

RG/JAC/27840

25 August 2000

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS  
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
IWC.CCG.122

**2000/2001 SOWER Circumpolar Cruise**

At the 52nd Annual Meeting, the Scientific Committee had put forward a preferred budget (£432,769) and a reduced budget (£225,000) for scientific research in the coming year. With respect to the continuation of the SOWER circumpolar cruises, the Committee had developed a budget for the full programme of £77,000 (IWC/52/4 Annex G, Appendix 12). This included both the minke and blue whale components of the programme although the Committee recognised that even this budget represented only a very small component of the total budget for these cruises. It acknowledged the enormous contribution made by Japan in providing vessels. The reduced budget, which was subsequently approved by the Commission, includes a total amount for the cruise of £20,000 to cover the costs of a Cruise Leader and Senior Scientist.

Since the meeting, the Government of Japan has kindly indicated that it will provide a further £20,000 to its initial contribution of two vessels plus two researchers. This funding will enable the sightings survey component of the cruise to be undertaken and the necessary Planning Meeting to take place. However, it is not sufficient to enable the blue whale component of the cruise to occur. This involves combined acoustic, biopsy and photo-identification research to be undertaken upon any blue whales encountered. This level of research requires that there are two additional researchers on the vessels as well as the purchase of a large number of sonobuoys and the associated costs of shipping of these and other acoustic equipment.

Given the generous additional donation of an additional £20,000 by the Government of Japan, the Chair of the Scientific Committee has requested that the Secretary invite Member Governments to consider making individual donations to the IWC Research Fund to allow the full research programme to occur. For this to take place, donations of at least £30,000 will be required. Due to the time required to organise such a programme, donations or indications that donations will be forthcoming will need to be received by the Secretariat **by 22 September 2000**.

To enable the planning group to most speedily reach a conclusion about the likelihood of achieving the necessary funding and thus use the limited time available to them as effectively as possible, it would be helpful if Contracting Governments would complete and return the reply form below. Any questions about the scientific aspects of the cruise should be addressed to Greg Donovan (e-mail: [Greg@iwcoffice.org](mailto:Greg@iwcoffice.org), or phone/fax numbers as above).

Dr. R. Gambell  
Secretary to the Commission

The Government of:		
	Will make a contribution of:	
	Will consider making a contribution of:	
	Is unable to make a contribution:	
Signed:		Date: