

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
IWC.SC.126

Researchers for the 2007/2008 IWC/SOWER Cruise

The International Whaling Commission is seeking up to three researchers to participate in the 2007/2008 SOWER cruise.

The Japanese Government will generously provide one vessel (*Shonan Maru No. 2*). Details of the cruise are given in IWC/59/Rep1, Annex G, Appendix 2 (attached as a pdf file). The cruise objectives for the 2007/08 season are:

- 1) determination of the proportion (and density estimate) of whales in the ice in conjunction with an Australian aerial survey undertaken by CSIRO;
- 2) determination of the best ways to estimate $g(0)$ and school size, including possible use of 'BT-Option 2' and 'SSIII' mode;
- 3) improvements in angle and distance estimation;
- 4) collection of data necessary to understand stock structure (biopsy sampling);
- 5) photo-identification studies.

The total length of the cruise (southern home port to southern home port) will be 60 days as last year. The cruise will take place during the same time period as last year, i.e. mid-December to late-February. The home and end port for the cruise will be Hobart. Final decisions on survey modes, design and experimental procedures will be taken at the Planning Meeting to be held in Tokyo at the end of September; the research area will centre around 110°E (the position of the Casey Station of the Australian Antarctic Division).

Applications are now invited for the positions of researchers on board the vessel. 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) no later than **Monday 24 September 2007**, 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).