



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

IWC.ALL.450

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

Catch and Infractions data sharing policies – action required: deadline 22 June 2023

The Secretariat's Statistics and Modelling Department is undertaking a review of its data-sharing policies in light of recent changes to UK legal frameworks for data sharing. Regarding catch data, the IWC is managing 2 datasets: (i) a summary of catch data that gives the total number of whales caught per species, year (whaling season), and expedition, and (ii) individual catch data, where information on the species, length, sex, foetuses, maturity, condition, and stomach contents is given for each individual whale harvested. Additionally, information on the date and location (coordinates) of the catch, marking and samples taken is reported. IWC is also managing infractions data reported by the member nations. The datasets span from 1848 until today.

IWC datasets are developed for scientific, educational and research purposes. Currently, the catch datasets are considered **public** under the **Creative Commons (CC BY 4.0) licence**. (An exception is Japanese stomach content data that have been and remain restricted access data). If you have contributed towards these datasets, please inform us about any changes to data-sharing policies and related restrictions which might impact our public data-sharing policy. The future data-sharing policy will continue to treat the catch datasets as public but will incorporate any restrictions that you communicate with us.

Please send data sharing restrictions regarding the catch and infractions data you have shared with IWC – and any related questions - to statistics@iwc.int. The deadline for this request is **22 June 2023**. If we do not receive a reply from you, we will assume that you allow for **the catch and infractions data to be treated as public** (please see licence above) and to be shared with **all** interested parties through email requests and on the IWC website.

Acknowledging that legal frameworks on data sharing can change and differ between member nations, **please let the Secretariat know of any changes as soon as possible**. Future circulars requesting catch and infractions data will **remind** contributors to review data sharing restrictions for new data and to communicate any changes with the IWC.

Dr Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary