

# **Final Annotated Agenda for the Photo-identification Workshop**

**Vancouver, Canada, 12 to 14 October 2007**

The meeting will start at 9:00 am and end at 5:30 pm on October 12 and 13. Coffee breaks will take place at 10:30am and 3pm, and lunch break from 12:30 to 1:30pm. The evenings will be available for tasks assigned to individuals or small groups, as needed.

The order of the items to be discussed, as well as the time allocated to each item will be decided by the Task Force at the beginning of the meeting. The schedule of October 14 will also be agreed upon during the meeting.

*Note: Comments in italics are explanatory notes that are not part of the agenda itself.*

## **1. Introductory items**

## **2. Cross-matching exercise**

### **2.1. Presentation of report of independent expert and cross-matching results**

*Dr Victoria Rowntree has reviewed the cross matching exercises and prepared a report, which will respect the rights of the data owners and be circulated to participants well in advance of the Workshop.*

### **2.2. Resolution of doubtful cases, and, if appropriate, matching of temporary whales**

*Based on results received from each team to date, there remains only a very small number of doubtful cases which the workshop will need to examine. The Teams will be encouraged to bring all available photos of these whales together with these sighting histories in case these are needed.*

## **3. Presentation of each team's work, including:**

### **3.1. Field methods (e.g. locating and approaching whales; obtaining photographs, including multiple aspects [left/right/flukes]; auxiliary field data collected)**

### **3.2. 'Laboratory' procedures (criteria/procedures for): (a) designating new whales; (b) identifying re-sights; (c) linking different aspects; (d) designating temporary whales; (e) dealing with undetermined/pending cases (if any); (f) photo quality rating or other procedure for acceptance/rejection of photos; (g) permanent archiving of photos.**

*A general understanding of the field and laboratory procedures followed to date is important to interpret the data and to ensure that any analyses to be conducted are based on assumptions that are consistent with the way the data were collected.*

### **3.3. Conclusions and recommendations**

*This item is a placeholder in case the participants develop any agreed conclusions and recommendations. Recommendations contained in the independent expert's report can also be considered under this item.*

#### **4. Procedures for regular updating of catalogues and cross-matching (incl. matching 3rd party photos)**

#### **5. Sighting history database structure**

*Analyses of the data to address demographic and related issues typically require not merely the catalogue but the records of annual sighting history of each whale. Under this item, it would be helpful to view tabulations of these data and some example histories in order to aid understanding of their scope and limitations with respect to particular analytical techniques. This opportunity can also be used to resolve any discrepancies in the histories that are found.*

#### **6. Scientific questions that can be addressed by analyses of WGW photo-id data**

*After resolution of doubtful cases it would probably be worthwhile to brainstorm on the analysis that could be conducted from various perspectives (there will/can be overlap of certain analysis for each driver):*

- conservation relevance
- company driven motivation
- scientific motivation

##### **6.1. Examples of analyses conducted to date (e.g. WGWAP population assessment)**

##### **6.2. Other potential questions, and analyses that could be performed**

*The obvious scientific questions of conservation relevance relate to demography (survival rates, birth intervals, age at first reproduction, population trend), but there may be further relevant questions that could be addressed using photo-id data.*

*These identified analyses could be categorized according to the above perspectives.*

#### **7. Issues related to undertaking analyses involving both datasets**

##### **7.1. Scientific benefits**

*More nearly complete coverage of the population, and expanded sighting histories, are obvious benefits of a combined analysis, but there may be others.*

##### **7.2. Practical issues (incl. safeguards for data owners and facilitation of permission to use)**

#### **8. Practical issues of combining both datasets**

##### **8.1. Data ownership**

##### **8.2. Other**

#### **9. Consideration of ways to reduce disturbance to whales, while maintaining sufficient data collection for population assessment and other important scientific questions**

##### **9.1. Optimisation of photo-ID efforts**

*The excellent agreement found during the cross-catalogue comparison and the work demonstrating short-term responses of whales to close approaches by boats, suggests that the current (largely duplicative) level of photo-identification research effort needs to be reviewed in terms of minimising disturbance without compromising data collection and the ability to answer relevant scientific questions.*

## **9.2. Optimisation of collection of other data incidental to photo-ID**

*Due to the close coupling of other types of data, such as biopsy samplings, with photo-ID, it is desirable that the Task Force considers this issue in the framework of minimizing duplication of efforts and disturbance to whales. It is however not envisioned that the Task Force will come to some kind of agreement or discuss the issue thoroughly, but rather flag it and define the best way to discuss it further at another meeting or workshop.*

## **10. Conclusions & recommendations**

## **11. Adoption of report to be submitted to WGWAP**