

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
IWC.ALL.129

61st Annual and Associated Meetings, Madeira, Portugal, May/June 2009

This Circular provides information on:

1. the venue and the timetable for meetings;
2. hotel booking arrangements;
3. booking of delegation offices; and
4. visa requirements.

1. Meeting venue and timetable

The 61st Annual Meeting will be held at:

The Pestana Casino Park Hotel
Rua Imperatriz D. Amélia
9004-513 Funchal
Madeira

<http://www.pestanacasinopark.com/>

The timetable for the meetings of the Scientific Committee, the Commission's sub-groups and the Commission agreed at IWC/61 is attached and is as agreed by the Commission in Santiago, Chile (see IWC/60/6).

The Scientific Committee will meet from Sunday 31 May to Friday 12 June. It will probably be preceded on Friday and Saturday the 29 and 30 May by pre-meetings of the AWMP and RMP sub-committees (further details to follow in due course). As some scientists are involved in both sub-committees, the sub-committees would not meet simultaneously.

The Commission sub-groups will meet between Tuesday 16 and Thursday 18 June, with Friday 19 June being set aside for finalising reports. The following sub-groups will meet:

- (1) Conservation Committee;
- (2) Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues;
- (3) Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee;
- (4) Infractions Sub-committee;
- (5) Budgetary Sub-committee;
- (6) Finance and Administration Committee.

Two sessions have been set aside for discussions on the future of the organization, i.e. during the afternoon of Wednesday 17 June and during the morning of Thursday 18 June. As last year, a full day has been set aside for a private meeting of Commissioners which will be held on Sunday 21 June. This will allow time for the Commission to have a closed session to discuss the future of the organization as well as to attend to more routine business.

The Annual Commission Meeting will take place from Monday 22 to Friday 26 June.

2. Hotel booking arrangements

Arrangements for booking bedrooms at the Casino Park Hotel and several other hotels nearby are being handled by MKI Travel and Conference Management. The hotels selected provide a choice of prices. (A brief description of the hotels is attached in the postal version of this Circular).

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

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

As last year, reservations made by fax will no longer be accepted (this is due to problems with poor quality fax transmissions at previous meetings). 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.

3. Delegation offices

The hotel is currently holding a number of rooms suitable for use as delegation offices/hospitality rooms. Any delegation wishing to book such a room should contact Susana Mendonça (Email: Susana.nmendonca@pestana.com), mobile phone: + 351 964 783 335, direct telephone: + 351 291 239 588.

4. Visa requirements

Information on visa requirements for participants to IWC/61 travelling on passports issued by IWC member countries are provided in the table attached. This information has kindly been provided by the Government of Portugal. **Participants are encouraged to check their visa status and if a visa is needed, to apply for a visa as early as possible.**

Participants who will be travelling on passports of countries not listed in the table below must verify their own visa requirements.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

Schedule of Meetings during the 61st Annual Meeting, Madeira, Portugal 2009

Day no.		Date		Activity			
1.	Thursday	28.	May	Set-up (and pre-meetings of the Scientific Committee on 29 and 30 May ¹)			
2.	Friday	29.	May				
3.	Saturday	30.	May				
4.	Sunday	31.	May	Scientific Committee (13 days)			
5.	Monday	1.	June				
6.	Tuesday	2.	June				
7.	Wednesday	3.	June				
8.	Thursday	4.	June				
9.	Friday	5.	June				
10.	Saturday	6.	June				
11.	Sunday	7.	June				
12.	Monday	8.	June				
13.	Tuesday	9.	June				
14.	Wednesday	10.	June				
15.	Thursday	11.	June				
16.	Friday	12.	June				
17.	Saturday	13.	June	Scientific Committee Convenors Meeting			
18.	Sunday	14.	June	Preparation of Scientific Committee Report			
19.	Monday	15.	June	Preparation of Scientific Committee Report			
				<i>Morning</i>		<i>Afternoon</i>	
20.	Tuesday	16.	June	CC		WKM	BSC
21.	Wednesday	17.	June	ASW		INF	Discussions on future IWC
22.	Thursday	18.	June	Discussions on future IWC		F&A	
23.	Friday	19.	June	Preparation and review of sub-group reports/document translation			
24.	Saturday	20.	June	review of sub-group reports/document translation			
25.	Sunday	21.	June	Private meeting of Commissioners			
26.	Monday	22.	June	61st Annual Commission Meeting			
27.	Tuesday	23.	June				
28.	Wednesday	24.	June				
29.	Thursday	25.	June				
30.	Friday	26.	June				

CC	Conservation Committee
WKM	Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues
ASW	Aboriginal Whaling Sub-committee
INF	Infractions Sub-committee
BSC	Budgetary Sub-committee
F&A	Finance and Administration Committee

¹ i.e. a pre-meetings of the RMP and AWMP sub-committees (these sub-committees will not meet concurrently).

