

5th meeting of the Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel, Lausanne, 3 - 6 December 2008

## DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Revised 26 November 2008

1. Opening
  - 1.1. Introduction and logistics
  - 1.2. Adoption of agenda
  - 1.3. Documents
  - 1.4. Report drafting procedures
2. Review recommendations from previous meetings [**WGWAP**]
3. Conclusions and recommendations from the rangewide workshop
4. Population assessment
  - 4.1. Progress on update of population assessment [**Cooke**]. *Cooke will present results of an updated population assessment.*
  - 4.2. Analysis of data on body condition from Russia-US team (see IWC-SC/60/BRG16) [**Weller**].
  - 4.3. Data on body condition incorporated into a population assessment [**Cooke**]. *Cooke will present results of a population assessment incorporating data on body condition.*
5. Preliminary results of 2008 WGW distribution and behavior monitoring
  - 5.1. Results from SEIC/ENL shore and vessel survey program [SEIC]
  - 5.2. Results from observational effort by non-industry groups [Tsidulko, Weller]
6. Photo-ID
  - 6.1. Progress report from Photo-ID Task Force (based on timelines of WGWAP-4 Annex 4) [**Cooke**]
  - 6.2. Photo-ID of WGWs in Sakhalin and Kamchatka [**SEIC/IMB-team**]
  - 6.3. Photo-ID of WGWs in Sakhalin [**Russia-US team**]
  - 6.4. Review the continuation and functioning of the Photo-ID TF [**WGWAP**]
  - 6.5. Review of progress on comparison of Kamchatka photos to both the Russian and the Russian-US catalogues (per recommendation by IWC-SC) [**SEIC and Weller**].
7. MMO programme and carcass detection
  - 7.1. 2008 MMO programme preliminary report (refer to WGWAP-3/002 and /003) [**SEIC**]. *The relevant requests are:  
WGWAP-4/001: The Panel requests that SEIC provide clear explanations for Miss Sybil's inshore movements on 6 and 21 September, 1 and 13 October and 2, 3 and 5 November 2007. Explanation expected in August 2008.*

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*WGWAP-4/002: The Panel requests that SEIC continue to document vessel deviations from the navigation corridors towards a WGW feeding area and make this information available in its annual MMO reports.*

- 7.2. Update concerning annual revision of MMPP (specifically in relation to traffic management for current operations in Aniva Bay, and crew change vessels) [**SEIC**].
- 7.3. Update on SEIC authorization to collect tissue samples [**SEIC**]. *The relevant request is:*

*WGWAP-4/004: The Panel requests that SEIC report back at the next WGWAP meeting on the outcome of its request to Russian authorities for authorisation to collect tissue samples from stranded whales.*

- 7.4. Update on necropsy manual (refer to WGWAP-4/003) [**SEIC**]. *The relevant recommendation is:*

*WGWAP-4/003: The Panel recommends that SEIC arrange for section 5 of the Pugliares et al. (2007) necropsy manual to be translated into Russian and made available to any company staff and others in the region who are likely to be involved in response to strandings along the Sakhalin coast.*

- 7.5. Update on necropsy kit [**WGWAP**]. *The relevant recommendation is:*

*WGWAP-4/005: The Panel recommends that SEIC obtain three necropsy kits and ensure their availability at strategic points on Sakhalin Island*

## 8. Multivariate analysis

- 8.1. MVA of 2006 data (taking recommendations WGWAP-4/006 and /007 into consideration) [**SEIC**].
- 8.2. Final adoption of data availability protocol [**WGWAP**].
- 8.3. Update on progress with MVA-workshop(s) [**DONOVAN**].

## 9. Monitoring and management of continuous noise

- 9.1. Further consideration of results from SEIC's 2007 noise and whale monitoring programme – to include both noise and whale behaviour/distribution/density data (contingent on receipt of 2007 noise close-out report; per recommendation WGWAP-3/032) [**SEIC**]. *The relevant WGWAP-4 recommendation is:*

*WGWAP-4/009: The Panel noted that the 'opportunistic' observations of WGWs by MMOs (particularly near the outer edges of the Piltun feeding area) had been plotted in WGWAP 4/INF.10 but not used in the daily average estimated whale densities for the period from 21 June–24 July 2007. It recommends that such inclusion be attempted following the same principles as discussed under Item 10.2.1 and that the results be made available for Panel review at WGWAP-5.*

*At WGWAP-4 the Panel also expressed its wish to examine the data from the SEIC/ENL buoys placed along the 10m isobath (incl. in POI report to Russian authorities).*

- 9.2. Documenting the evolution of SEIC's noise management and mitigation programme – lessons learned – Draft manuscript for review by panel and SEIC [**Nowacek**].

