



Circular Communication to Commissioners. Contracting Governments and  
Members of the Scientific Committee  
**IWC.ALL.380**

**Report of the Scientific Committee 2020**

I am pleased to draw attention to the report of the Scientific Committee meeting held virtually from 11 – 27 May 2020. The report and its annexes are available [here](#).

The meeting and its pre-meetings were attended by a record 350 cetacean scientists from all over the world. This included over 85 participants attending for the first time. The meeting, originally planned for Cambridge UK, was switched to an online format at very short notice which was only made possible by hard work and enthusiasm from all involved. The unusual circumstances meant a reduced agenda and a modified report format. The Committee looks forward to a productive in-person meeting in 2021 to address the many important topics that could not be discussed this year.

I would like to thank the leadership of the Scientific Committee, and everyone involved in the meeting, for their cooperative spirit and commitment to ensuring that the meeting was both productive and inclusive.

Dr Iain Staniland  
Lead for Science

*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*