Visa Requirements for Participants to IWC/61, Madeira, Portugal, May/June 2009

Country/Nationality	Ordinary Passports		Diplomatic Passports
	Requires Visa	Embassy	Requires Visa (These visas are free)
Antigua y Barbuda	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Caracas	yes
Argentina	no		no
Australia	no		yes
Austria	no		no
Belgium	no		no
Belize	yes	Portuguese Consulate in New York	yes
Benin	yes	French Embassy in Cotonou	yes
Brazil	no		no
Cambodia	yes	French Embassy in Phnom Phen	yes
Cameroon	yes	Spanish Embassy in Yaoundé	yes
Chile	no		no
China, People's Rep of	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Beijing	Yes
Congo	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Kinshasa	Yes
Costa Rica	no		No
Côte d'Ivoire	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Dakar	Yes
Croatia	no		No
Cyprus	no		No
Czech Republic	no		No
Denmark	no		No
Dominica	no	Portuguese Embassy in Bogotá	yes
		Portuguese Honorary Consulate in Quito	
Ecuador	no		Yes
Eritrea	yes	German Embassy in Asmara	Yes
Finland	no		No
France	no		No
Gabon	yes	Spanish Embassy in Libreville	Yes
The Gambia	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Dakar	Yes
Germany	no		No
Greece	no		No
Grenada	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Caracas	Yes
Guatemala	no		No
Guinea-Bissau	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Bissau	Yes

Country/Nationality	Requires Visa	Embassy	Requires Visa (These visas are free)
Guinea, Rep of	yes	German Embassy in Conakry	Yes
Hungary	no		No
Iceland	no		No
India	yes	Portuguese Embassy in New Deli	Yes
Ireland	no		No
Israel	no		No
Italy	no		No
Japan	no		No
Kenya	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Nairobi	Yes
Kiribati	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Canberra	Yes
Korea, Rep of	no		No
Laos	yes	French Embassy in Vientiane	Yes
Luxembourg	no		No
Mali	yes	French Embassy in Bamako	Yes
Marshall Islands, Rep of	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Canberra	Yes
Mauritania	yes	French Embassy in Port Louis	Yes
Mexico	no		No
Monaco	no		Yes
Mongolia	yes	German Embassy in Ulan Bator	No
Morocco	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Rabat	No
Nauru	yes	Portuguese Consulate in Sydney	Yes
The Netherlands	no		No
New Zealand	no		No
Nicaragua	no		No
Norway	no		No
Oman	yes	French Embassy in Mascate	Yes
Palau	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Jakarta	Yes
Panama	no		No

Country/Nationality	Requires Visa	Embassy	Requires Visa (These visas are free)
Peru	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Lima	Yes
Portugal	no		No
Russian Federation	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Moscow	No
San Marino	yes	Italian Embassy in San Marino	Yes
St. Kitts & Nevis	Yes	Portuguese Embassy in Caracas	Yes
St. Lucia	Yes	French Embassy in Castries	Yes
St. Vincent & The Grenadines	Yes	Portuguese Embassy in Caracas	Yes
Senegal	Yes	Portuguese Embassy in Dakar	Yes
Slovak Republic	No		No
Slovenia	no		No
Solomon Islands	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Canberra	Yes
South Africa	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Pretoria, P.C. Johannesburg or P. C. Durban	No
Spain	no		No
Suriname	Yes	Embassy of Netherlands in Paramaribo	Yes
Sweden	no		No
Switzerland	no		No
Tanzania	yes	Spanish Embassy in Dares Salaam	yes
Togo	yes	French Embassy in Lomé	Yes
Tuvalu	yes	Portuguese Embassy in Canberra	Yes
UK	no		No
Uruguay	no		No
USA	no		Yes