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- 9.3. Review results of comparison of methodological approaches and observational data from the two shore-based teams [**SEIC**]. *The relevant recommendation is:*

*WGWAP-4/008: The Panel **agreed** with a proposal from Gailey that a dedicated comparison of scan and count methods as well as the analytical approaches used to calculate distance for data from the two teams would be a valuable contribution to proper integration of the distribution and behaviour data sets. The Panel **recommends** that such an analysis be provided for its review at WGWAP-5.*

- 9.4. Progress on development and testing of digital real-time monitoring buoys [**SEIC**]. *The relevant recommendation is:*

*WGWAP-4/012: The Panel **recommends** that equipment with the following specifications be used: (i) recording stations with analog-to-digital (A/D) converters of  $\geq 16$  bits, (ii) the real-time acoustic data be transmitted at this bit-depth (i.e.  $\sim 72$  dB dynamic range) in the frequency range of 1 Hz–3 kHz; and (iii) a sampling rate ( $F_s$ ) of  $\geq 20$  kHz for the archival buoys. The  $F_s \geq 20$  kHz specification applies more to continuous noise from construction and/or platform operations, which can reach 10 kHz (Richardson et al. 1995), although signals from seismic airguns can reach 3 kHz (Madsen et al. 2006).*

## 10. Benthic monitoring

- 10.1. Preliminary 2008 benthic monitoring report [**SEIC**]  
 10.2. Report from Environmental Monitoring Task Force [**VanBlaricom**]

## 11. Satellite tagging

- 11.1. Progress on recommendation on WGW satellite tagging [**Weller**]

## 12. 4-D seismic survey

- 12.1. Review status of WGW mitigation and monitoring to the extent this is possible in the absence of any new documentation or someone at the meeting to speak to this issue].
- 12.2. Update on implementation of recommendations [**SEIC**].
- 12.3. Update on completion of intersessional tasks:
- 12.3.1. Real-time calibration [**SEIC**]. See *WGWAP-4*, p. 20.
- 12.3.2. Results of the JASCO modeling work [**SEIC**]. See *WGWAP-4*, p. 20.
- 12.3.3. Results of the 95% kernel analysis [**SEIC**]. See *WGWAP-4*, p. 20.
- 12.3.4. Results of analysis of inclusion of non-systematic sightings [**SEIC**]. Refer to *Item 7.1* for the relevant recommendation.
- 12.3.5. Revised maps and perimeter monitoring line [**SEIC**].
- 12.3.6. Final coordinates for monitoring line [**SEIC**].
- 12.3.7. ToR for seismic survey expert group [**Donovan et al.**].

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### 13. Oil spill prevention, preparedness and response

#### 13.1. Update on implementation of recommendations [**SEIC and Dicks**]. *The relevant recommendations are:*

*WGWAP-4/016: The Panel **recommends** that it be provided with the information on aromatic hydrocarbons detailed in the report by 1 July 2008 (Section 11.2). This information is not yet received.*

*WGWAP-4/017: The Panel **recommends** that updated information on aromatic content, emulsification properties, wave tank or at-sea experiments, in-situ burning and biodegradability, as well as updates on any relevant ongoing studies and their expected completion times, be provided for review at WGWAP-5.*

*WGWAP-4/018: The Panel **recommends** that SEIC provide for WGWAP-5 an update on: modelling of spills in the Aniva Bay area (including by vessels approaching from the east) in relation to (a) the WGW feeding areas and (b) plausible WGW migration routes, and (c) the potential for increased risks associated with any predicted changes in ship traffic patterns.*

*WGWAP-4/019: The Panel therefore **recommends** that formal arrangements to use other vessels and provide relevant training for their crews be put in place by SEIC.*

*WGWAP-4/020: The Panel **requested** that further information on exercises be provided prior to WGWAP-5, including a list of those remaining in 2008 and planned for 2009 along with brief written reports on the completed exercises identifying lessons learned.*

*WGWAP-4/021: Revised versions of the plans had been provided for comment recently to the advisers for potential lenders (PCCI) and the Panel **recommends** that these be provided to the Panel for its review and comment.*

*WGWAP-4/022: SEIC reported that waste-disposal issues were being negotiated with Sakhalin Oblast. The proposed site at Smyrnik has been established; it is designed to accommodate 50,000m<sup>3</sup> of oily waste. The site is located between Yuzhno and Nogliki. A second site in the southern part of the island is currently under negotiation with Sakhalin Oblast. The Panel welcomed these developments and **requests** that regular updates be provided at future Panel meetings.*

#### 13.2. Update on completion of intersessional tasks [**SEIC and Dicks**]. *These include:*

*Details on oil characteristics, biodegradation, oil spill trajectory modeling and use of support vessels in spill response were to be provided to the Panel later this year (WGWAP-4, p. 24).*

*Review consistency of handbooks with OSR plans and report back at WGWAP-5 (WGWAP-4, p. 25).*

*These two tasks are contingent on **SEIC** providing the information and plans needed.*

### 14. Future SEIC plans for WGW monitoring and research

#### 14.1. Presentation by the panel on what is needed for an adequate SEIC research and monitoring plan (based on pre-meeting work by panel and on WGWAP-4/INF. 19) [**WGWAP**].

#### 14.2. Update on JIP proposal on CEE on gray whales [**Nowacek**].

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15. Non-SEIC groups monitoring

15.1. Russia-US Team [**Weller and/or Tsidulko**].

15.2. WWF, IFAW.

15.3. Update on proposed Piltun Protected Area [**WWF**].

16. Activity by other companies

17. Update on proposed activity on the Sakhalin Shelf.

18. Explicit discussion of WGWAP *modus operandi*, potential revision of ToR, structure and schedule of panel meetings.

19. Any other business.

	<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Deliverable Dates</b>
(1)	Completion of the report of the Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel at its fifth meeting and associated recommendations	5 January 2009
(2)	Detailed response from SEIC to individual recommendations made in the report of the Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel at its fifth meeting	20 January 2009