

Draft Scientific Committee Agenda

Jeju, 3-15 June 2013

[N] = CHAIR'S ANNOTATIONS

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS [N]

- 1.1 Chair's welcome and opening remarks
- 1.2 Appointment of rapporteurs
- 1.3 Meeting procedures and time schedule [N]
- 1.4 Establishment of sub-committees and working groups [N]
- 1.5 Computing arrangements

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA [N]

3. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

- 3.1 Documents submitted [N]
- 3.2 National Progress Reports on research [N]
- 3.3 Data collection, storage and manipulation
 - 3.3.1 *Catch data and other statistical material*
 - 3.3.2 *Progress of data coding projects*
 - 3.3.3 *Progress on program verification projects*

4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS [N]

- 4.1 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
- 4.2 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)
- 4.3 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)
 - 4.3.1 *Scientific Council*
 - 4.3.2 *Conference of Parties (COP)*
 - 4.3.3 *Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)*
 - 4.3.4 *Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)*
 - 4.3.5 *Other*
- 4.4 Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
- 4.5 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
- 4.6 Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP)
- 4.7 International Committee on Marine Protected Areas (ICMMPA)
- 4.8 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- 4.9 International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- 4.10 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- 4.11 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)
- 4.12 North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES)
- 4.13 Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife of the Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean (SPAW)
- 4.14 Other organisations

5. REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP) – GENERAL ISSUES

- 5.1 Complete the MSY rates review [N]
- 5.2 Finalise the approach for evaluating proposed amendments to the *CLA* [N]
- 5.3 Evaluate the Norwegian proposal for amending the *CLA* [N]
- 5.4 Modify the 'Catch Limit' program to allow variance-covariance matrices
- 5.5 Update Requirements and Guidelines for conducting surveys and *Implementations* [N]
- 5.6 Work plan

6. RMP –IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED MATTERS [N]

- 6.1 North Pacific common minke whales [N]
 - 6.1.1 *Review report of intersessional workshop*
 - 6.1.2 *Complete Implementation*
 - 6.1.3 *Recommendations*

6.2 North Atlantic fin whales

6.2.1 Implementation Review [N]

6.2.2 Recommendations

6.3 North Atlantic minke whales

6.3.1 Review new information

6.3.2 Prepare for 2014 Implementation Review [N]

6.3.3 Recommendations

6.4 North Atlantic sei whales

6.4.1 Begin pre-Implementation Assessment

6.4.2 Recommendations

6.5 Western North Pacific Bryde's whales

6.5.1 Prepare for 2016 Implementation Review

6.5.2 Recommendations

6.6 Work plan

7. NON-DELIBERATE HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY OF LARGE WHALES [N]

7.1 Determination of cause of death from strandings (HIM or E) [N]

7.2 Reporting to National Progress Reports (HIM) [N]

7.3 Entanglement of large whales (HIM) [N]

7.3.1 Estimation of rates of entanglement, risks of entanglement and mortality

7.3.2 Methods to estimate time-series of bycatches

7.3.3 Collaboration with FAO and FIRMS

7.3.4 Collaboration with Commission's Humane Killing and Animal Welfare Methods Working Group including consideration of mitigation measures

7.3.5 Provision of information to RMP and AWMP including estimation of time series for trials

7.4 Ship strikes (HIM) [N]

7.4.1 Progress on the global database

7.4.2 Estimating rates of ship strikes, risk of ship strikes and mortality

7.4.3 Collaboration with the Commission's ship strikes working group including consideration of mitigation measures

7.4.4 Provision of information to RMP and AWMP

7.5 Marine debris (E) [N]

7.5.1 Consideration of report from workshop on marine debris

7.5.2 Recommendations

7.6 Other issues including mortality from acoustic sources (E)

7.7 Work plan

8. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (AWMP)

8.1 Matters arising out of the *Implementation Review* for eastern North Pacific gray whales [N]

8.2 Guidelines for SLA development and evaluation [N]

8.3 Progress on SLA development for the Greenlandic hunts [N]

8.4 New information related to conversion factors for edible products for Greenland fisheries

8.5 Work plan

9. ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT ADVICE [N]

9.1 Eastern Canada and West Greenland bowhead whales (BRG)

9.1.1 Assess stock structure and abundance of Eastern Canada and West Greenland bowhead whales

9.1.2 Review recent catch information

9.1.3 Management advice

9.2 Eastern North Pacific gray whales (BRG)

9.2.1 Provide information to the SWG on AWMP for Implementation Review

9.2.2 Review of recent catch information

9.2.3 Management advice

9.3 Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas Bowhead whale (BRG)

