



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee

IWC.ALL.462

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

Expert Panel on Bycatch

Circular Communication IWC.ALL.449 requested nominations from Contracting Governments, members of the Scientific Committee and observers to the Bycatch Expert Panel and provided details of the selection process. After consultation with the former Bycatch Expert Panel members who had ended their first 4-year term, 14 members expressed their willingness to continue. We are pleased to acknowledge the work done by the original members of the Expert panel in setting up the BMI work. This Circular is to update on the progress made with establishing the Expert Panel.

I am pleased to report that we had a high response rate to our call for nominees, with 16 new nominations received. Due to the need to limit the size of the Expert Panel for logistical reasons we have therefore, at the request of the Bycatch Standing Working Group, established a core Expert Panel of 25 members. In addition, a wider correspondence group has been set up to make use of the wide-ranging expertise of nominees whose advice can be sought by the panel on particular topics. The correspondence group will also have the opportunity to comment on near final drafts of Expert Panel documents; and, as appropriate, be invited to BMI events.

The list of Bycatch Expert Panel members and correspondence group is attached. We are now starting to organise the first meeting of the refreshed Expert Panel. A further update on the work of the Panel will be provided to the Scientific Committee at SC69B and the Commission at IWC69.

Rebecca Lent
IWC Executive Secretary