

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
IWC.SC.103

**IWC/57: Identification of Heads of National Delegations to the Scientific Committee  
and dates of pre-meetings**

**Heads of Delegation to the SC**

This year is Doug Demaster's last meeting as Chair of the Scientific Committee and a new Chair and Vice Chair must be appointed in Ulsan. You may recall that the Scientific Committee's Rule of Procedure C.5 was amended last year to include the following text in bold italics:

*'5. The Committee shall elect from among its members a Chair and Vice-Chair who will normally serve for a period of three years. They shall take office at the conclusion of the annual meeting at which they are elected. The Vice-Chair shall act for the Chair in his/her absence.*

*The election process shall be undertaken by the heads of national delegations who shall consult widely before nominating candidates. The Vice-Chair will become Chair at the end of his/her term (unless he/she declines), and a new Vice-Chair will then be elected. If the Vice-Chair declines to become Chair, then a new Chair must also be elected. If the election of the Chair or Vice-Chair is not by consensus, a vote shall be conducted by the Secretary and verified by the current Chair. A simple majority shall be decisive. In cases where a vote is tied, the Chair shall have the casting vote. If requested by a head of delegation, the vote shall proceed by secret ballot. In these circumstances, the results shall only be reported in terms of which nominee received the most votes, and the vote counts shall not be reported or retained.'*

As the election process is undertaken by heads of national delegations, it is important that these are notified to the Secretariat. A Circular Communication was sent on 10 March (IWC.CCG.458) to Commissioners and Contracting Governments reminding them of the need for proper written credentials for the Commission and for the Scientific Committee, including identification of the SC Head of Delegation. You may wish to ensure that the Head of Delegation for your country is appropriately identified.

**Pre-meetings at IWC/57**

Please note the dates of the following pre-meetings:

- Workshop on the use of market sampling to estimate bycatch: Friday and Saturday, 27-28 May;
- Sea ice and whale habitat meeting: Saturday and Sunday 28-29 May;
- AWMP Standing Working Group: Saturday and Sunday 28-29 May.

Dr. Nicky Grandy  
Secretary to the Commission