

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS  
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
IWC.CCG.185

**Reminders regarding the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting and contact details**

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of the following:

**Comments on RMS Working Group Document IWC/53/RMS 4**

- As indicated in circular IWC.CCG.172 of 24 May, any country wishing to provide comments on this document (*'Proposed revisions to and re-organisation of the Schedule....'*) in advance of the Working Group meeting are invited to submit them to the Secretariat **by 3 July**. Comments received will be collated and made available before the Working Group meeting.

**Reports from Contracting Governments on national and regional efforts to monitor and address the impacts of environmental change on cetaceans and other animals (Commission Agenda item 12.4)**

- As indicated in circular IWC.CCG.173, it would be helpful if Contracting Governments intending to report on their activities could submit short written reports to the Secretariat **by 3 July**. Reports received will be collated into a single document and distributed at the beginning of the meeting.

**Credentials**

- It is important that proper written credentials are forwarded to the Secretariat in advance of, or are presented at, the meeting. Fax or email notifications will not be accepted as the formal credentials, although advance notification by these means is helpful.

**Opening Statements**

- As indicated in previous circulars (IWC.CCG.154 and 166) the Secretariat intends to set a firm deadline for all Opening Statements. This will be 17.00 on the first day of the Annual Meeting, i.e. Monday 23 July. The 'statements' will be collated and copied together, rather than copying and distributing them individually. If Opening Statements are not with the Secretariat by this time, then the Secretariat will not copy and distribute them as formal meeting documents. Please submit Opening Statements as an electronic or good top paper copy. Electronic submission on diskette, CD or email is the preferred option.

**Venue for IWC/55 in 2003**

- As of 27 June, no formal offers to host the Annual Meeting in 2003 have been received, but offers will be welcome up to the meeting. In the absence of any such offer at the meeting in London, the Secretariat will arrange for IWC/55 to be held in the UK.

**Contact details**

- Contact details for the IWC Secretariat during the Commission Meeting are as follows:

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