

NJG/JAC/29102

8 November 2001

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.212

Feedback from the meeting of the RMS Expert Drafting Group

The RMS Expert Drafting Group (EDG) met in Cambridge from 29 October to 1 November under the Chairmanship of Henrik Fischer and included representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Denmark, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, the UK and the US.

The EDG was established at this year's Annual Meeting in London and was charged with preparing a consolidated draft for the replacement of Chapters V (Supervision and Control) and VI (Information Required) of the current Schedule for consideration at the 54th Annual Meeting (see Terms of Reference attached).

Good progress was made by the EDG in Cambridge, and it agreed to continue to work intersessionally and to meet again in Auckland, New Zealand during the week of 25 February 2002. A report from the EDG, including a draft of Chapters V and VI will be circulated to Commissioners and Contracting Governments no later than 15 March 2002, as foreseen in the group's Terms of Reference.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

c.c. Non-member Government Observers (for information)

EXPERT DRAFTING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Expert Drafting Group's (EDG) terms of reference as agreed by the Commission at IWC/53 are as follows:

- (1) The EDG shall prepare a consolidated draft for the replacement of Chapters V and VI of the current Schedule. The consolidated draft shall be based on the current draft for Chapter V in document IWC/53/RMS2 and the draft for Chapter VI (Information Required) in Appendix 4 of IWC/53/9, and shall take into consideration further comments and explanations received at the present meeting of the RMS Working Group, including the UK's proposal for the collection of welfare data. Relevant Scientific Committee recommendations from recent years should also be taken into account.
- (2) The consolidated draft shall contain as few square brackets as possible. In the case of disagreements on minor items, the EDG shall develop compromise text. In the case of disagreement as to whether a major item should be included, the EDG should nevertheless prepare detailed text for the item, but include the entire item in square brackets. The reasons for the inability to agree should be clearly explained in annotations to the consolidated draft.
- (3) The EDG has the authority to rearrange, revise and renumber paragraphs in the current draft texts for Chapters V and VI as appropriate, but should not attempt to merge them with other parts of the Schedule.

The consolidated draft shall be completed and circulated to Commissioners and Contracting Governments not later than March 15, 2002, for consideration at the 54th Annual Meeting.