



International Whaling Commission

Chairman
Mr Michael Canny (Ireland)

Vice-Chairman
Prof. Bo Fernholm (Sweden)

Secretary
Dr Ray Gambell OBE

The Red House
135 Station Road
Impington
Cambridge
CB4 9NP, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1223 233974
Fax: +44 (0) 1223 232876
EMail: iwcoffice@compuserve.com

RG/JAC/27616

1 November 1999

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS IWC.CCG.79

IWC Membership Contribution Calculation

At the 51st Annual Meeting of the Commission, held in Grenada, May 1999, Antigua & Barbuda introduced a proposal for the reassessment of membership contributions. It argued that the importance of the sea means that all states, and particularly developing coastal countries dependent on fishery resources, should be allowed to participate in international organisations such as the IWC. The current membership does not include all countries which hunt whales, in part because of the heavy financial burden of the present contribution system.

Its proposal was to re-examine the way in which contributions are assessed, and to consider adoption of a system more in line with that used by the UN and similar organisations. It offered a possible new system comprising a basic element of 10%, and 90% shared in accordance with the UN contribution rate.

Specifically, Antigua & Barbuda proposed that:

1. A committee be established by the Commission to make recommendations towards implementation of its proposed contribution system;
2. Prior to the convening of this committee, members of the Commission should provide written comments to the Secretariat for consideration by the said committee.

After a number of Commissioners had expressed their initial comments, the Chairman of the Commission concluded that there was wide support for looking at the options and issues raised by the proposal from Antigua & Barbuda for a reassessment of membership contributions, and asked for written comments. He subsequently announced that he had asked Mr Daven Joseph (Antigua & Barbuda) to convene the Contributions Subcommittee

Mr Joseph has asked that a copy of the document which he put forward on behalf of the government of Antigua & Barbuda (IWC/51/28) setting out this proposal should be distributed now (with the postal version of this communication), with the request that Commissioners send their comments to the Secretariat **by 31 January 2000** for collation, consolidation and subsequent circulation prior to discussion at the 52nd Annual Meeting to be held in Adelaide, Australia.

Dr R. Gambell
Secretary to the Commission

Proposal for the Reassessment of Membership Contribution

Submitted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda

The importance of the sea and its marine resources to the sustainable development of coastal states, provides a significant basis for coastal states and indeed the entire international community to participate and cooperate in the management of these shared resources.

At the 23rd Meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries and the Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries, thereafter, the issue of predation by whales on other marine fisheries resources has become a serious concern for global fisheries management. Worldwide cooperation is now considered to be essential and indispensable to address the management considerations that will be necessary to tackle this problem. The FAO Committee on Fisheries agreed that all of its member states concerned should give high priority to the development of more appropriate ecosystems approaches to fisheries development.

Developing countries that are dependent on their fisheries resources should therefore be allowed to participate in international organizations as the IWC where management regimes for the world's ocean living resources are developed and implemented. This is important in order to develop better fisheries management schemes taking into account the relationship between whales and other marine living resources. In this connection the membership of the IWC should be extended to include more developing coastal states and indeed other members of the international community.

Special consideration for membership must be given to small island states whose economies, cultural and environmental vulnerability is greater owing to their geographic location and the size and the scale of their economies.

Like many other hemispheric partners, Antigua and Barbuda as well as other Caribbean States recognize the importance of sustainable use of their natural resources and the right to the use of these resources by peoples of the Americas. At the Summit Conference on Sustainable Development in 1996, Heads of Government, in the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, stated:

We recognize that the needs and responsibilities facing the countries of the hemisphere today are diverse. Sustainable development does not assume that all countries are at the same level of development or can necessarily use the same model to attain it. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, states have common but differential responsibilities in the global quest for sustainable development. Efforts must be made to ensure that the benefits of sustainable development reach all countries in the hemisphere; in particular those that are relatively less developed, and all segments of our populations.

Current membership of the IWC does not include all countries that hunt whales. In part, their reluctance to join may be due to the heavy financial burden of the current system of assessing member's contributions, a system that places a disproportionate cost on poor nations. The membership cost of one developing country such as St. Vincent and the Grenadines is more than the cost of one G7 nation.

In the Finance and Administration Sub-Committee, Antigua and Barbuda stated its intention to place a proposal before the Commission concerning the calculation of contributions to the IWC. This proposal is to re-examine the way contributions are assessed, and to consider the adoption of a system more in line with that used by the

Consideration on the New Calculation System for the IWC Contribution

	Share point by the existing IWC system				responsibility (10% *1)	UN rate (90% *2)	contribution (UN rate *3)	Total contribut -ion *4	Current contribution
	Membership	Whaling	Attendance	Total share					
Antigua & Barbuda	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.002	20	2,068	21,336
Argentina	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.768	7,838	9,886	21,336
Australia	2	0	2	4	2,729	1.471	15,013	17,743	28,448
Austria	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.935	9,543	11,590	21,336
Brazil	2	0	1	3	2,047	1.514	15,452	17,499	21,336
Chile	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.113	1,153	3,200	21,336
China	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.901	9,196	11,243	21,336
Costa Rica	2	0	0	2	1,365	0.017	174	1,538	14,224
Denmark	2	2	3	7	4,777	0.687	7,012	11,788	42,672
Dominica	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.001	10	2,057	21,336
Finland	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.538	5,491	7,538	21,336
France	2	0	1	3	2,047	6.494	66,280	68,327	21,336
Germany	2	0	2	4	2,729	9.63	98,287	101,016	28,448
Grenada	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.001	10	2,057	21,336
India	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.305	3,113	5,160	21,336
Ireland	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.223	2,276	4,323	21,336
Italy	2	0	1	3	2,047	5.394	55,053	57,100	21,336
Japan	2	4	5	11	7,506	17.981	183,520	191,026	78,232
Kenya	2	0	0	2	1,365	0.007	71	1,436	14,224
Korea	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.955	9,747	11,794	21,336
Mexico	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.941	9,604	11,651	21,336
Monaco	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.003	31	2,078	21,336
Netherland	2	0	2	4	2,729	1.619	16,524	19,254	21,336
NZ	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.221	2,258	4,303	21,336
Norway	2	3	3	8	5,459	0.605	6,175	11,634	56,896
Oman	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.05	510	2,557	21,336
Peru	2	0	0	2	1,365	0.085	868	2,232	14,224
Russian Federation	2	4	1	7	4,777	2.873	29,323	34,099	35,560
St Kitts & Nevis	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.001	10	2,057	21,336
St Lucia	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.001	10	2,057	21,336
St Vincert	2	2	1	5	3,412	0.001	10	3,422	21,336
Senegal	2	0	0	2	1,365	0.006	61	1,426	14,224
Solomon	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.001	10	2,057	21,336
South Africa	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.365	3,725	5,772	21,336
Spain	2	0	1	3	2,047	2.571	26,240	28,288	21,336
Sweden	2	0	1	3	2,047	1.099	11,217	13,264	21,336
Switzerland	2	0	1	3	2,047	0.364	3,715	5,762	21,336
UK	2	0	2	4	2,729	5.076	51,807	54,537	28,448
USA	2	4	3	9	6.141	25	255,158	261,299	50,784
Venezuela	2	0	0	2	1,365	0.235	2,398	3,763	14,224
	80	19	49	148	100,990	89.054	908,914	1,009,904	1,009,904

*1 : 10% of the total contribution should be met by all the member states as members' responsibility.

*2 : UN contribution rate

*3 : The rest of 90 % of the total contribution is shared by the members in accordance with UN contribution rate

*4 : Total contribution = 10% share of members' responsibility + 90% share according to UN contribution rate.