

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
AND INVITED PARTICIPANTS
IWC.SC.110

Pre-Meeting on seismic surveys and their potential impacts to cetaceans

At IWC/57 in Ulsan, it was agreed that a two-day meeting would be held immediately prior to the Scientific Committee meeting at IWC/58 to assess the potential for seismic surveys to impact cetaceans.

The agreed Terms of Reference are to:

- (1) review and characterise information on seismic sound sources, attenuation and their effects on cetaceans;
- (2) review case studies where on-going seismic surveys overlap with cetacean distribution in critical habitats and wide-ranging areas (i.e. migratory paths);
- (3) review and evaluate effectiveness of current mitigation and monitoring programmes during planning, operational and close-out phases of seismic surveys;
- (4) discuss potential impacts for cetaceans and recommended/needed changes in mitigation and monitoring during all phases of seismic surveys.

Further details can be found in IWC/57/Rep1 Annex K.

This pre-meeting will be held from Wednesday 24 May to Thursday 25 May 2006 at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort, St. Kitts, West Indies. Registration details will be included as part of the Annual Meeting online registration process and sent to you shortly.

The draft agenda has been posted on the website (http://www.iwcoffice.org/commission/sci_com/scmain.htm) and relevant documents will be posted there as they become available.

Title	Filename	Kb
Draft agenda	ECSCagenda.pdf	30

Committee members are strongly requested to provide the following information by **1 March 2006**:

1. indicate to Helen Sharp (helen.sharp@iwcoffice.org), with a copy to Howard Rosenbaum, (hrosenbaum@wcs.org) whether they will be submitting new papers to the meeting and if possible a brief abstract of what the papers will contain or topics they will address;
2. submit any relevant 'in press' or 'in review' papers as soon as possible to participants via the Secretariat (helen.sharp@iwcoffice.org). Note that it is possible to include a note on restrictions on citation without permission of the authors.

Completed papers must be submitted to Helen Sharp (helen.sharp@iwcoffice.org) by **1 May 2006** for prior copying by the Secretariat.

Note that individuals associated with particular draft Agenda Items will only be invited to introduce the specified topic with a short presentation (10-12 minutes with 3-5 minutes for questions). The majority of time for each Agenda Item will be spent reviewing, evaluating and critiquing papers that are submitted for that topic. Discussion of each topic will be most effective and useful with relevant contributions of a) reports prepared by committee members that address a particular topic and/or b) 'for information papers' (i.e. existing reports or publications) that are submitted to the IWC for the Workshop.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission