

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.155

Venue for IWC/55 in 2003

I am writing regarding the venue of IWC's 55th Annual Meeting in 2003.

As described in Circular Communication IWC.CCG.154 (Changes to Annual Meeting Preparations and Procedures), we believe that decisions on the location of Annual Meetings should be taken two years in advance given the increasing difficulty in finding suitable venues with only 1-year's notice, particularly in the UK.

According to this timetable, the decision on the venue for IWC/55 in 2003 should preferably be taken at the Annual Meeting in London. I would therefore like to encourage Contracting Governments to consider whether they might wish to host the 2003 meeting, and if so, to submit an offer to the Secretariat in advance of IWC/53 in London in July. Circular Communication IWC.CCG.154 suggests that such offers be submitted 3 months in advance of the Annual Meeting. While this would be ideal in future, it may not be possible this year, given the short notice. Offers would therefore be willingly accepted up to the Annual Meeting, but earlier, informal indications to me (in confidence if necessary) of any such possibilities would be extremely helpful.

Please note that a formal offer should include:

- which meetings it covers, i.e. Scientific Committee, Commission Committees/Sub-committees/Working Groups, Annual Commission meeting;
- the location (town/city) and the venue;
- proposed timing; and
- information on what the host government would provide (i.e. over and above what the Commission normally provides – coffee would be a good example).

Although this year's meeting is in July, this reflects an economic necessity rather than choice (i.e. if held earlier the conference facility would cost significantly more), and we know that this timing creates difficulties for some delegations. The optimum timing is probably in the period early May to mid-June.

If anyone is interested in making an offer, but would like further details (e.g. budget and costs), please do not hesitate to contact either Martin Harvey, or myself.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

