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Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee
IWC.ALL.376

**Follow up - Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (WG-OE) –
Proposals for review at IWC68**

We wish everyone well in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

IWC.ALL.365 requested feedback and comments on four papers prepared by the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (WG-OE) by May 1 2020. We would like to remind all Parties and Observers of this deadline, in order to provide sufficient time for further consultation on the revised drafts ahead of IWC68 currently scheduled for 25 September – 2 October 2020. Your input into this process will help the WG-OE make sure its proposals for IWC68 are representative of the Commission. The four documents are available in English, Spanish and French at the following link:

<https://archive.iwc.int/?c=29736>

In light of the ongoing travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as outlined in IWC.ALL.372, the WG-OE will no longer be holding an in-person meeting in May. We will continue our work virtually. Members of the WG-OE will work to incorporate all input received by May 1 into the proposals to be put forward for IWC68. As soon as possible we will announce arrangements for teleconference meetings of the WG-OE. We are therefore grateful for your written input for WG-OE to complete its task.

We also wish to inform you that Mr. Dominic Pattinson is currently covering for Ms. Gemma Harper as UK Commissioner, as Ms. Harper has temporarily moved to work on the response to COVID-19.

The WG-OE looks forward to receiving your input to these proposals.

Lisa Phelps, USA
(WGOE Co-Chair)

Dominic Pattinson
(WGOE Co-Chair)

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

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