

Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments

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c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

Report of the Scientific Committee 2021

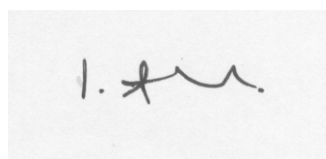
I am pleased to draw attention to the report of the Scientific Committee meeting held virtually from 27 April to 14 May 2021. The report and its annexes are available [here](#).

Due to COVID-19 the meeting was again held online with a revised format building upon lessons learnt last year. To allow for more in-depth discussions on specific topics a number of pre-meetings and workshops were held immediately prior to the main meeting which was itself extended by a week. Whilst this allowed a larger portion of the agenda to be addressed, a number of technical discussions were postponed.

The meeting and its pre-meetings were attended by a record 550 cetacean scientists breaking last year's record with around triple the usual attendance for an in-person event.

Next year's SC meeting is tentatively planned for 26 April – 8 May 2022, in Bled, Slovenia and in order to improve the services of the Secretariat going forward, we kindly ask you to complete a 5 minute [feedback survey](#).

I would like to thank the leadership of the Scientific Committee, and everyone involved in the meeting for their cooperative spirit and commitment to ensuring that the meeting was both productive and inclusive.



Dr Iain Staniland

Head of Science, Conservation and Management

Chair: Andrej Bibic (Slovenia)

Vice-Chair: Amadou Télivel Diallo (Republic of Guinea)

Executive Secretary: Rebecca Lent