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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
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State of the Cetacean Environment Report (SOCER)

Please note that the editors of the State of the Cetacean Environment Report (SOCER) have requested contributions for this year's draft. A link to their solicitation letter and the data entry form can be found on the SOCER page on the website (http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/socer2008.htm).

The solicitation letter is also attached to this Circular.

The deadline for submissions for the 2008 SOCER is **25 March 2008**.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

SOLICITATION LETTER TO POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE STATE OF THE CETACEAN ENVIRONMENT REPORT (SOCER)

This letter is a call for submissions to enable us to produce a draft State of the Cetacean Environment Report (SOCER) for consideration by the IWC's Scientific Committee. It will be the seventh SOCER produced. The ultimate objective is to provide Commissioners (in response to Resolution 2000-7) and other interested parties with a non-technical periodic summary of events, developments and conditions in the marine environment that are relevant to cetaceans. Such developments might range from unusual mortalities to new legislation protecting marine habitats.

The report is compiled on an annual basis, with pre-selected regions to be treated each year. These regions include: Mediterranean and Black Seas; North and South Atlantic; North and South Pacific; Arctic and Southern Ocean; and Indian Ocean. Each report also contains a brief Global section.

This year will be devoted to the North and South Atlantic (last covered in 2003).

We are asking for submissions of information that in your opinion merit inclusion. This should primarily include information on events from 2006, 2007 and the months of 2008 before the submission deadline, although earlier data may be submitted if relevant over the long term. You may submit information in two ways:

1. Send an email to one of the SOCER editors (see contact information below) and include relevant scientific paper(s) as an attachment;
2. Use the standardised form for data entry, which can be downloaded from <http://www.iwcoffice.org/SCWEB/socer.htm>. Please fill out all the relevant fields. Any additional information provided (see item VIII: 'additional information and remarks') will assist the editorial decision-making process. Events or developments that do not fit the format of the form but nonetheless warrant inclusion should be specified under Item VIII as well.

With few exceptions, only information stemming from published scientific papers and reports or other authoritative sources can be accepted. Please submit the relevant scientific papers (or full references) to the editors. Supporting documentation – such as news items – may also be submitted.

The deadline for submissions for the 2008 SOCER is: 25 March 2008.

The SOCER will also contain a glossary of technical terms and a literature analysis of all cetacean-related papers published over the last year. The draft version of this report will be written by the principal SOCER editors (Michael Stachowitsch, Chris Parsons, and Naomi Rose) and circulated as a Scientific Committee document in advance of the Scientific Committee meeting, where its content will be evaluated. Please note that, due to editorial considerations (succinct format for Commissioners), not all submissions may be incorporated (or incorporated in full) into the SOCER.

We would greatly appreciate your input into this endeavor, which we intend to be a useful contribution to international understanding, particularly at the policy level, of cetaceans and their changing environment.

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