

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
IWC.SC.105

**Researchers for the 2005/2006 IWC/SOWER Cruise**

The International Whaling Commission is seeking up to eight researchers to participate in the 2005/2006 SOWER cruise

The Japanese Government will generously provide two vessels (*Shonan Maru* and *Shonan Maru No. 2*). Details of the cruise are given in IWC/57/Rep 1, Annex G, Appendix 2 (attached as a pdf file). The cruise objectives for the 2005/06 season are:

- (1) Antarctic minke whales: Experiments designed to address problems with analysis and interpretation of CPII and CPIII Antarctic minke whale abundance estimates.
- (2) fin whale survey feasibility study north of 60°S.
- (3) humpback biopsy and photo-identification studies.
- (4) continuation of blue whale research.

The total length of the cruise (southern home port to southern home port) will be 65 days as last year. This will provide approximately 48 days for research, depending on the final selection of Antarctic research area. The timings for the cruise have not been finalised yet but will probably be similar to last year i.e. between around 3 January and 8 March. The home port for the cruise departure will be Cape Town. Consideration will be given to Durban as the end port. Final decisions will be taken at the Planning Meeting to be held in Tokyo at the end of September.

Applications are now invited for the positions of researchers on board the vessels. Members of the Scientific Committee are asked to pass on the enclosed information to anyone who may be interested. Applications giving a brief summary of relevant background and experience (**on the form attached**) should be submitted to the IWC Secretariat ([secretariat@iwcoffice.org](mailto:secretariat@iwcoffice.org)) no later than **Monday 19 September 2005**, preferably in electronic format. Researchers will be selected at the Planning Meeting.

Copies of the application form as a Rich Text Format document (Appform.rtf) and in htm format (Appform.htm) are attached. To view the latter use your web browser software (e.g. Internet Explorer or Netscape - you do not need to log onto the web of course, just double click on the file icon/name).