



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

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

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c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

In Memoriam - Gísli Víkingsson



Photo courtesy of Tore Haug/Torun Sandal

We are sad to inform you of the passing of Gísli Víkingsson, head of the Icelandic delegation and an active participant in the SC for many decades.

At the SC meeting that just wrapped up in May 2022, we were fortunate to have Gísli's usual active engagement in our scientific work. This included participation in the IUCN/IWC Coordination Group and the Intersessional Correspondence group on pre-exploitation and current population levels of large whales in the North Atlantic and Southern Oceans. Gísli also brought updates to the SC on genetic analyses of whales from Iceland and Greenland.

Chair: Andrej Bibic (Slovenia)
Vice-Chair: Amadou Télivel Diallo (Republic of Guinea)
Executive Secretary: Rebecca Lent

Gísli had been working on marine mammals since 1986 and was Head of Whale Research at the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute in Iceland for 20 years where he made major contributions to the field of ecology, conservation, and sustainable utilization of cetaceans in Icelandic waters. He was also the author of the authoritative book on Icelandic mammals "Íslensk spendýr". Within the IWC he made a major contribution to the work of the Scientific Committee on cetaceans in Icelandic waters, for large whales as well as on bycatches of harbour porpoises. Gísli was a valuable member of the sub-committee on the NH, RMP and more recently the sub-committee on IST. In addition to his scientific contributions, Gísli was one of our most friendly and welcoming colleagues, was a great musician who appeared on several Icelandic rock albums and was well known for playing the blues on the piano in the margins of the Scientific Committee.

You are welcome to send messages of condolence to the family by using the following email address given by the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute hafogvatn@hafogvatn.is. The Institute will print the messages into a booklet and forward them to the family. Please use the title "Condolences for Gísli's family" in the email.

On behalf of the IWC Secretariat, we send our deepest condolences to Gísli's family, friends and colleagues.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Lent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary