





Whales and ecosystems - The IWC has long recognised the importance of whales in the functioning of ecosystems. The Commission adopted Resolutions directing work on the issue in [2016](#) and [2018](#), and the Conservation and Scientific Committees have both focused efforts

English, Spanish and Portuguese. While physical training sessions have been placed on hold during the pandemic, the initiative has facilitated virtual workshops on releasing entangled

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 fees.

1.8 In collaboration with ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT (also a member of RSN), the IWC is launching a programme to host interns from African countries within the Secretariat. A pilot internship is planned for September-October 2022 as an opportunity for direct, hands-on engagement in the preparatory work in the lead-up to the Commission meeting and the running of the meeting itself.

## 2. Marine environment and marine resources

Section IX of Resolution 76/72 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:

Paragraphs 206 and 208 of the Resolution " .."  
and "  
.."

IWC's current work on climate change is primarily undertaken by the IWC's Scientific Committee, though the topic is now addressed jointly with the Conservation Committee.

with the GGGI. In addition, the IWC continues to facilitate communication between stakeholders in the Arctic for the purposes of assessing the extent, and possible removal of, ghost crab gear from bowhead whale habitat.

The IWC has been concerned about the impact that chemical pollutants may have on cetacean populations since the early 1980s. Many chemical pollutants, particularly the persistent organic pollutants are 'endocrine disruptors' and as such they can increase susceptibility to disease and reduce reproductive success. This is a complex issue given the huge number of synthetic chemicals introduced into the environment, the ways in which they may interact with each other, the difficulty in establishing whether they cause adverse health effects, and the difficulty quantifying any potential impacts on whale populations.

In response to this challenge, the IWC Scientific Committee has initiated four comprehensive research programmes: Pollution 2000, Pollution 2000+, Pollution 2020 which recently concluded its work, and the current Pollution 2025 programme

Paragraphs 270-276 of Resolution 76/72 address area-based management including marine protected areas. Paragraph 275 notes the work of States, relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the assessment of scientific information on and compilation of ecological criteria for the identification of marine

## References

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