

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
IWC.SC.125

**POLLUTION 2000+ PHASE II WORKSHOP**

The IWC-POLLUTION 2000+ programme was initiated to investigate pollutant cause-effect relationships in cetaceans. It arose from the major workshop on chemical pollutants and cetaceans held in Bergen in 1995 as part of the Commission's instruction to the Scientific Committee that it should "give priority to research on the effects of environmental changes in order to provide the best scientific advice for the Commission to determine appropriate response strategies to these new challenges".

The research programme was developed at a special workshop held in Barcelona in 1999 and two short-term objectives were identified:

- 1) to try to select and examine a number of biomarkers of exposure to and/or effects of PCBs and try to determine whether a predictive and quantifiable relationship with PCB levels in certain tissues exists;
- 2) to validate/calibrate sampling and analytical techniques to address such questions for cetaceans, specifically
  - a) determination of changes in concentrations of variables with post-mortem times;
  - b) examination of relationships between concentrations of variables obtained by biopsy sampling with those of concentrations in other tissues that can only be obtained from fresh carcasses.

The examination of these two objectives was considered to be Phase 1 of what necessarily would have to be a long-term programme. Further details can be found in IWC/58/Rep1, Appendix 2 of Annex K available from the IWC website ([http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/screport.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/screport.htm)).

At SC/58 in St. Kitts, the Scientific Committee recommended that before any decisions are made with respect to a possible Phase II, an interdisciplinary workshop, similar to the Barcelona workshop, should be held to develop a full proposal including the specification of short-term objectives, case-study populations and procedures for the programme continuation. This workshop will take place 11-12 April 2007 at the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB), Barcelona.

Committee members are strongly requested to provide the following information by **1 April 2007**:

- 1) indicate to Helen Sharp ([helen.sharp@iwcoffice.org](mailto:helen.sharp@iwcoffice.org)), with a copy to Peter Reijnders ([peter.reijnders@wur.nl](mailto:peter.reijnders@wur.nl)) whether they will be attending and/or submitting new papers to the Workshop 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](mailto:helen.sharp@iwcoffice.org)). Note that it is of course possible to include a note on restrictions on citation.

Relevant information, including the location of the meeting and information about hotels in the area, will be placed on the IWC website ([http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci\\_com/workshops/POLLUTIONworkshop.htm](http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/workshops/POLLUTIONworkshop.htm) ) in due course.

Dr. Nicky Grandy  
Secretary to the Commission