



## Circular Communication to Members of the Scientific Committee

### IWC.SC.248

*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*

### Scientific Committee Workshop Small Cetaceans of the South Pacific Islands

At SC68D, the Scientific Committee initiated a review of the Small Cetaceans of the South Pacific Islands. An Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) was established that has refined the scope of the review. This work has been greatly assisted by collaboration with the Secretariat of the [South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme](#) (SPREP).

At SC69A, the SC recommended that an in-person workshop be organised, in collaboration with SPREP and the IWC Bycatch Mitigation Initiative (BMI). The Government of the Netherlands has provided funds for this workshop which will be held in The University of Auckland (City Campus), Auckland, New Zealand, February 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. **This is an in-person workshop only, there will be no virtual attendance.**

This is intended to be the first of several workshops focusing on this review and the primary aims of the 2024 workshop are to:

- Identify and include multiple stakeholders from the South Pacific Island region who have an interest, direct or indirect, on cetacean research, particularly on the focal species:
  - short-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*);
  - false killer whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*);
  - melon-headed whales (*Peponocephala electra*);
  - pygmy killer whales (*Feresa attenuata*)
  - rough-toothed dolphins (*Steno bredanensis*)
- Summarise published and ongoing work on these species with the purpose of identifying knowledge gaps
- Develop a framework to progress the overall review

There are limited funds to attend this meeting, however, if you are interested in attending please register [here](#) in order to receive updates and access to documents prior to the event.

Thank you for your cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Staniland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Iain Staniland  
Head of Science, Conservation and Management