



International Whaling Commission

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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
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I am writing to provide information on the following two issues: (1) partial repayment of arrears by the Philippines, and (2) a voluntary contributions to the IWC Research Fund by the U.K and the U.S.A.

1. Partial repayment of arrears

The former Contracting Government of the Philippines has made a payment of £18,677 towards the arrears of financial contributions and interest which had built up prior to the Philippines withdrawal from the Convention in 1988. The balance outstanding is now £8,142.

2. Voluntary Contributions to the IWC Research Fund

1. The Government of the United Kingdom has made a contribution of £6,000 to the Research Fund. This is to be used towards a Scoping Group Meeting in preparation for a full-scale Habitats Degradation Workshop. The proposal for such a workshop was first addressed at the Scientific Committee's Meeting in 1999 and revisited last year in Adelaide. The Workshop is intended to make progress on the evaluation of environmental impacts on cetaceans and their habitats and will complement work being undertaken under the 'POLLUTION 2000+' umbrella. The Scientific Committee recognised that considerable preparatory work would be necessary to maximise the effectiveness of the eventual full workshop and the Committee's Standing Working Group on Environmental Concerns recommended at its 2000 meeting that 'the Scoping Group Meeting go ahead if funding for it could be found. The budget ... was revised to facilitate the attendance of 5-6- participants.'. (*IWC/52/4, Annex J, 8.2*).

Arrangements are in hand for a 2-day meeting of the Scoping Group to take place in Rome in June. The Italian Nature Conservation Agency (ICRAM) is hosting the meeting and providing conference accommodation and services and accommodation for participants. Further support is being offered by the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. The funds made available to the IWC by the U.K. will be used primarily for the travel of invited participants. The report from the meeting will be submitted to the Scientific Committee meeting in London in July.

2. The Government of the USA has given notice that it intends to make a contribution to the Research Fund of not less than £3,750 for use in supporting the North Atlantic humpback whale Comprehensive Assessment. (*IWC/52/4 9.5 and Annex F, 8.2*). The work will involve the processing of DNA samples and subsequent data analysis and the results will be included in a paper on the population genetic structure of the North Atlantic Humpback whale which will also be presented to the Scientific Committee meeting in July.

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Secretary to the Commission