



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

The Red House
135 Station Road
Impington, Cambridge
CB24 9NP, UK

t. +44 (0) 1223 233971
e. secretariat@iwc.int
www.iwc.int

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Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee
IWC.ALL.373

Update on the Scientific Committee Meeting, 12-24 May
Registration, deadlines, documents and data

As noted in Circular IWC.ALL.372, the Scientific Committee will advance its work for SC68B *inter alia* through a series of virtual meetings to be held during the period of the original dates of 12-24 May and possibly into June and July. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee are working with the Convenors and the Secretariat to establish a schedule of Zoom calls to cover the highest priority items on the agenda. As you can imagine, this is logistically complex and requires careful planning.

To help us develop an effective strategy and timetable, participants are asked to register for the Committee meeting as soon as possible and certainly by **Thursday 16 April 2020** – do not forget to indicate the sub-committees in which you wish to participate. Instructions on how to register for the meeting, how to download copies of all primary meeting papers and other meeting-related information is available on the webpage at <https://iwc.int/sc68b>.

We expect to be able to circulate an updated annotated draft agenda and timetable within about two weeks and you should be aware that some of the items in the previously circulated draft agenda may be reduced or postponed due to the inevitable reduction in the number of possible sessions. As previously indicated, papers for the meeting are due on or before the deadline of **5 May 2020**; early submissions are encouraged in order for convenors to better prepare for the virtual meetings. Papers should be submitted to the SC68B portal at the link (<https://portal.iwc.int/e/sc68b/documents>).

Finally, a reminder that National Progress reports, or any other relevant data submissions, would be greatly appreciated before the Committee meeting. These data and reports add to the quality of the science and our discussions. Information on National Progress reports can be found at <https://iwc.int/scprogress>. If you are a national delegate submitting National Progress report data on behalf of your country for the first time, you will need to contact it.support@iwc.int for further instructions.

For assistance with registration or download of papers please contact secretariat@iwc.int

With best wishes to you all and your families in these difficult times.

Greg Donovan
Head of Science

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

Chair: Andrej Bibic (Slovenia)
Vice-Chair: Amadou Télivel Diallo (Republic of Guinea)
Executive Secretary: Rebecca Lent