

Strandings Coordinator

Candidate Information Pack

The Commission

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is an inter-governmental organisation established under the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. The Commission has a membership of 87 Contracting Governments, and it meets in plenary session every two years.

The preamble to the Convention states that its purpose is to '*provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry*'. Consequently, the IWC's work covers both areas: the regulation of whaling and conservation of whale stocks. In 1986, the Commission established zero catch limits for commercial whaling. The IWC continues to regulate and set catches for subsistence whaling by indigenous peoples (termed Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling). In recent years, the IWC's work to support the recovery of whale populations and address the many non-whaling related threats they are facing has increased in prominence and is leading to strengthened engagement with other Inter-Governmental Organisations.

The IWC and its subsidiary bodies meet in plenary session once every two years (usually in September/October) apart from the Scientific Committee that meets annually (usually in May/June). The Commission structures its work through a range of Committees and Sub-committees. They are illustrated at <https://iwc.int/organisational-structure>

The Secretariat

The Secretariat provides the Commission with a range of services and capabilities. These include financial management as well as scientific, policy and governance support to the work programmes established by the Commission and its many Committees and sub-groups. The Secretariat organises meetings and workshops, manages statistical data, information technology and human resource services, produces publications and distributes official and non-official communications.

The IWC Strandings Initiative and the Strandings Coordinator

At IWC66 in October 2016 the Commission considered and endorsed recommendations on strandings developed at its Scientific Committee annual meeting (SC66B) and from the Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues Working Group. These had taken into account recommendations from two recent IWC workshops on strandings response: (1) The *Investigations of Large Mortality Events, Mass Strandings and International Stranding Response Workshop*, San Francisco, December 2015, focused on response and investigations of cetacean strandings, with a focus on unusual or large scale mortality events and (2) The *Workshop to Develop Practical Guidance for the Handling of Cetacean Stranding Events*, Kruger National Park, May 2016, focused on building global capacity for effective cetacean stranding response, in particular highlighting relevant actions in the Commission's Welfare Action plan. In particular, the Commission endorsed a recommendation to establish a Strandings Coordinator post, and an Expert Panel on strandings to provide guidance on strandings response and investigations.

The Strandings Initiative (SI) was launched in 2017 with three core components: a Steering Group drawn from the Commission's Scientific and Welfare Committees to oversee the initiative, a multi-disciplinary Expert Panel to provide specialist advice and in the field assistance, and a Strandings Coordinator who brings technical expertise and leads the work programme. A Strandings Coordinator was in place for 2018 until December 2019. An increase in requests for assistance or remote advice led to a review of the structure and function of the SI in 2020 and 2021. Since a coordinator was not in post during these years, the Chair of the Expert Panel has been covering this role. For these reasons, three options for filling the Stranding Coordinator role were presented at SC68C (2021) and the Strandings Expert Panel (SEP) advocated the Hybrid model with a half-time Strandings Coordinator at the Secretariat and regional focal points that are provided with administrative support by the coordinator. At a meeting of the Strandings Initiative Steering Group the IWC Secretariat was instructed to proceed with recruitment of the half-time Strandings Coordinator.

Further background on strandings and the work of the IWC can be found at <https://iwc.int/strandings> and the reports of the relevant Scientific Committee and Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues meetings.

Job description and person specification

The Stranding Response Coordinator will work to further develop and implement the IWC Strandings Initiative. The Coordinator will convene the Strandings Expert Panel and will be the liaison between the Expert Panel, the Steering Group, the Regional Focal Points, the Conservation and Scientific Committees, the Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues Working Group, and the IWC Secretariat. The Strandings Coordinator will:

- Develop capacity building implementing training programmes for emergency response in case of live cetacean strandings and large scale and mass mortality events through specific guidelines and training workshops using IWC-endorsed curricula
- Organise and convene the IWC Expert Panel on Strandings
- Work with the Expert Panel to develop a strategy for handling requests received by the Secretariat for strandings training, analyses, investigation, and/or response
- Coordinate the IWC Expert Panel response to requests for unusual stranding events response assistance
- Prepare and disseminate reports on progress under the strandings initiative (including reports from Expert Panel meetings) to the Strandings Steering Group, the IWC Scientific Committee and the Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues Working Group and to other parts of the Commission as required.
- Work with the IWC Secretariat to expand coordination of IWC Stranding Initiative efforts with those of other Intergovernmental Organisations who share similar responsibilities and goals
- Assist the IWC with its work on other initiatives relevant to strandings as may be required (e.g. ship strike, entanglement)
- Assist the IWC with its work of fund raising to support training and emergency response
- Represent the IWC at relevant and appropriate events (e.g. meetings and conferences)
- Any other tasks that may be required by the organisation that are commensurate with the job role.

Person specification

The table below indicates the essential and desirable criteria for this post and how these elements will be assessed by the selection panel.

Assessment Types

A = Application Form I = Interview P = Presentation

T = Test

Attribute	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University degree or equivalent standard qualification in a relevant discipline (e.g. Veterinary Science; biological sciences; Zoology) or equivalent professional experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postgraduate qualification in a relevant discipline Relevant professional qualifications or membership of professional bodies. 	A
Knowledge and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A good general knowledge of all issues related to strandings including investigation and response Significant and practical experience related to marine mammal strandings response (including logistics, live animal strandings response, and post mortem investigations) Experience in coordination of stranding responses in regional/national stranding networks Experience in producing information in a variety of formats, including but not limited to meeting papers and reports; funding proposals; manuscripts suitable for peer review and publication; visual presentations; web material and social media updates etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An understanding of IWC as an organisation and where it can contribute on this issue Experience in the delivery of relevant training exercises/capacity building. 	A/I
Skills and abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good written and oral English Exceptional interpersonal skills, with a proven ability to engage with stakeholders from many fields and diverse cultural backgrounds A good capability to work in a multicultural and multi- 		

Attribute	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
	<p>socioeconomic environment under pressure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent organizational skills, with a proven ability to work in emergency situations. • Demonstrable experience in organizing and convening meetings, workshops and groups 		

Remuneration package and Terms and Conditions

Duty Station: Cambridge, United Kingdom **Hours:** Part time: 18.75 hours per week exclusive of meal breaks.

Duration: One-year fixed term contract. Extension subject to Commission endorsement and available funding.

Reporting to: Lead for Programme Development

Salary: Starting salary £17,001-£20,585 (£34,003-£41,171 pro-rata) (G4), dependent on skills and experience.

Travel: This role will require international travel. In the initial contractual period this will include attendance at the IWC Scientific Committee meeting in 2022 as well as attendance of relevant intersessional workshops and other international meetings as required.

This post is offered as a fixed-term employment contract. A secondment arrangement could also be considered for the successful applicant.

1. Application process

Candidates requiring any further information or an informal discussion prior to applications can contact Imogen Webster (Imogen.Webster@iwc.int).

Applications are invited through submission of a curriculum vitae and a letter no longer than two sides of A4 at 11pt type explaining how the candidate fulfils the requirements of the post and the person specification. Applicants must also provide details of two referees who the IWC will only contact after an offer of employment is made. Any offer of employment will be subject to satisfactory references.

Applications should be sent by email to secretariat@iwc.int and must arrive by Monday 17th January 2022. Please enter Strandings Coordinator recruitment in the subject field. All applications will be acknowledged.

We are committed to equal opportunities for all staff and applications from individuals are encouraged regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships. Reasonable requests for flexible working arrangements will be considered.