

Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee

IWC.ALL.395

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

**Postponement of IWC68 to October 2022
and
Proposal for Special Meeting of the Commission in September 2021**

The Bureau met on 21 April 2021 to discuss the plans for IWC68 in light of the ongoing global pandemic (see the minutes attached to Circular [IWC.CCG.1453](#)). Our goal is to ensure that we are able to continue the Commission's business whilst recognizing the need to follow national and global restrictions for public health and safety.

Based on the advice provided by the Bureau members, most of whom consulted with Contracting Governments from their region, I propose that we postpone our in-person IWC68 meeting to 20-28 October 2022. For this year (2021), I would like to call a Special Meeting of the Commission, as provided for under Rules of Procedure B.1 and F.2.(d) (ii), to be held virtually for about 3 hours daily during up to three days in the week that has already been held on our calendars (3-10 September 2021). Based on the advice of the Bureau, I propose that this Special Meeting focus on adoption of the Commission budget for 2022.

In line with the Rule of Procedure B.1, this Circular initiates consultation with the Contracting Governments and Commissioners on the proposed Special Meeting. The draft agenda for this meeting must be developed and circulated to Contracting Governments and Commissioners latest on 29 May 2021, and an annotated agenda, based on responses received, by **8 July 2021**. Therefore, your responses regarding the Special meeting are welcome by **15 May 2021**, sent to secretariat@iwc.int.



Andrej Bibic
Chair, IWC