

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PLANNING WORKSHOP OF
SOUTHERN OCEAN NON-LETHAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP (SORP)**

Maritime Museum, Sydney, Australia, 23-26 March 2009

The workshop will provide a forum for discussion amongst experts on the development of a cooperative framework for the Southern Ocean Regional Non-Lethal Research Partnership, to establish the initial partnerships and agree on priority objectives and research design. The primary output from the workshop will be a 5 year research plan which will be presented to the IWC Scientific Committee for review at IWC61 later in the year. It is intended that the implementation of the research plan would follow the review process.

The terms of reference for the workshop are:

1. assess existing research efforts and available, existing data on cetaceans in the region;
2. produce a research plan which will detail the overall objectives, scientific methods and a schedule of how, where, when and by whom the work will be conducted; and,
3. set timeframes for an initial period (5 years will be proposed for the Southern Ocean), and the terms of the major reviews during, and at the end of that period.

The workshop is open to all IWC members with an interest in whale research in the Southern Ocean. Additionally a number of key scientists and organisations with an interest and expertise in research on Southern Ocean whales will be invited to attend. Some funding is available to support travel of delegates to attend the workshop, particularly those from developing country members of the IWC.