



International Whaling Commission

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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS IWC.CCG.7

Intersessional Meeting of Commissioners

At the 49th Meeting of the IWC in Monaco, the incoming Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Michael Canny (Ireland), was asked to engage in bilateral discussions with Commissioners with a view to develop proposals to break the impasse in IWC prior to the 50th Meeting in Oman. The Chairman has concluded after a number of discussions on the phone and by e-mail that real progress cannot be achieved in this way in this timescale. After consultation with the Advisory Committee, the Chairman has decided to hold an informal meeting of Commissioners on 3 - 5th February, 1998. The Government of Antigua & Barbuda have kindly offered to host the meeting and this offer has been accepted.

The meeting will not produce a formal report but will be an exercise in informal consultation with a view to seeking to maximise the common ground between member states. Preferably the attendance should be the Commissioner accompanied by only one or two advisers and interpreters.

To ensure transparency, NGOs will be informed that the meeting is taking place and the Chairman will engage in dialogue and consultation also with those NGOs who come to Antigua. No doubt, NGOs will also discuss the issues with individual Commissioners both before and after the meeting.

An agenda and details of practical arrangements will be circulated shortly.

Dr. R. Gambell
Secretary to the Commission