9.3.1 New information

9.3.2 Management advice

9.4 Common minke whale stocks off Greenland (AWMP)

9.4.1 New information

9.4.2 Management advice

9.5 Fin whales off West Greenland (AWMP)

9.5.1 New information

9.5.2 Management advice

9.6 Humpback whales off West Greenland (AWMP)

9.6.1 New information

9.6.2 Management advice

9.7 Humpback whales off St. Vincent and The Grenadines (AWMP)

9.7.1 New information

9.7.2 Management advice

9.8 Work plan

10. WHALE STOCKS [N]

10.1 Antarctic minke whales (IA)

10.1.1 Consideration of technical aspects of the agreed abundance estimates for CPII and CPIII [N]

10.1.2 Continue to examine reasons for the difference between abundance estimates from CPII and CPIII [N]

10.1.3 Apply statistical catch-at-age models

10.1.4 Work plan

10.2 Southern Hemisphere humpback whales (SH) [N]

10.2.1 Review results of assessment of Breeding stocks D, E and F

10.2.2 Review new information on other breeding stocks

10.2.3 Work plan

10.3 Southern Hemisphere blue whales (SH)

10.3.1 Review new information

10.3.2 Work plan

10.4 North Pacific sei whale in-depth assessment (IA) [N]

10.4.1 Review intersessional progress

10.4.2 Assessment

10.4.3 Work plan

10.5 North Pacific gray whales (BRG) [N]

10.5.1 Review new information

10.5.2 Conservation advice

10.5.3 Work plan

10.6 Southern Hemisphere right whales (BRG) [N]

10.6.1 Review new information

10.6.2 Complete assessment

10.6.3 Work plan

10.7 North Atlantic right whales (BRG)

10.7.1 Review any new information

10.7.2 Work plan

10.8 North Pacific right whales

10.8.1 Review any new information

10.8.2 Work plan

10.9 North Atlantic bowhead whales (BRG)

10.9.1 Review any new information

10.9.2 Work plan

10.10 Okhotsk Sea bowhead whales (BRG)

10.10.1 Review any new information

10.10.2 Work plan

10.11 Arabian Sea humpback whales (SH)

10.11.1 Review new information

10.11.2 Progress toward the development of a Conservation Management Plan

10.11.3 Work plan

10.12 International Cruises (IA)

10.12.1 IWC-POWER cruises in the North Pacific [N]

10.12.2 Review of 2012 IWC-POWER sighting survey

10.12.3 Review planning meeting report for 2013 cruise

10.12.4 Recommendations for 2014 cruise

10.12.5 IWC-SOWER cruises (progress on website, publications, analyses)

10.12.6 Other cruises

10.13 Other

11. STOCK DEFINITION (SD) [N]

11.1 Guidelines for genetic studies and DNA data quality [N]

11.2 Statistical and genetic issues related to stock structure matters faced by the Committee [N]

11.3 Terminology and unit-to-serve [N]

11.4 Work plan

12. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (E)

12.1 State of the Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER [N]

12.2 Pollution [N]

12.3 Cetacean Emerging and Resurging Diseases and Mortality Events [N]

12.4 Effects of anthropogenic sound on cetaceans and approaches to mitigate these effects

12.5 Effects of climate change on cetaceans [N]

12.6 Habitat related issues

12.7 Work plan

13. ECOSYSTEM MODELLING (EM)

13.1 Review ecosystem modelling efforts undertaken outside the IWC

13.2 Explore how ecosystem models contribute to developing scenarios for simulation testing of the RMP

13.3 Antarctic minke whale body condition analyses

13.4 Review other issues relevant to ecosystem modelling within the Committee

13.5 Work plan

14. SMALL CETACEANS (SM)

14.1 Review of selected small cetacean populations in East Asian Waters [China (including Taiwan), Korea, Japan and Russia (only white whales)] [N]

