

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
IWC.ALL.71

**56<sup>th</sup> Annual and Associated Meetings, Sorrento, Italy, June/July 2004**

This Circular provides information on:

1. the venue and the timetable for meetings;
2. hotel booking arrangements and travel information;
3. delegation offices.

**1. Meeting venue and timetable**

The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be held at the:

Hilton Sorrento Palace Hotel  
Via S. Antonio 13,  
80067 Sorrento (NA)  
Italy

Tel: +39 081 878 4141  
Fax: +39 081 878 3933  
Email: [cb.Sorrento@hilton.com](mailto:cb.Sorrento@hilton.com)  
Website: [www.sorrento.hilton.com](http://www.sorrento.hilton.com)

The timetable for the meetings of the Scientific Committee, the Commission's sub-groups and the Commission is attached. It is based on the timing agreed by the Commission in Berlin. You will recall, however, that at IWC/55, although the Secretariat made a proposal concerning which of the Commission's sub-groups should meet and when (IWC/55/11), no decision was reached and the Commission agreed that this should be finalised by the Advisory Committee. This has now been done and the attached timetable has been agreed by the Advisory Committee.

The Scientific Committee will meet from Tuesday 29 June to Saturday 10 July 2004. It may be preceded by a 2-day meeting of the AWMP group on 27 and 28 June.

The Commission sub-groups will meet between Tuesday 13 July and Friday 16 July, with Saturday 17 July set aside for finalising reports. The following groups are scheduled to meet:

- (1) the Budgetary Sub-committee;
- (2) the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee;
- (3) the Infractions Sub-committee;
- (4) the Conservation Committee;
- (5) provision for discussions on the Revised Management Scheme;
- (6) the Finance and Administration Committee.

With respect to the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee, the Scientific Committee should be in a position to propose an *SLA* for the Eastern North Pacific stock of gray whales. A half-day session may therefore be needed.

Equal time is given to discussions of the Conservation Committee and on the RMS. What type of meeting will be needed for discussions on the RMS will depend on how discussions proceed in the small group convened by the Chair (see Circular Communication IWC.CCG.368). Although in Berlin, some governments called for a full-day meeting of the Conservation Committee, this will not be possible given the other groups that need to meet. Both the Conservation Committee and the RMS discussions are split between two days and this will be helpful if any drafting is needed.

A meeting of the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues is not included. In Berlin, a number of countries expressed concern with this omission, but given: (1) the other groups that need to meet; (2) the limited time available; and (3) that a three-day workshop on this issue was held at IWC/55, the Advisory Committee agreed not to schedule a meeting of this Working Group in 2004. However, this agreement was reached on the understanding that:

- a reasonable slot will be given to Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues on the Commission's plenary agenda (i.e., in terms of time allocation and relatively early placement);
- Contracting Governments will be asked to provide data and information as requested in Resolutions 1997-1, 1999-1 and 2001-2 to the Secretariat for circulation to Contracting Governments well in advance of the plenary (i.e. as background information);
- it is suggested that priority be given for a meeting of the WKM Working Group at IWC/57 in 2005. By then, there will have been two successive years in which the Working Group will not have met, and it will be time to review how implementation of the Revised Action Plan adopted in Berlin is progressing.

The Annual Commission Meeting will take place from Monday 19 July to Thursday 22 July.

## **2. Hotel booking arrangements and travel information**

Arrangements for booking bedrooms at the Hilton Sorrento Palace Hotel and two other nearby hotels are being handled by MKI Travel and Conference Management Inc. of Ottawa. All enquiries for bedroom accommodation should be addressed to MKI, ideally through their website at:

[http://www.mkitravel.com/upcoming\\_events/iwc/iwc\\_56\\_annual\\_meeting.shtml](http://www.mkitravel.com/upcoming_events/iwc/iwc_56_annual_meeting.shtml)

MKI's website also provides information on travel between Naples and Rome to Sorrento.

Attached to this circular (and included as hard copy of the postal version) is a brief description of the hotels and a booking form. Alternatively, a secure form through which bookings may be made online is available on MKI's website.

**IMPORTANT: Please note the booking deadlines associated with the hotels (they range from as early as 30 April to 4 June 2004).** Sorrento is an extremely popular tourist resort and July is high season. If you do not book by the deadline, it is highly unlikely that MKI will be able to find you suitable accommodation.

## **3. Delegation offices**

The hotel is currently holding a number of meeting rooms suitable for use as delegation offices/hospitality rooms. Any delegation wishing to book such a room should contact Ms Paola Caciolli at the Hilton Sorrento Palace Hotel (tel: +39 081 877 5266; fax: +39 081 878 1397; email: cb.Sorrento@hilton.com).

Dr. Nicky Grandy  
Secretary to the Commission

## Schedule of Meetings during the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Sorrento, Italy, 2004

Sunday	27 June	Set-up	
Monday	28 June	<i>(and possible Scientific Committee pre-meeting of AWMP group – depending on intersessional progress)</i>	
Tuesday	29 June	Scientific Committee	
until			
Saturday	10 July		
Sunday	11 July	Scientific Committee Convenors Meeting	
Monday	12 July	Preparation of Scientific Committee Report	
		<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>
Tuesday	13 July	Set-up and registration for Commission sub-groups	BS-C
Wednesday	14 July	ASW	
Thursday	15 July	INF	CC
Friday	16 July	RMS	F&A
Saturday	17 July	Review sub-group reports	
Sunday	18 July	Registration	Private Commissioners' meeting
Monday	19 July	<b>55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting</b>	
Tuesday	20 July		
Wednesday	21 July		
Thursday	22 July		

- BS-C Budgetary Sub-committee (not open to observers)  
 ASW Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee  
 CC Conservation Committee  
 INF Infractions Sub-committee  
 RMS discussions on the Revised Management Scheme  
 F&A Finance and Administration Sub-committee (not open to observers)