

NJG/JAC/29115

22 November 2001

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS  
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
IWC.CCG.215

**Venue for IWC/56 in 2004**

I am writing to remind you that the venue of IWC's 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in 2004 should be decided at our meeting next year in Shimonoseki.

At its meeting in London this year, the Commission agreed that any Contracting Government desiring to extend an invitation to host an Annual Meeting should give formal notice 2 years in advance. It further agreed that a formal offer should include:

1. which meetings it covers, i.e. Scientific Committee, Commission sub-groups, Annual Meeting;
2. a proposed time-window within which the meeting will take place; and
3. a timetable for finalising details of the exact timing and location of the meeting.

As indicated in Circular Communication IWC.CCG.209 (9 October 2001), Rule of Procedure B.1 will be revised to reflect these changes, but formal adoption is postponed until IWC/54 to meet the 60-day notice period required for such amendments.

Ideally, formal invitations or, possibly expressions of interest in making an invitation, would be notified to me in time for them to be included in the Annotated Provisional Agenda that will be distributed not less than 60 days prior to the next Annual Meeting. That means they should be received here no later than 15 March 2002.

If any Contracting Government is interested in hosting the 2004 meeting, the Secretariat would be pleased to provide further details to assist in the decision-making process (e.g. budget and costs). The optimum timing for Annual Meetings is during the period early May to mid-June.

I look forward to a full mail bag!

Dr. Nicky Grandy  
Secretary to the Commission