

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
IWC.ALL.114

60th Annual and Associated Meetings, Santiago, Chile, June 2008

This Circular provides information on:

1. the venue and the timetable for meetings;
2. hotel booking arrangements.

Information on the booking of delegation offices and visa requirements will follow in due course.

1. Meeting venue and timetable

The 60th Annual Meeting will be held at the:

Sheraton Santiago Hotel and Convention Centre
Ave Santa Maria 1742
Santiago
Chile

Tel: +56-2-233-5000

Website: <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=296>

The timetable for the meetings of the Scientific Committee, the Commission's sub-groups and the Commission agreed at IWC/59 is attached. However, please note that the schedule for the Commission sub-group and plenary may be subject to change as indicated in Bill Hogarth's letter of 14 December 2007 (Circular Communication IWC.CCG.653). This will depend on the outcome of discussions at the March 2008 Intersessional Meeting on the Future of IWC. For ease of reference, that Circular Communication is also attached.

The timing of the Scientific Committee will not be affected by discussions at the March intersessional meeting and will continue to meet from Sunday 1 June to Friday 13 June. It will be preceded on Friday and Saturday, 30 and 31 May by a two-day workshop to review skin diseases in cetaceans of South America and pre-meetings of the RMP and AWMP sub-committees. As some scientists are involved in both sub-committees, the sub-committees will not meet simultaneously.

2. Hotel booking arrangements

Arrangements for booking bedrooms at the Sheraton and several other hotels nearby are being handled by MKI Travel and Conference Management. Attached to this circular (and included as hard copy in the postal version)

is a brief description of the hotels. The hotels selected provide a choice of prices. There will be shuttle buses going from each of the off-site hotels to the conference venue.

All enquiries about, and reservations for bedroom accommodation should be addressed to MKI, through their website at:

<http://www.mkitravel.com/iwc/>

Please note that due to problems with poor quality fax transmissions, particularly in relation to IWC/59, reservations made by fax will no longer be accepted. However, reservations by phone are possible and one of MKI's consultants will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please see MKI's website for further details.

Please read the booking, payment, change, cancellation and no-show conditions carefully, but note that this year, no deposit is necessary and there is no cancellation penalty until 45 days prior to check-in.

MKI urges delegates to book accommodation before 1st April 2008 so as to have the best opportunity regarding availability and price.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

Schedule of Meetings during the 60th Annual Meeting, Santiago, Chile 2008

(Please note that the scheduling of the Commission's sub-groups and Commission plenary may be subject to change depending on the outcome of discussions at the March 2008 Intersessional Meeting on the Future of IWC. The timing of the Scientific Committee will not be affected and will remain as shown.)

Day no.	Date	Activity
1.	Thursday 29. May	Set-up (and pre-meetings of the Scientific Committee on 30 and 31 May ¹)
2.	Friday 30. May	
3.	Saturday 31. May	
4.	Sunday 1. June	Scientific Committee (13 days)
5.	Monday 2. June	
6.	Tuesday 3. June	
7.	Wednesday 4. June	
8.	Thursday 5. June	
9.	Friday 6. June	
10.	Saturday 7. June	
11.	Sunday 8. June	
12.	Monday 9. June	
13.	Tuesday 10. June	
14.	Wednesday 11. June	
15.	Thursday 12. June	
16.	Friday 13. June	
17.	Saturday 14. June	Scientific Committee Convenors Meeting
18.	Sunday 15. June	Preparation of Scientific Committee Report
19.	Monday 16. June	Workshop on welfare issues associated with entangled/entrapped cetaceans
		<i>Morning</i>
		<i>Afternoon</i>
20.	Tuesday 17. June	CC
21.	Wednesday 18. June	INF Review entanglement report
22.	Thursday 19. June	Discussions on Future of IWC
23.	Friday 20. June	F&A
24.	Saturday 21. June	Preparation and review of sub-group reports/document translation
25.	Sunday 22. June	review of sub-group reports/document translation
26.	Monday 23. June	Review sub-group reports/document translation
27.	Tuesday 24. June	60th Annual Commission Meeting
28.	Wednesday 25. June	
29.	Thursday 26. June	
30.	Friday 27. June	

- CC Conservation Committee
- ASW Aboriginal Whaling Sub-committee
- INF Infractions Sub-committee
- BSC Budgetary Sub-committee
- F&A Finance and Administration Committee

¹ i.e. a 2-day workshop to review skin diseases in cetaceans of South America, a 2-day workshop for strategic planning of large-scale whalewatching and pre-meetings of the RMP and AWMP sub-committees (these sub-committees will not meet concurrently).

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IWC.CCG.653

Letter from the Chair of the Commission regarding IWC/60

Dear Commissioners and Contracting Governments,

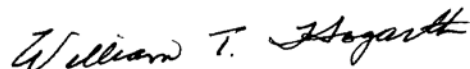
In my letter to you of 26 October 2007 (Circular Communication IWC.CCG.649), I reported on the outcome of the October 2007 meeting of the Steering Group established at IWC/59 to plan for the intersessional meeting on the future of IWC. The intersessional meeting is now scheduled to take place from 6-8 March 2008 at the Renaissance London Heathrow Hotel (Circular Communication IWC.CCG.652).

In that letter, I outlined how the Steering Group proposed to structure the intersessional meeting and also their proposal that, subject to the outcome of the intersessional, the Commission plenary at IWC/60 in Chile should spend most of its time on discussions on the future of the organisation. The Steering Group believes that such a focus is necessary if the organisation is to confront its problems and find a solution to the current impasse. To avoid any misunderstandings, in this letter I would like to clarify the implications of this focus on the work of the Commission's subsidiary bodies at IWC/60.

On the assumption that progress is made at the intersessional meeting, the Steering Group believes that it is important to maximise the amount of time available in Chile to build upon that progress. To this end, it suggests that while meetings of the Scientific Committee and the Finance and Administration (and Budgetary Subcommittee) remain essential, the same may not be true for the other meetings planned for the week before Plenary. Where it is essential to deal with particular items at IWC/60 (e.g. catch limit issues related to the bowhead Greenland hunt and consideration of infractions), these could be dealt with directly in the Plenary; other meetings i.e. the workshop on welfare issues associated with entangled/entrapped cetaceans and the meeting of the Conservation Committee, whilst of course important, could be postponed for one year with the time made available being allocated to discussions on the future of the IWC.

Of course, it is not the role of the Steering Group to change unilaterally the schedule of meetings for IWC/60. However, I believe that it is fair and sensible to draw your attention for the need to discuss the overall schedule of IWC/60 during the intersessional meeting in March.

Yours sincerely,



William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.
Chair of the International Whaling Commission