14.2 Report on the Voluntary Fund for Small Cetacean Conservation Research

14.3 Review progress on previous recommendations [N]

14.4 Review takes of small cetaceans [N]

14.5 Update on proposed joint workshop on monodontids

14.6 Work plan

15. WHALEWATCHING (WW)

15.1 Assess the impact of whalewatching on cetaceans [N]

15.2 Review whalewatching in southern and central eastern Asia [N]

15.3 Progress on Commission's 5-year strategic plan including guidelines and regulations [N]

15.4 Other issues

15.4.1 Consider information from platforms of opportunity of potential value to the Scientific Committee

15.5 Work plan

16. DNA TESTING (DNA) [N]

16.1 Review genetic methods for species, stock and individual identification

16.2 Review results of the 'amendments' of sequences deposited in GenBank

16.3 Collection and archiving of tissue samples from catches and bycatches

16.4 Reference databases and standards for diagnostic DNA registries

16.5 Work plan

17. SCIENTIFIC PERMITS (SP) [N]

17.1 Review report of workshop for Icelandic Scientific Permit whaling [N]

17.2 Review of results from ongoing permits [N]

17.2.1 JARPN II

17.2.2 JARPA II

17.2.3 Planning for a periodic review of results from JARPA II beginning September 2013 [N]

17.3 Review of new or continuing proposals [N]

17.3.1 JARPA II

17.3.2 JARPN II

17.4 Work plan

18. WHALE SANCTUARIES (S) [N]

- 19. SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP [N]**
- 20. RESEARCH AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AND RESULTS**
 - 20.1 Review results from previously funded research proposals**
 - 20.2 Review proposals for 2013/14 [N]**
- 21. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR THE 2014 MEETING [N]**
- 22. DATA PROCESSING AND COMPUTING NEEDS FOR 2013/14[N]**
- 23. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2013/14 [N]**
- 24. WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE [N]**
- 25. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
- 26. PUBLICATIONS**
- 27. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 28. ADOPTION OF REPORT [N]**

CHAIR'S ANNOTATIONS [N]

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

The Scientific Committee (SC/65A¹) will meet on Jeju Island, Korea, from 3-15 June 2013. It will be preceded on 1-2 June by a pre-meeting workshop on the *Implementation Review* for fin whales.

General information can be found at:

<http://events.iwc.int/index.php/scientific/SC65a>

The list of the work agreed to be attempted during the 2012/2013 intersessional period can be found at

<http://iwc.int/sctasks>

and the list of intersessional correspondence groups and terms of reference is at:

<http://iwc.int/correspondence-groups>

I have referred to some, but not all of these intersessional groups in the notes to the Agenda.

Item 1.3: Meeting procedures and time schedule

At the Scientific Committee meeting in 2012 we had 105 sessions available for sub-committee deliberations over a seven-day period, based on three concurrent sub-committee meetings for each of five work sessions per day, starting at approximately 08:30 and ending typically at 18:00. This schedule allowed for several *ad hoc* working groups to meet in the evening, typically from 18:15 to approximately 21:00, and for occasional longer sessions of sub-committees beyond the scheduled 18:00 finish time.

The Special Permit (SP) working group will meet during two evening sessions early in the sub-committee week to complete its agenda. The Sanctuaries working group (SAN) will only be established if there is a new formal proposal for sanctuaries submitted according to the guidelines for review by the Committee. As was done previously, one evening session may be used to 'communicate' a key theme of the Committees work: the 'Comprehensive Assessment' and 'the AWMP' are candidate themes. In addition, a voluntary session will be dedicated to a simple guide to the Committee's procedures – this will occur after coffee on Day 1.

Last year's schedule proved efficient as it allowed for rapporteurs and *ad hoc* working groups to work during the evening. The Scientific Committee agreed to continue this schedule at the 2012 Annual Meeting (SC64).

Time schedule at SC65A		
Date	Items	Comments
1-2 June	Pre-meeting workshop	Item 6.2
3 June	Plenary session, voluntary session on guide to meeting procedures, then read documents. Possible meetings of SD working group.	Items 1-4
4 June	Initial meetings of sub-committees and working groups (about 15 minutes each). Possible meetings of SD working group	To elect chairs and adopt agenda, identify documents, etc
5 – 11 June	Predominantly sub-committees (possibly some short plenary meetings)	To complete agenda and agree report
12 June	<i>Tentative</i> rest day	Subject to cancellation if insufficient progress is made....
13-15 June	Plenary sessions. Intention to finish no later than 5pm on 15 June	To complete agenda and agree report, including work plan and draft initial agenda for 2014
16 June	09:00-12:00 Convenors to complete editorial work on sub-committee and plenary reports; 12:00 Convenors meeting to, if necessary, consider refinements of the draft initial agenda, priorities, and changes in organisational structure implied by the draft initial agenda or by discussions during the meeting.	

¹ Note: now that the Commission has moved to biennial meetings (i.e. IWC 65 will take place in 2014), we will now be numbering the two SC meetings relevant to the Commission meeting A and B; thus the 2013 and 2014 Scientific Committee meetings will be SC/65A and SC/65B.

