

NJG/JAC/30259

10 October 2005

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
IWC.SC.107

Report of the SOWER Planning Meeting for the 2005/06 IWC/SOWER and future cruises

Please find attached the report from the SOWER planning meeting that took place in Tokyo from 22-24 September 2005. You will recall that at IWC/57 in Ulsan, recommendations for the 2005/06 SOWER cruise were developed on the assumption that the Japanese Government would continue to provide vessels and assistance at the same level as in the past. However, for financial reasons, Japan's support has had to be reduced and thus only one vessel will be available for this next cruise. The research that will be carried out has therefore been tailored accordingly. This has also affected the discussions of future SOWER cruises as reflected in Part B of the report.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission