for the Commission.

8.3 Aboriginal Whaling Scheme (AWS)

The purpose of the AWS is to cover several generic practical issues related to managing ASW. The Scientific Committee has been working for some years to update the scientific components of an AWS. It has completed this work and recommends the AWS provided in Annex E, Appendix 8 of the 2018 Scientific Committee Report to the Commission. The recommended AWS has sections on carryover, block quotas, interim relief allocation, Implementation Reviews and guidelines for surveys and data. The Scientific Committee views the AWS as constituting an important and necessary component of safe management under the AWMP. It notes that the Commission's AWS may include additional, non-scientific provisions.

8.4 Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Catch Limits, including report from the Scientific Committee

The size and duration of catch limits for Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (ASW) are set out at paragraph 13 of the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. In 2012 catch limits were re-established for a period of six years for stocks of bowhead whales in the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas, gray whales in the eastern North Pacific and humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines. In 2014, catch limits were re-established for a period of four years for the Greenland hunts (common minke whales for West and East Greenland, fin, bowhead and humpback whales for West Greenland). The Scientific Committee provides its advice to the ASW Sub-committee on the proposals submitted by the ASW countries.

9. Cetacean status and health

9.1 Whale Stocks

The Scientific Committee continues to progress the assessments of a number of whale stocks. Information on stocks that are subject to aboriginal subsistence whaling, or are relevant to discussions of Conservation Management Plans, or are being discussed under the implementation process of the RMP are addressed under items 8, 15, and 17, respectively.

Under this item the Committee will provide a summary of the new information available (including an agreed list of abundance estimates for cetacean populations) for the other large whale stocks.

Regional partnerships, including an update on international research cruises, and in particular the IWC North Pacific Whale Ecosystem Research (POWER) programme are included under item 15.4.

9.2 Small Cetaceans

In 1990 and 1991 the Commission adopted Resolutions 1990-3 and 1991-5 on Small Cetaceans. Together these requested the Scientific Committee to commence and continue a process of collecting information on those stocks of small cetaceans subject to significant directed and incidental takes. Additionally, in 1994 the Commission adopted Resolution 1994-2 which *inter alia* commended the work of the Scientific Committee, agreed that the Commission and non-member coastal states should be involved in the selection of priority topics and established a voluntary fund to enhance the participation of developing countries in small cetacean work.

Commissioners may wish to note the Scientific Committee's continued recommendations in respect of serious conservation cases, especially regarding vaquita, Yangtze finless porpoise, Irrawaddy dolphins in Bangladesh, Indus River dolphin, Ganges River dolphin, killer whales in the western Okhotsk Sea and Māui dolphin.

9.3 Cetacean Health and Disease

This item provides an opportunity for the Scientific Committee to update the Commission on its ongoing work programme covering Cetacean Diseases of Concern (CDoC). Note that issues related to unintended anthropogenic impacts are considered under Item 11 and Strandings is considered under Item 13.5.

9.4 Stock definition and DNA Testing

This item allows the Commission to discuss other aspects of the Scientific Committee's work including Stock Definition and DNA Testing. DNA testing is discussed in response to Commission Resolution 1998-8.

10. Cetacean Habitat

Under Resolution 1998-5 the Commission agreed to establish a regular agenda item under which the Scientific Committee would report on its research on environmental concerns, and Contracting Governments could report on national and regional efforts to monitor and address the impacts of environmental change on cetaceans and other marine mammals.

10.1 State of the Cetacean Environment (SOCER)

The SOCER report is prepared in response to Resolution 2000-7 and its objective is to provide Commissioners and other interested parties with a non-technical periodic summary of events,

developments and conditions in the marine environment that are relevant to cetaceans. The report is compiled on an annual basis with pre-selected regions treated each year.

The focus of the report in 2017 was the Indian Ocean and in 2018 the Mediterranean and Black Seas. Next year the Atlantic Ocean will be reviewed. The Scientific Committee would welcome input from the members for information on this region. A 5-year global compendium is being produced in cooperation with the Secretariat and will be distributed via Circular Communication, in conjunction with a new, SOCER webpage on the IWC website in advance of this meeting.

10.2 Ecosystem functioning

This item provides an opportunity for the Scientific Committee to provide an update on its ecosystem functioning work. Each year, the Working Group reviews new work on a variety of issues falling under three areas: (1) reviewing ecosystem modelling efforts undertaken outside the IWC; (2) exploring how ecosystem models can contribute to developing scenarios for simulation testing of the RMP; and (3) reviewing other issues relevant to ecosystem modelling, including ecosystem functioning, within the Committee.

This year, the Scientific Committee Chair and the Conservation Chair will also inform the Commission on the status of the implementation of relevant tasks under Resolution 2016-3.

The draft Resolution on Ecosystem functioning will be discussed under item 7.9.

10.3 Arctic Ocean

This item provides an opportunity for the Commission to discuss affairs relevant to the Arctic Ocean and associated cetacean populations.

10.4 Climate change

This item provides an opportunity for the Scientific Committee to provide an update on its work related to climate change. Since 2017 the impact of climate change is considered in an integrated manner, as overarching topic by the Environmental Concerns sub-committee. In 2016, climate change was included as a priority threat in the Conservation Committee Strategic Plan.

11. Unintended Anthropogenic Impacts

11.1 Pollution

This item provides an opportunity for the Scientific Committee to provide an update on its work related to pollution. This includes progress made on chemical pollution via the POLLUTION 2020+ research programme, the impacts of oil spills on cetaceans, cetacean disease and unexplained mortality events, harmful algal blooms (HABs), cumulative effects, etc.

11.2 Marine Debris

This item provides an opportunity for the Scientific Committee to provide an update on its work related to marine debris, including the planning for a workshop.

11.3 Anthropogenic Sound

This item provides an opportunity for the Scientific Committee, the Conservation Committee and the Secretariat to provide an update on its work related to underwater noise, including on collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Open-ended Informative Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea.

11.4 Cetacean Bycatch

This item provides an opportunity for the Scientific Committee, the Conservation Committee and the Secretariat to provide an update on work on cetacean bycatch. This will include a report on progress under the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative.

11.5 Ship Strikes

This item provides an opportunity for the Scientific Committees and the Conservation Committee to provide updates on their work on ship strikes including the ship strikes database.

12. The IWC in the future

The Government of Japan will introduce a package of documents including a Schedule Amendment and Resolution proposing reform of the IWC.

This item will provide for discussions on the IWC's organisational and strategic development.

13. Whale killing methods and welfare issues

The Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues will meet on Thursday 6th September and its report will be available.

13.1 Summary of data provided on whales killed

This item allows the Chair of the Working Group to summarise data received from Contracting Governments as specified in Resolutions 1999-1 and 2001-2.

13.2 Improving the humaneness of whaling operations

This item allows the Chair of the Working Group to report information received in accordance with Resolutions 1997-1 and 2001-2.

13.3 Whale welfare

At IWC65 in 2014, the Commission agreed to reflect the full scope of the IWC's consideration of welfare within the Terms of Reference of the Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues group and agreed an update Action Plan for the WG-WKM&WI (See Report of the 65th Meeting of the IWC in 2014, Annex H, Appendix 4).

13.4 Welfare issues associated with the entanglement of large whales

At IWC64 in 2012 the Commission endorsed recommendations from two workshops (2010, 2011) for responding to welfare concerns caused by entanglement, including recommendations on capacity building. A dedicated technical advisor has been attached to the Secretariat since 2011 to implement these recommendations. Since then, over 1,100 trainees from over 20 countries have received IWC entanglement response training.

Of particular interest this year will be the report from the fourth IWC Workshop on Large Whale Entanglement issues, Provincetown, MA, USA, 7-9 June 2018. Also of interest will be the Secretariat's report on progress with the global entanglement response programme.

13.5 Strandings Response

This item is including following the adoption, at IWC65 of the Action Plan for the WKM&WI which included an objective 'to work through existing strandings networks to produce specific recommendations to the Commission in relation to the welfare implications of responding to cetacean stranding events'.

Of particular interest will be progress of the IWC Strandings Initiative including the work of the Strandings Expert Panel and the Strandings Coordinator.

14. Scientific Permits

14.1-14.4

Paragraph 30 of the Schedule to the Convention refers to scientific permits and states that 'Proposed permits shall be reviewed and commented upon by the Scientific Committee at Annual Meetings when possible'.

The Scientific Committee has developed a process referred to as 'Annex P' for providing a full review of new and on-going special permit programmes. For long term programmes a review occurs around every six years.

This year the Scientific Committee Chair will report on: (1) amendments to the 'Annex P' made in response to Resolution 2016-2; and (2) progress on previous recommendations on ongoing Special Permits programmes (i.e. NEWREP-A and NEWREP-NP).

14.5 Recommendations arising from the Report of the Standing Working Group on Special Permit Programmes

In 2016, the Commission adopted Resolution 2016-2 which established a Standing Working Group to consider the reports and recommendations of the SC with respect to all new, ongoing and completed special permit programmes.

15. Other Conservation Issues

15.1 Conservation Management Plans

In 2008, the IWC adopted Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) as an adaptive, flexible and tailored management tool to improve the conservation outcomes for the most at-risk cetacean populations. CMPs have been developed for four vulnerable cetacean populations so far - the Western North Pacific Gray Whale, the Western South Atlantic Southern Right Whale, the Eastern South Pacific Southern Right Whale, and the Franciscana (the first CMP for a small cetacean species).

The two main bodies responsible for progressing the Commission's work on CMPs are the Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Conservation Management Plans (SWG-

CMP) and the Scientific Committee's Sub-Committee on Cetacean Stocks That Are or Might Be the Subject of Conservation Management Plans (SC-CMP).

15.1.1 Progress report by the SWG CMP

- . Mid-term review of the CMP Workplan 2014-2020
- . Development of a thematic strategic plan

15.1.2 Western Pacific Gray Whale

15.1.3 Southwest Atlantic Southern Right Whale

15.1.4 Southeast Pacific Southern Right Whale

15.1.5 Franciscana

15.1.6 Priority species for future CMPS

15.2 Whale Watching

In 2011 the Commission reviewed and updated the Terms of Reference for the Conservation Committee's Standing Working Group on Whale Watching (SWG-WW) and expanded its membership to include two members of the Scientific Committee. In 2012 the Commission adopted its Five Year Strategic Plan for Whale Watching (2011 – 2016) and the SWG-WW has continued to make progress against the actions outlined in the plan. The scientific aspects of whale watching are discussed by the Scientific Committee in response to a request in Resolution 1994-14 for it to provide advice relating to whale watching.

Of particular interest this year will be the Whale Watching Handbook and a Whale Watching Strategic Plan for 2018 – 2024.

15.3 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.

At its last meeting the Commission endorsed a recommendation from the Conservation Committee to establish an intersessional group, whose membership currently comprises Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, UK and the Secretariat, to review and develop the report template and align it with the new Conservation Committee Strategic Plan.

This item will discuss reports received as well as proposals for review of the reporting template for the Voluntary Conservation Reports.

15.3.1 Contracting member reports

15.3.2 Review of the Voluntary Conservation Reporting Template

15.4 Regional Research Partnerships

15.4.1 IWC-Southern Ocean Research Partnership

The IWC Southern Ocean Research Partnership (SORP) is a multi-lateral scientific research programme to deliver relevant scientific information to the IWC. This item allows the Chair of

the Scientific Committee to provide an update of its progress and future projects recommendations. International research cruises are covered under agenda item 15.4.2 below.

15.4.1.1 Status of the voluntary fund

Voluntary contributions in support of the SORP programme are held in a dedicated IWC fund. This item provides an opportunity to review the status of the fund, including the outcome of the recent call for proposals (IWC.ALL.303, 7th September 2017)

15.4.2 IWC-POWER North Pacific Research Cruises

The IWC-POWER (North Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research) international programme covers regions of the North Pacific not surveyed in recent decades. Nine cruises have now been completed. This item allows the Chair of the Scientific Committee to provide an update of its progress and plans for the next cruise.

16. Sanctuaries

16.1 Proposed Sanctuaries

See Item 6.2.

16.2 Southern Ocean Sanctuary Management Plan

This year the Scientific Committee reviewed the components of a draft Management Plan for the Southern Ocean Sanctuary (SOS) that are related to science. Under this item, a full report on conclusions and recommendations will be given.

17. Other Management Issues

17.1 Revised Management Procedure

The RMP is a method of calculating sustainable removal levels which are consistent with the Commission's objectives for commercial whaling as developed at the 1990 annual meeting. It consists first of the Catch Limit Algorithm (CLA) which is the formula used to compute the number of removals permitted, based on past catches and estimates of abundance. It also includes rules for spreading such removals by area to take account of uncertainties about both the number of stocks of the species concerned, and the extent of the areas that they inhabit. Additional description of the RMP is provided through the IWC website at <https://iwc.int/rmp>

The Commission adopted the RMP in 1994 through Resolution 1994-5, although the same Resolution reaffirmed that the RMP should not be applied in practice until all aspects of the Revised Management Scheme (RMS) are incorporated into the Schedule. The Commission recognised that discussions on the RMS had reached impasse at IWC/58 in 2006.

The Scientific Committee continues to prepare for how the RMP could best be applied. This work includes ongoing consideration of ways to improve the RMP itself.

The Scientific Committee also continues to assemble and analyse information on how best to apply the RMP for a range of stocks. This process is known as an "Implementation of the RMP", and is an ongoing process given new knowledge continuously becomes available. The results would allow

the Scientific Committee to recommend catch limits for stocks should commercial whaling be re-introduced, and to specify how such catches would need to be spread spatially. It is reported under the item 'Implementation process' below. While the CLA computations require data on past catches and estimates of abundance by area only, the Implementation process takes account of other data as well, such as genetic information which indicates the areas which different stocks inhabit.

Bycatch is part of the RMP. This is because the RMP considers all removals, including those caused by ship strikes, bycatch and entanglement. Estimates of likely future removals of this nature would be subtracted from the catch limits generated by the RMP when recommending catch limits for commercial whaling.

17.2 Infractions

The Infractions Sub-committee will meet on 7 September 2018. The Sub-committee allows Contracting Governments to report Infractions as required under Article IX.4 of the ICRW(1946). It also considers matters and documents relating to national inspection schemes, information required under Section VI of the Schedule and updates to national laws and regulations.

17.3 Catches by Non-Member Nations

This item provides the opportunity for Contracting Governments to raise issues related to catches by non-member nations. The Scientific Committee will report on communications received during the intersessional period from the Government of Canada.

18. Co-Operation with other organisations

The Secretariat will report on engagement with other organisations arising from recent IWC recommendations.

19. Finance and Administration

19.1 Financial Situation

This item allows the F&A Committee to provide an update on the current financial situation of the IWC and associated budgetary challenges. It will provide the context to the proposed budget strategy for the biennial period 2019/20.

As outlined in Circular IWC.CCG.1280, the Commission no longer receives sufficient income to fund its agreed work programme. From 2019, the deficit is expected to be in excess of £125,000. The Bureau met on 7 May 2018 and discussed potential strategies to recommend to the Commission for balancing the IWC's budget for the next biennium, which are outlined in summary form in Annex 2 of the Spring 2018 Minutes of that Bureau meeting. The Bureau kindly requested that Contracting Governments acquire the appropriate mandates to accept one of the options proposed or provide an alternative budgetary proposal. See Circular IWC.CCG.1308.

19.2 Administrative Matters

19.2.1 Report of Confidential Communications

Rule of Procedure P.3. requires the Secretary to report any confidential communications arising during the previous year to the Commission or the Bureau in the years when the Commission does not meet. This item will allow the F&A Committee to report the Secretary's statement.

19.2.2 Meetings of the Commission

19.2.2.1 Guidance for hosting Meetings of the Commission & Scientific Committee

At its meeting in Shimonoseki, Japan in September 2017, the Bureau requested that the Secretariat produce guidance for hosting Commission and Scientific Committee meetings be revised and strengthened. This item allows the Chair of F&A to present the revised guidance to the Commission.

19.2.2.2 Results of the Feedback Survey from IWC 66

19.2.3 Guidance on the Utilisation of the Meeting Fund and General Fund

At its meeting in Shimonoseki, Japan, in September 2017, the Bureau requested that guidelines be developed for the allocation of funds from the General and Meeting Funds. This item allows the Chair of F&A to introduce this guidance to the Commission.

19.2.4 Report on the implementation of the Voluntary Assistance Fund for Governments of Limited Means

Resolution 2016-6 established the Voluntary Assistance Fund to support the participation of Governments of limited means in Commission business. This item allows the F&A Committee to report on the progress of this fund during the intersessional period.

19.2.5 Organisational Risk Management & Currency Strategy

At IWC 66, the Commission agreed that the Secretariat should develop an Organisational Risk Management & Currency Strategy. This item allows the Chair of the F&A Committee to report progress on this issue.

19.2.6 Memoranda of Understanding

This item seeks the Commission's view on the proposed terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IWC & the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme as well as to agree the process for approving future MoUs.

19.2.7 Use of the IWC Website

This item allows the Chair of the F&A Committee to update the Commission on progress made regarding the use of the IWC website and other online platforms to facilitate intersessional dialogue.

19.2.8 IWC Headquarters Requirements

This item allows the Chair of the F&A Committee to update the Commission on the condition of the IWC Headquarters building.

19.3 Intersessional Working Groups

19.3.1 Report of the Intersessional Correspondence Group for Strengthening Finance

At IWC62 in 2010, the Commission endorsed the recommendation of the F&A Committee that it convene a small group to find ways to strengthen financing to support the rebuilding and maintenance of healthy whale populations. This group has continued to progress its aims during the subsequent period and this item allows the Chair of F&A to report intersessional progress to the Commission.

19.3.2 Rules of Procedure of the Commission, of the Scientific Committee and Financial Regulations

19.3.2.1 Proposed amendments to the Scientific Committee Rules of Procedure and Scientific Committee Handbook

The Chair of the Scientific Committee proposes changes to the SC Rules of Procedure to clarify the process for adoption and approval of the SC report and its recommendations, as well as clarify aspects regarding the transition of SC Vice-Chair to Chair. This proposal addresses in particular the years in which there is both a Scientific Committee meeting and the Commission meeting, and therefore a gap between the timing of the election of a Vice-Chair and the advancement of the current Vice-Chair to the Chair position. There will also be a proposed change to the SC Handbook in accordance with these changes.

19.3.2.2 Proposed amendment relevant to Conservation Committee meetings

This agenda item will consider a proposal to change to the Rules of Procedure to allow annual meetings of the IWC Conservation Committee.

19.3.2.3 Proposed amendments with respect to the Voluntary Conservation Fund

This agenda item will consider the report of the Steering Group for the Voluntary Conservation Fund, including a proposed amendment to financial regulations in relation to this Fund.

19.3.2.4 Proposed change to the Rules of Procedure from the Government of Japan

19.4 Financial Contributions Formula

This is a standing agenda item which provides an opportunity for discussions of the formula for calculating financial contributions.

19.5 Financial Statements and Budget

19.5.1 Final position for the 2016 and 2017 financial years & forecast position for the 2018 financial year

The financial statements have been discussed by the Budgetary Sub-Committee at its meeting on Thursday 6 September 2018. The Budgetary Sub-Committee will report the outcome of discussions to the F&A Committee. The Chair of F&A will then make a report to the Commission including a recommendation regarding the acceptance of the audited financial statements.

19.5.2 Commission budget for 2019 & 2020 including the Scientific Committee Work Programme

The F&A Committee will present a two-year budget for 2019 and 2020, developed through the Budgetary Sub-Committee, for Commission approval. This item will also include an opportunity to review the Scientific Committee's proposed work plan for 2019 and 2020.

19.5.3 Budgetary Sub-Committee Operations

20. Adoption of Committee Reports

The Commission will adopt the reports of its Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups as listed in the Agenda. This includes adoption of all the recommendations contained therein unless otherwise specified.

21. Election of Officers

Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission.

22. Bureau Membership

The Bureau is comprised of the Chair of the Commission, the Vice Chair of the Commission, the Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, and four Commissioners representing a range of views and interests. Commissioners shall be appointed to the Bureau for a period of two years at Biennial Commission Meetings. Changes in the membership are expected this year because of the election of new Chair and Vice Chair as well as expiration of two-year terms for some Commissioners.

23. Timing and venue for upcoming meetings

The Biennial schedule of the Commission means that its next meeting is due in September/October 2020. Rule of Procedure B.1. encourages any contracting Government desiring to extend an invitation to provide notice 2 years in advance.

The Scientific Committee retains its annual schedule and will meet next May, 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya, and at a similar time in 2020. Invitations to host the 2020 Scientific Committee Meeting are also welcomed.

The Secretariat is able to provide detailed information to any Contracting Government considering an offer to host either a Commission or Scientific Committee Meeting.

25. Adoption of summary of main outcomes, decisions and required actions arising from the 67th meeting.

A summary of the main outcomes, decisions and required actions and Chair's closing remarks.