Item 1.4: Establishment of sub-committees and working groups

The following groups were identified by the Convenors immediately after SC64 (see table below). The convenors and co-convenors for each sub-committee are listed in the table below. Although each group has a tentative annex number, some reports may be incorporated directly into the Scientific Committee's report. PLEASE NOTE: you are asked to sign up for sub-committees and working groups in advance. Details can be found in circular IWC.SC.173. It is important that you consult the registration and document submission details that can be found on the website:

<http://events.iwc.int/index.php/scientific/SC65a>

We intend to establish 14 sub-committees (including standing Working Groups and *ad hoc* Working Groups). This year we again have seven days available for sub-committees, and the number of sessions for sub-committees is again scheduled to be 105 based on three concurrent sub-committee meetings for each of five work sessions per day, starting at approximately 08:30 and ending typically at 18:00. Because of the inability to schedule certain sub-committees opposite other sub-committees, we will, if necessary, convene some evening sessions. However, if possible, I will avoid evening sessions to allow: (1) rapporteurs to draft reports and (2) more time for small break out groups (e.g. to do simulation runs and testing) during the annual meeting.

The draft Agenda developed by the Scientific Committee and finalised by the Convenors at last year's meeting (IWC/64/Rep1, Item 21) identified priority items for each sub-committee and items that would only be discussed if time is available. Chairs will adhere closely to this. I have included items in the latter category as sub-items under the heading 'Other issues' where appropriate, to emphasise this.

Sub-committees, standing and <i>ad hoc</i> working groups at SC65A			
Title	Convenor	Co-convenor	Annex
Revised Management Procedure, RMP	Bannister		D
<i>Pre-Implementation Assessment</i> of western North Pacific common minke whales, NPM	Hammond		D1
Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Management Procedure, AWMP	Donovan	Brandon	E
Bowhead, Right and Gray Whales, BRG	Walløe		F
In-depth Assessment, IA	Palka	Hedley	G
Southern Hemisphere whale stocks other than Antarctic minke and right whales, SH	Robbins		H
Stock Definition, SD	Jackson		I
Non-deliberate human-induced mortality of large whales, HIM	Leaper		J
Environmental Concerns, E	Rowles	Parsons	K
Ecosystem Modelling, EM	Palacios		K1
Small Cetaceans, SM	Fortuna		L
Whalewatching, WW	Urban-Rámirez	Carlson	M
DNA, DNA	Pastene		N
Special Permits, SP	Bjørge		P

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The order of the Agenda is based on that of last year, but amended *inter alia* to take account of our work plan and Commission mandates. The Commission accepted our priorities and initial Agenda, and adopted the budget as given under Items 21 and 23 of the last year's report.

I again recognise that some Contracting Governments do not believe that certain topics should be on the Commission and/or Scientific Committee Agendas. The appropriate forum to discuss such views is in the Commission. It is not within my mandate as Chair to exclude items specifically requested for inclusion by the Commission (e.g. by Resolution). To facilitate plenary and sub-committee discussions, I will follow the practice of past years and **strongly request** that any objections to specific items or particular topics on the Agenda be raised briefly under this Agenda Item and then provided in writing to the rapporteur for inclusion in our report. It is not acceptable for these objections to be repeated during discussions of the items themselves in the plenary sessions or during sub-committee meetings. A written reference in the relevant reports to the statements made here under Item 2 will be sufficient.

ITEM 3: REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DATA, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

Item 3.1: Documents submitted

PLEASE NOTE: the Secretariat will be using a new system for registration and for submission of documents. Amongst other things authors will no longer have to contact the Secretariat to obtain a document number – this will be allocated by the Secretariat. The IWC Meeting Portal has been trialled during the intersessional workshops. It can be found at:

<http://events.iwc.int>

At the 2012 meeting the Committee agreed that all documents will be distributed wholly electronically (website and memory sticks) by the Secretariat. There will be no more personal pigeonholes. For further details see:

<http://iwc.int/cache/downloads/ain7u00pm3kgscccs48008kkg/IWCSC173.pdf>

Item 3.2: National Progress Reports on research

Progress report data are to be uploaded online at the IWC data collection portal. National coordinators will be contacted directly and the information provided in a circular to the Scientific Committee.

Under this Item we will also discuss progress made and difficulties encountered with respect to online data entry of progress reports as raised last year.

ITEM 4: COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Most of the organisations on this list are ones that have met since our last meeting and with which we have a formal exchange of observers. Observers' reports should therefore be available. **Observers, please, send your reports to the Secretariat no later than 3 May.** I would like to be able to discuss these on Day 1. To save time, there will be no presentation of observer's reports. Any directly relevant scientific matters will be dealt with under appropriate Agenda Items on our Agenda. I will assume that Committee members have read these, and I will ask members whether there are any questions that should be addressed under this Agenda Item.

ITEMS: 5-17

These items have been prepared in consultation with the Convenors to take specifically into account relevant Commission Resolutions and Agenda Items. Note that the Committee Agenda here does not repeat the detailed sub-committee Agenda Items, but only highlights the major areas of discussion. Sub-items can more appropriately be added later (as is our usual practice).

ITEM 5: REVISED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (RMP) – GENERAL ISSUES

Item 5.1: Complete the MSY rates review

Complete the review of the range of MSYR values for use in the RMP *Implementation Simulation Trials* based on the preparatory work of a steering group (Annex Q1) and the results of the intersessional workshop held in La Jolla, California from 26-28 March 2013. If the MSYR review cannot be completed at this year's meeting, the current range of MSYR rates (1% - 7% in terms of the mature component of the population) will be used.

Item 5.2: Finalise the approach for evaluating proposed amendments to the CLA [N]

When it last discussed this issue in 2006, the Committee agreed that two steps still had to be completed: (1) finalisation of the MSYR review (see above); and (2) specification of additional trials for testing amendments to the CLA. The latter related to modelling the effects of possible environmental degradation in addition to, or possibly replacing, the trials in which *K*, perhaps with MSYR, varies over time. The Committee re-established a working group under Allison to develop and run such trials for consideration at this year's meeting (Annex Q2). The Committee stressed that this work must be completed by this year's meeting irrespective of the progress made under Item 5.1.

Item 5.3: Evaluate the Norwegian proposal for amending the CLA

The Committee was again unable to complete its evaluation of the Norwegian proposal last year. It will complete the task once the MSYR review is complete (see Item 5.1) and any additional trials (see Item 5.2) have been specified and run.

Item 5.5: Update Requirements and Guidelines for conducting surveys and Implementations

The existing Committee's Requirement and Guidelines were written only for the design-based surveys. Recently, the Committee recognised a need to consider what circumstances might approval when the survey and analysis are conducted based on spatial modelling or quasi design-based approaches. The Committee agreed that a review of this issue should take place intersessionally (see SC64 Annex D) that will also provide draft text for possible inclusion in the Requirements and Guidelines.

ITEM 6: RMP – PREPARATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Committee is developing a list of agreed abundance estimates for all stocks and the uses for which they are suitable. The RMP sub-committee will update its list for all stocks considered this year. An Annex of all agreed abundance estimates of the Committee will be included as an Annex to the Plenary Report.

Item 6.1: North Pacific common minke whales

The *Implementation Review* for western North Pacific minke whales is more complex than any previous Implementation. The Committee is one year behind the normal schedule for *Implementations*. The Committee will receive the report of the 'second' intersessional workshop according to its guidelines. The priority tasks of that workshop are to run and evaluate all trials in accordance with guidelines and present the results and recommendations at the 2013 Annual Meeting to enable the Committee to complete its review in 2013. These sessions will be dealt with under the NMP sub-committee.

Item 6.2 North Atlantic fin whales

6.2.1 Complete Implementation Review

Last year, the Committee agreed that the available information is sufficient to warrant an *Implementation Review* in 2013. The *Review* will start during a pre-meeting so that it is completed during this year's SC.

Item 6.3 North Atlantic common minke whales

6.3.2 Prepare for 2014 Implementation Review

A steering group was established under Palsboll at SC64 (Annex Q4) to progress this item. Details are given in SC64 Annex D, Appendix 6.

ITEM 7: NON-DELIBERATE HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY OF LARGE WHALES

This year we will group together all of the items on human induced mortality of large whales as this information is relevant for RMP, AWMP, BRG and in-depth assessments and given the common nature of issues related to both estimation and mitigation it is sensible to consider them together. The item will primarily be discussed by the newly-named HIM sub-group apart from the marine debris issue that will be discussed in E.

Item 7.1 Determination of cause of death from strandings (HIM or E – convenors to agree best approach including joint session option)

The ability to identify cause of death from strandings is extremely important for many aspects of our work. It is expected that the report of a US-led workshop will be available for discussion.

Item 7.2 Reporting to National Progress Reports (HIM)

After last year's meeting, improvements to the online data entry for progress reports have been made. This item is to give the opportunity to discuss what extracts/summaries are required to facilitate the Committee's work on this topic.

Item 7.3 Entanglement of large whales (HIM)

This item will incorporate the usual topics considered by the old bycatch sub-committee as well as matters relevant to the disentanglement and mitigation.

Item 7.4 Ship strikes (HIM)

This will consider information on ship strikes including estimation of rates, collaboration with the Commission's ship strikes working group on scientific aspects (e.g. hot spots and mitigation), and progress with the ship strikes database (including reports from the newly appointed co-ordinators, Panigada and Ritter). It will also include collisions with whalewatching vessels.

Item 7.5 Marine debris (E)

There will be a marine debris workshop held in the spring in conjunction with the Conservation Committee. The Committee will review the results of the workshop.

ITEM 8: ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

Item 8.1 Matters arising out of the *Implementation Review* for eastern North Pacific gray whales

Last year, the Committee had identified some additional work with respect to testing *SLA* variants for the Makah hunt. Progress was reviewed at the intersessional workshop in Copenhagen in December 2012 and a work plan developed. This work is expected to be completed at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

Item 8.2 Guidelines for *SLA* development and evaluation

A draft document for consideration will be provided by Donovan, Punt and Scordino.

Item 8.3 Progress on *SLA* development for the Greenlandic hunts

The Committee will review the results of the intersessional workshop held in Copenhagen in December 2012 where a work plan was developed with an initial focus on humpback and bowhead whales. Work on fin whales and common minke whales involves some shared components with RMP.

ITEM 9: ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING MANAGEMENT ADVICE

In 2012 the Commission adopted new strike limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling for several hunts. Although a proposal for strike limits for the Greenlandic hunts was not adopted by the Commission, a review of management advice for all hunts will be provided.

The Committee is developing a list of agreed abundance estimates for all stocks and the uses for which they are suitable. The AWMP and BRG sub-committees will develop/update their list for all stocks considered this year. An Annex of all agreed abundance estimates of the Committee will be included as an Annex to the Plenary Report.

ITEM 10: WHALE STOCKS

Individual items will be dealt with by appropriate sub-committees, as indicated in the Draft Agenda. Note that the old item referring to 'Other stocks of right whales and small stocks of bowhead whales' has been broken up into its component parts.

The Committee is developing a list of agreed abundance estimates for all stocks and the uses for which they are suitable. The IA sub-committee will develop/update its list for all stocks it has considered. An Annex of all agreed abundance estimates of the Committee will be included as an Annex to the Plenary Report.

Item 10.1: Antarctic minke whales

Item 10.1.1: Consideration of technical aspects of the agreed abundance estimates for CPII and CPIII

Last year, the Committee reached agreement on abundance estimates from CPII and CPIII based on the OK method. At the same time, the Committee recognised there are some remaining technical issues including simulations, variance estimation and hazard probability modelling. The Committee will review progress on these matters.

Item 10.1.2: Continue to examine reasons for the differences between abundance estimates from CPII and CPIII

Although the abundance estimates had been agreed, reasons for the observed differences in abundance estimated from CPII and CPIII are not yet fully understood. The Committee identified the following tasks to examine this further: the relationship between the abundance of Antarctic minke whales and variables related to sea ice; abundance estimation of minke whales in sea ice regions; and catch-at-age analyses, including examining growth rates and age-at-maturity possible changes by Areas. The Committee will review intersessional progress as the basis for continued work.

Item 10.2: Southern Hemisphere humpback whales

The Committee will review results of assessment by the intersessional working group (Annex Q12) for breeding stocks D, E and F.

Item 10.4 North Pacific sei whale in-depth assessment (IA) [N]

Last year the Committee agreed to undertake an in-depth assessment of North Pacific sei whales in 2013 and appointed an intersessional group (Annex Q14).

Item 10.5: North Pacific gray whales

The Commission is particularly concerned about the status of the gray whales whose feeding grounds coincide with oil and gas operations off Sakhalin Island, Russian Federation. New information from telemetry studies and photo-identification studies means that a major review of stock structure in the North Pacific is required to better understand the impacts of anthropogenic threats to gray whales on both sides of the Pacific including during migration.

Item 10.6: Southern Hemisphere right whales

Last year, the Committee reviewed the report of the 2011 intersessional workshop on the assessment of Southern Hemisphere right whale populations. However, the Committee recognised that aspects of the assessment were not complete last year. It will review intersessional progress.

Item 10.12 International Cruises

Item 10.12.1 IWC-POWER cruises in the North Pacific

The Committee has now agreed objectives. It will review the results of the past cruises, the planning meeting report for the 2013 cruise and discuss plans for the 2014 cruise.

ITEM 11: STOCK DEFINITION

This year, convenors may submit key papers relevant to their work to SD for early review of their technical aspects and implications (e.g. with respect to uncertainty and appropriate hypotheses)

Item 11.1: Guidelines for genetic studies and DNA data quality

The Committee will review the results of the genetic data and analyses guidelines discussed by intersessional working groups

Item 11.2: Statistical and genetic issues related to stock structure matters faced by the Committee

Amongst the issues identified last year is included the consideration of previous trial results with respect to 'tipping points' in inter-population migration rates that made significant differences to trial outcomes. The use of the TOSSM framework to address difficulties faced by the Committee will also be discussed.

