

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
IWC.ALL.56

**Seeking New Host Government for the Scientific Committee  
Workshop on Interactions Between Cetaceans and Fisheries**

Last week I received notification from the Government of St. Lucia that they unfortunately will not be able to host the above workshop due to an extremely heavy schedule of commitments. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries regrets any inconvenience that this cancellation may cause, but wishes to assure the Commission that it is unavoidable and due entirely to circumstances outside of its control.

The workshop was initially planned to take place early this year, but was postponed since the scientific experts needed for the meeting were unable to attend because of prior commitments (see Circular IWC.ALL.47). Subsequently, the dates of 25-27 June 2002 were identified as being suitable timing for the key experts. **However, unless another Contracting Government offers to host the meeting over these same dates it will be necessary to postpone the workshop yet again.** There is no provision in the Commission's budget for the Secretariat to arrange and pay for the meeting venue.

**The Secretariat would therefore be pleased to know if any Contracting Government is able to make a firm offer to host the workshop during the period 25-27 June 2002. Any such offer should be made by Friday 26 April.** I recognise that this is extremely short notice, but it is necessary to know before the Scientific Committee begins. If no formal offer is received by this time, it will be necessary to: (1) inform the invited experts that the workshop has been cancelled (we cannot keep them hanging around not knowing whether the workshop will take place), and (2) for the Scientific Committee and the Commission in Shimonoseki to consider future timing and location for the meeting.

To give an idea of what would be involved in hosting a meeting, it is the responsibility of a host government to provide and pay for the meeting venue and associated facilities (e.g. printing and copying facilities). For the cetacean/fisheries interaction workshop, the following would be required:

- a meeting room that can hold 30 people in an open square format;
- a room to act as an office for the Secretariat, equipped with a photocopier (with paper, etc.) a printer and a telephone line. The Secretariat will bring a suitable laptop computer.

It is also customary for the host to provide tea and coffee twice a day.

In addition, it is the responsibility of the host to arrange for suitable hotel accommodation for the participants, although the participants pay for their hotel and food themselves.

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If any government would like to discuss the issue further, the Secretariat would be very pleased to hear from them. However, please note that we leave for Shimonoseki tomorrow (Tuesday 23 April) and will not have established the office until Thursday 25 April.

Dr. Nicky Grandy  
Secretary to the Commission

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