

NJG/JAC/29189

22 March 2002

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.234

**Draft Agenda for RMS Working Group and request for information in relation to
Resolution 2001-2 on Whale Killing Methods**

RMS Working Group Draft Agenda

The Draft Agenda for the RMS Working Group will be available on the IWC web site today. Instructions on how to locate meeting documents were included with Circular Communication IWC.CCG.233 of 21 March. *This document will only be sent by email to those who have specifically requested this in response to my Circular IWC.CCG.220 of 7 February 2002.* A copy can, however, be sent by email on request.

A hard copy of this document is included with the postal version of this Circular.

Information requested in Resolution 2001-2 (attached)

This Resolution adopted at last year's meeting, *inter alia*, encourages all Contracting Governments to provide:

- relevant comparative data from killing of other large mammals;
- appropriate technical assistance to reduce time to unconsciousness and death in all whaling operations.

If your country intends to submit information on either of these issues, I would be grateful if this could be provided to the Secretariat (preferably electronically to Secretariat@iwcoffice.org) by **1 May**. Any information submitted will be made available to the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues that meets on Thursday 16 May in Shimonoseki.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

cc: Non-member Government Organisations (for information)

Resolution 2001-2

RESOLUTION ON WHALE KILLING METHODS

RECOGNISING that the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues (WGWKM&AWI) is established to review information and documentation available with a view to advise the Commission on whale killing methods and associated welfare issues;

NOTING that IWC/53/WKM&AWI9 as distributed by the Secretariat calls for a Summary of Activities related to the Action Plan on Whale Killing Methods (based on resolution 1999-1), and the UK Paper on Collection of Whale Killing Data (IWC/53/WKM&AWI5) submitted to WGWKM&AWI53;

RECALLING IWC resolution 1997-1 which urged aboriginal subsistence whalers to do everything possible to reduce still further any avoidable suffering caused to whales in such hunts;

NOTING the proposal that Contracting Governments should supply data on animal welfare issues to the IWC;

DISAPPOINTED at the lack of information presented to the WGWKM&AWI on the recent kills of sperm and Bryde's whales.

RECOGNISING that seasonal and weather variations can adversely impact times to death;

NOTING the inclusion of the recommendation for the development of better criteria for determining the onset of permanent insensibility in whales, using physiological and behavioural observations, correlated as far as possible with post mortem examinations, under the revised action plan on whale killing methods IWC51Ann rep. Appendix 1;

NOTING also that previous Workshops have considered relevant comparative data from killing of other large mammals.

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:

AGREES to convene in 2003 a Workshop on Whale Killing Methods;

ENCOURAGES all Contracting Governments to report to the Commission any technical developments within whale killing technologies and to submit, to the extent possible, relevant information, including variance data on times to death, to the meetings of the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues, and future Workshops on Whale Killing Methods;

ALSO ENCOURAGES all Contracting Governments to provide relevant comparative data from killing of other large mammals;

ENCOURAGES all Contracting Governments to provide appropriate technical assistance to reduce time to unconsciousness and death in all whaling operations.