



International
Whaling
Commission

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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
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Voluntary Contributions from the Government of the USA

I am pleased to report that in 2011 the Government of the USA has generously provided voluntary funds totalling USD135,000 to facilitate progress in four important areas of the Commission's work, as detailed below.

1. Reducing Conflicts Between Cetaceans and Marine Resource Users

At IWC/63 in 2011 the Commission agreed to a proposal from the USA to provide technical support to the IWC Secretariat in the area of reducing conflicts between cetaceans and marine resource users¹. The USA has provided USD70,000 towards this work, focussing particularly on issues related to disentanglement and ship strikes. This money has been credited to the IWC voluntary fund set up at IWC/63 in 2011 dedicated to dealing with large whale entanglement response.

2. Southern Ocean Research Partnership

The Southern Ocean Research Partnership (SORP) has the aim of developing a multi-lateral, non-lethal scientific research programme to improve the co-ordinated and co-operative delivery of scientific information to the IWC. A framework and objectives for SORP were agreed in 2010 and recent intersessional progress was reported to IWC/63. The USA has provided USD25,000 towards the costs of ongoing SORP projects.

3. Standing Working Group on Whalewatching (SWG-WW)

At IWC/63 the Conservation Committee received an update from its SWG-WW. This update included: (1) a revised strategic plan for whalewatching; (2) proposals for the future role of the SWG-WW; and (3) an expansion of the SWG-WW to include at least two members of the Scientific Committee. The USA has provided USD15,000 towards the continuation of this work.

4. North Pacific gray whale Implementation Review

At IWC/63 the Scientific Committee provided a progress report on the Implementation Review for eastern North Pacific gray whales. The USA has provided USD25,000 to assist the completion of this review by IWC/64 in 2012. The funds will allow the Secretariat to contract technical support to finalise and validate the computer programs used to develop and run the Implementation Simulation Trials.

Simon Brockington
Secretary to the Commission

¹ See Chair's Report of the 63rd Annual Meeting, Section 21.7.3 and also document IWC/63/F&A 10.

Secretary: Dr. Simon Brockington