

SB/JAC/31271

3 March 2011

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
IWC.ALL.160

**State of the Cetacean Environment Report (SOCER) 2011**

The editors of the State of the Cetacean Environment Report (SOCER) have requested contributions for this year's draft which will be dedicated to the Southern Ocean. Their solicitation letter and a link to the data entry form can be found on the SOCER page of the IWC website:

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/socer2011.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/socer2011.htm)

Previous SOCER reports can be viewed at:

[http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/socer.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/socer.htm)

The solicitation letter is also attached to this Circular. Please note that the deadline for submissions for this year's SOCER is **15 April 2011**.

Dr. Simon Brockington  
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 tenth 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 Southern Ocean.**

We are asking for submissions of information that in your opinion merit inclusion in this report. This should primarily include information on events from 2009, 2010 and the months of 2011 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 data entry form downloadable at [http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/socer2011.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/socer2011.htm)  
Any additional information provided (see item VIII: 'additional information and remarks') will assist the editorial decision-making process regarding inclusion. If an event or development does not fit the format of the form, but you nonetheless believe it warrants inclusion, please specify this in Item VIII. Please submit or draw any relevant scientific papers/supporting documentation to the attention of the editors.

With few exceptions, only information stemming from published scientific papers and reports or other authoritative sources can be accepted.

### **The deadline for submissions for the 2011 SOCER is: April 15, 2011.**

The SOCER also contains a glossary of technical terms. The draft version will be written by the principal SOCER editors (see below) and circulated as a Scientific Committee document at the Scientific Committee meeting for comments and suggestions.

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

Michael Stachowitsch  
Dept. of Marine Biology  
University of Vienna  
Althanstrasse 14, A-1090  
Vienna, Austria  
Email: [stachom5@univie.ac.at](mailto:stachom5@univie.ac.at)

Naomi Rose  
Humane Society International  
2100 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037 USA  
Email: [nrose@hsi.org](mailto:nrose@hsi.org)

Chris Parsons  
Department of Environmental Science and Policy  
George Mason University  
Fairfax, VA 22030 USA  
Email: [ecm-parsons@earthlink.net](mailto:ecm-parsons@earthlink.net)