

NJG/JAC/30735

1 May 2008

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
IWC.ALL.121

Letter from Belgian Commissioner regarding new IMO work on ship strikes

Please find attached a letter from Alexandre de Lichtervelde, Belgian Commissioner to IWC, regarding the work of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). He has requested that his letter be circulated to Commissioners and Contracting Governments. Given the interest of the Scientific Committee in this matter, it is also being circulated to members of the Scientific Committee.

You will note that the 57th session of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) agreed to put ship strikes on its work programme and that this has been assigned high priority. The proposal to the MEPC referred to in Mr de Lichtervelde's letter is also attached for your information.

Regarding Mr de Lichtervelde's reference to the draft Agreement of Co-operation between IWC and IMO, please see Circular Communication IWC.CCG.682 of 19 March 2008 that included the text of this draft Agreement for your review.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission