

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC2)

SUSTAINABLE BOAT-BASED MARINE WILDLIFE WATCHING
UNEP/CMS/COP12/DOC.24.4.5

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- The Sessional Committee considered the draft guidelines as comprehensive and well-structured.
- It was considered important that in the coming triennium the guidance on boat-based and in-water activities was brought together, since these activities often occur together.
- Some concerns were raised whether the guidelines relating to seabirds and sharks were practical and would indeed result in reduced disturbance as intended.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

- Page 4, 10th preambular paragraph
 - Include the full name of ACCOBAMS.
- Page 25, explanation to 4th bullet point
 - Correct “feeding areas” to “inter-nesting habitat”.
- Page 50, paragraph 12.BB
 - In point b), add a reference to ACCOBAMS, since they also work on whale watching and are also members of the IWC Standing Working Group on Whale Watching.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP12

- Recommended for adoption.