

Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments  
and Members of the Scientific Committee  
IWC.ALL.408  
*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*

**IWC Database of Recommendations: public launch**

Following a pilot programme and extensive testing, the IWC Database of Recommendations is now publicly available via [the IWC website](#).

The database was instigated by the [Joint Working Group of the Conservation and Scientific Committees](#) seeking a tool to better coordinate their respective recommendations. It quickly became clear that the programme had wider potential value. The proposal was endorsed at IWC67 and the database now contains legally binding Schedule Amendments, as well as Commission Resolutions and recommendations from meetings and workshops held by all the major sub-groups of the IWC.

Users can collate and track current and past IWC recommendations, avoid duplication, assess implementation and effectiveness, prioritise actions, and identify barriers to success. Increased transparency and accessibility are other major benefits of the database which is accompanied by a [user guide](#).

The database is a tool that can assist everyone in the IWC community to be more informed, joined-up and effective. It's a particularly welcome development as we commemorate our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, evaluating our past and ensuring our relevance into the future.

Currently the database contains records dating back to 2010 and there is clearly a lot of work required to add historic recommendations. This work will be undertaken as resources allow. I am sure you will join me in thanking all involved, particularly the Secretariat, Conservation and Scientific Committees who have worked so hard to develop, test and integrate the database into their working practices.



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Executive Secretary