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Whaling  
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**Report of the second IWC Workshop on Welfare Issues Associated with the Entanglement of Large Whales**

I am pleased to circulate the Report of the second IWC Workshop on Welfare Issues Associated with the Entanglement of Large Whales. The Workshop was held from 24-26 October 2011 at the Provincetown Centre for Coastal Studies, Massachusetts, USA and had a particular focus on entanglement response. It was attended by representatives from every major large whale entanglement response network.

The main outcomes of the Workshop were:

- 1) A recognition of the benefits that would arise from the formation of a global network of large whale entanglement response operations, and a suggestion that there would be great value in the network being established under the auspices of the IWC;
- 2) The agreement of guidelines and principles for large whale entanglement response and;
- 3) A recommended approach to capacity building and training to assist the establishment and development of further large whale entanglement operations.

The Workshop participants agreed that entanglement response improves the welfare of entangled large whales, but also noted that the ultimate solution lies in prevention. In view of this the participants recommended that the IWC should continue to make preparations for a further workshop on entanglement prevention.

These collective recommendations provide a structured approach for the IWC to address this important welfare concern. The report will be considered by the IWC's Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues when it meets in Panama in June 2012.

Simon Brockington  
Secretary to the Commission

c.c. Intergovernmental Organisation observers to the IWC

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Secretary: Dr. Simon Brockington