Item 11.3: Terminology and unit-to-conserve

The Committee is in the process of trying to develop a suite of definitions for stock-related terms and will review intersessional progress this year.

ITEM 12: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Item 12.1: State of Cetacean Environment Report, SOCER

Committee members are encouraged to make submissions to the co-Convenors of the intersessional working group. Use the standardised form for data entry, which can be downloaded from:

<http://iwc.int/socer>

Item 12.2: Pollution

This item includes updates on the POLLUTION 2000+ Phase II project (Annex Q21), work needed related to oil spill response and assessments (Annex Q19), evaluating risk to cetaceans from marine debris (Annex Q20) and other relevant updates on for example oil spills. The Committee will review their progress and decide on further steps.

Item 12.3: Cetacean Emerging and Resurging Diseases and Mortality Events

The Committee will review progress made by the intersessional CERD working group (Annex Q22) and review major disease or cetacean mortality events such as the report of the 2008 Madagascar mass stranding event. This may include updates on the determination of human induced mortality.

Item 12.5: Effects of Climate Change on Cetaceans

This will include the continued work on the planning for the Anthropogenic Impacts to Cetaceans in the Arctic Workshop to occur in autumn 2013 in Anchorage, Alaska.

ITEM 14: SMALL CETACEANS

Item 14.1: Review of selected small cetacean populations in East Asian Waters [China (including Taiwan), Korea, Japan and Russia (just belugas)]

The original plan for carrying out the "Review taxonomy, population structure and status of Ziphiidae in the southern hemisphere" has been postponed, due to the difficulty in gathering suitable experts. Given the location of the 2013 meeting the sub-committee will focus on a review of selected small cetaceans in east Asian waters i.e. those subject live-capture, bycatch, drive, and/or harpoon fisheries. It is proposed to focus on: striped dolphins; bottlenose dolphins; Risso's dolphins; northern short-finned pilot whales; southern short-finned pilot whales; Dall's porpoises; both species of finless porpoise; killer whales and white whales from the Okhotsk Sea. In terms of priority it is proposed to consider:

- (1) both species of finless porpoise, especially for China, Korea and Japan:

Neophocaena asiaorientalis (Pilleri and Gahr, 1972). Narrow-ridged finless porpoise

N. a. asiaorientalis (Pilleri and Gahr, 1972). Yangtze finless porpoise

N. a. sunameri Pilleri and Gahr, 1975. East Asian finless porpoise, sunameri

- (2) populations of *Tursiops aduncus* in Korean and Japanese waters;

- (3) new data on northern form of the short-finned pilot whale in Japan;

- (4) white whales from the Okhotsk Sea (currently being captured and sold to aquariums)

- (5) Solomon Islands update on both live-capture (*T. aduncus*) and drive fisheries (mainly *Stenella*).

Item 14.3: Review progress on previous recommendations

IWC Resolution 2001-13 urges Contracting Governments to respond to Scientific Committee requests for information and recommendations for action regarding conservation of small cetaceans. This resolution also instructs the Committee to continue to review progress on previous recommendations on a regular basis.

Item 14.4: Review takes of small cetaceans

As in previous years, I request Heads of Delegation to arrange for such information to be included in the National Progress Reports. The Committee should consider how it wishes to summarise the received and available

information upon direct and incidental takes of small cetaceans and consider how best to provide advice on these including issues related to 'marine bushmeat' (Annex Q26).

ITEM 15: WHALEWATCHINGItem 15.1 Assess the impact of whalewatching on cetaceans

This item will include review of progress of intersessional groups on several related topics including the LaWE project (Annex Q27 and Q28), the swim-with-whale operations questionnaire (Annex Q30), and the project to identify potentially dangerous recreational interactions with cetaceans and people (Annex Q31).

Item 15.2 Review whalewatching in southern and central eastern Asia

This item will focus on information from the host country, Korea, and the surrounding region (including Japan, and China).

Item 15.3 Progress on Commission's 5-year strategic plan

The Commission has adopted a 5-year strategic plan for whalewatching. Many aspects of that plan have a scientific component and this Item will begin to provide the Committee's contribution to that work, including the development of guiding principles (Annex Q29) and updating the compendium of guidelines and regulations.

ITEM 16: DNA TESTING

Under this Agenda Item, we will provide the report to the Commission required by IWC Resolution 1999-8. I will refer you to the Committee's recommendation that sequences to be used in published reports should be deposited in GenBank, and that the GenBank accession number is included in the publication, whether or not this is required by the journal. This is incorporated in the policy of the *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*, and its guide for authors. The Committee recommended that similar practices be established for public archiving of non-sequence genetic data, where feasible.

ITEM 17: SCIENTIFIC PERMITS

The SP working group (SP) will discuss special permit programmes and associated procedural questions in a general way. The detailed scientific results of the special permit programmes will be discussed in the relevant sub-committees and standing working groups (*inter alia* IA, NPM, E and EM).

Item 17.1: Review workshop for Icelandic Scientific Permit whaling

We will hear results of the expert review workshop (held 18-22 Feb 2013 in Reykjavik) for the Icelandic programme on North Atlantic common minke whales. The Committee will develop its view of that report which will also be forwarded to the Commission.

Item 17.2: Review of results from ongoing permits

There are two ongoing Special Permit programmes (JARPN II on North Pacific common minke, sei, Bryde's and sperm whales and JARPA II on fin and Antarctic minke whales).

17.2.3 Planning for a periodic review of results from JARPA II beginning September 2013

The first 6-year phase has been completed (2005-06 through 2010-11) and therefore the periodic review is due to begin. Considerable laboratory and analysis work are still needed (as of SC63) and since it is anticipated that this review would occur in the same intersessional period as the Iceland review, the Scientific Committee recommended the JARPA II periodic review begin in September 2013 (the 2013/2014 intersessional period).

Item 17.3: Review of new or continuing proposals

I have not been informed about any new proposals, and I do not anticipate any discussion of new Special Permit proposals this year.

ITEM 18: SANCTUARIES

In the major discussion about sanctuaries in 2004, the Committee recommended procedures to facilitate the review of future proposals and future sanctuary reviews (*J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 7 (Suppl.):50). I have not been informed about any new proposals for Sanctuaries that we have not already thoroughly reviewed. Therefore, I do not foresee any major discussion regarding this Agenda Item. Nonetheless, I have left the item on our draft Agenda for final consideration at the time of our meeting.

ITEM 19: SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

The Committee has received considerable input from projects agreed under the SORP programme. It is envisaged that the scientific results will be considered by the relevant sub-groups including IA and that this item will focus only on logistical and administrative actions required to further the SORP programme.

ITEM 20: RESEARCH AND WORKSHOP PROPOSALS AND RESULTS

Item 20.2: Review proposals for 2013/14

This item will be handled, as usual, by a review group chaired by the Vice Chair and appointed from the sub-committee chairs. However, I have been informed by the Secretariat that it is unlikely that we will be able to support any outside proposals and none have been received thus far. I also draw your attention to the discussion of appropriate procedures for funding research discussed under Items 19 and 22 of SC60's Committee report.

ITEM 21: COMMITTEE PRIORITIES AND INITIAL AGENDA FOR THE 2014 MEETING

Our priorities are largely determined by the Commission which now meets biennially. The work plan specified by each sub-committee/working group will provide a basis for the draft Agenda for the next meeting. I will prepare a draft initial Agenda for review before the end of the meeting so that it can appear in our report which will be circulated to the Commission and will reflect our view of priorities for 2013/14.

ITEM 22: DATA PROCESSING AND COMPUTING NEEDS FOR 2013/14

To facilitate discussion of this item, which necessarily occurs relatively late in the meeting, sub-committee chairs will, as usual, be asked to keep a running tally of needs arising in their sub-committee deliberations.

ITEM 23: FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2013/14

To facilitate discussion of this item, which necessarily occurs relatively late in the meeting, sub-committee Convenors will, as usual, be asked to keep a running tally of requirements arising in their sub-committee deliberations. Sub-committee chairs will try to ensure that a summary document is available as soon as possible after the sub-committees have completed their business. As was done last year, we will use a standard form that should help in ensuring that the appropriate information is easily and promptly available.

ITEM 24: WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee has agreed to keep this item on the Agenda to allow for discussion of possible proposals to improve the working methods of the Committee.

We are expecting papers on a number of topics including: approaches for reviewing funding requests related to e.g. Conservation Management Plans and SORP; and priorities for Conservation Management Plans. The Committee also agreed to consider further an issue raised last year by Galletti on the provision of conservation recommendations.

The Scientific Committee Handbook is available on the website and we will consider suggestions for additions/modifications under this Agenda Item.

<http://iwc.int/scientific-committee-handbook>

ITEM 28: ADOPTION OF REPORT

I will do my best to ensure that we finish before 5pm on the final day with a completed report.