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Report from the International Whaling Commission on progress relevant to the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2023, 78/69 of Oceans and Law of the Sea

June 2024

Summary

Chair Amadou Téli Diallo (Republic of Guinea)
Vice Chair Nick Gales (Australia)
Executive Secretary Marth Rojas Urrego

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- x Marine Protected Areas The IWC has currently designated two Sanctuaries, the Indian Ocean Sanctuary and the Southern Ocean Sanctuary around Antarctica. The Southern Ocean Sanctuary was just reviewed at the SC68B meeting in 2024. IWC also engages with the CBD process on scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), the IUCN Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) and aspects of the IMO Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs).
- x Underwater noise- Since 2014, the IWC has been working to reduce anthropogenic underwater noise. This includes assisting with IMO initiatives, the development of guidelines for responsible seismic surveys and the minimisation of the impacts of marine renewable resource developments on cetaceans. Recent work focuses on engagement with IMO and efforts to address underwater noise from shipping. IWC is part of the Global Partnership for Mitigation of Underwater Noise from Shipping (GloNoise Partnership) project, designed by

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researchers in its Scientific Committee meetings in April 2023 and 2024. This will also be available to assist government delegates to attend IWC69.

1.7 The IWC's Journal of Cetacean Research and Management actively encourages and supports scientists from developing countries in publishing their work in an international peer-reviewed fully open access journal that has no publishing fees.

2. Marine environment and marine resources

Section IX of Resolution 78/68 addresses the Marine environment and marine resources and the need to protect and preserve the marine environment and its living marine resources against pollution and physical degradation. This reflects key priorities for the IWC which is active in several areas addressed in this section including:

2.1 Climate change

Paragraphs 200-203, 213, and 214 of Resolution 78/69 "Notes with concern the impacts of climate change..", "Also notes with concern the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its successive reports and" Recognises the importance of improving understanding of the impact of climate change on oceans and seas

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Infographic(2021) summarising current major threats to cetaceans and ongoing IWC work
address themes