



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

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**Workshop on “Socio-Economic Values of the Contribution of Cetaceans to the
Ecosystem Functioning”**

We are now planning for the Conservation Committee Workshop on “Socio-Economic Values of the Contribution of Cetaceans to the Ecosystem Functioning” be held virtually due to COVID-19.

The Workshop is a key part of the Conservation Committee’s response to a request from the Commission (IWC Resolution 2016-03) which:

“resolves to review the ecological, management, environmental, social and economic aspects related to the contributions of cetaceans to ecosystem functioning to people and natural systems, as a matter of importance and directs the Conservation Committee to undertake this review”.

The CC Ecosystem Functioning Steering Group has now agreed a draft agenda and is in the process of inviting expert speakers. The workshop will take place online over three sessions:

Session 1: 5 Apr, 15:00 – 18:00 (UK time, GMT+1)

Session 2: 6 Apr, 15:00 – 18:00 (UK time, GMT+1)

Session 3: 11 Apr, 15:00 – 18:00 (UK time, GMT+1)

The main objective of the workshop is to identify any potential ecosystem services provided by cetaceans that could be addressed from a social, conservation/management, and economic standpoint. It will review existing economic and social valuation techniques for the ecosystem services provided by cetaceans and identify potential new methods for assessing their contributions and

Chair: Andrej Bibic (Slovenia)

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

Executive Secretary: Rebecca Lent

identify knowledge gaps and data that will aid in the review process. Additionally, it will develop a prioritised list of recommendations to address these knowledge gaps and advance this research, as well as suggest potential approaches for incorporating the contribution of cetaceans to marine ecosystem function into the IWC and other fora's decision-making processes, mainly focused on improvements.

If you are interested in attending, please contact secretariat@iwc.int in order to register, receive updates and access to documents prior to the event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Staniland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Iain Staniland
Head of Science, Conservation and Management