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SB/JAC/31652
8 March 2013

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS, CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
IWC.ALL.191

State of the Cetacean Environment Report (SOCER) 2013

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 Mediterranean and Black Seas. The solicitation letter is attached to this Circular.

Previous SOCER reports can be viewed at: <http://iwc.int/socer>

Please note that the deadline for submissions for this year's SOCER is **15 April 2013**.

Simon Brockington
Secretary to the Commission

c.c. Intergovernmental Organisation observers to the IWC

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 twelfth 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 and a glossary of technical terms.

This year will be devoted to the Mediterranean and Black Seas

We are asking for submissions of information that in your opinion merit inclusion in this report. This should primarily include information on events from 2011, 2012 and the months of 2013 before the submission deadline, although earlier data may be submitted if relevant over the long term. Please submit the information as follows:

Send an email to one of the SOCER editors (see contact information below) and include the relevant scientific paper(s) as an attachment (e.g. pdf). With few exceptions, only information stemming from published scientific papers and reports or other authoritative sources can be accepted. If you have other forms of information please provide any supporting documentation to assist in the editorial decision-making process.

The deadline for submissions for the 2013 SOCER is: April 15, 2013

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 is intended to be a useful contribution to international understanding, particularly at the policy level, of cetaceans and their changing environment.

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