

NJG/JAC/29107

14 November 2001

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
IWC.ALL.47

Cetaceans/Fisheries Interaction Workshop

I am writing to inform you that the above workshop, initially foreseen to take place sometime between February and April next year has had to be postponed until after the 54th Annual Meeting in Shimonoseki.

At its Annual Meeting in London this year, the Commission had endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendation that a small expert workshop be held to begin to address the issue of interactions between whales and fish stocks, and specifically the question '*How are changes in abundance of cetaceans likely to be linked (in the short term and the long term) to changes in fishery catches?*' The Commission adopted Resolution 2001-9 on the same issue and the Government of St. Lucia kindly offered to host the workshop.

While the Scientific Committee proposed that the workshop be held prior to its meeting in Shimonoseki next year, it agreed that if firm plans could not be finalised by the second week of October 2001, the workshop would be postponed. Unfortunately, although the venue and funding are available, this step has had to be taken (after consultation with the workshop Steering Group and Chair of the Scientific Committee) since most of the key scientists required for the workshop were found to be unavailable during the February - April 2002 period.

However, the Steering Group is proceeding with the planning process and it is hoped that the workshop can be re-scheduled for mid-late June 2002. Further information will be provided as soon as possible.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

c.c. Non-member Government Observers (for information)