

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO
MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
IWC.SC.129

SOWER abundance estimates Workshop

In recent years, the Scientific Committee has been developing and testing new methods to estimate minke whale abundance in the Antarctic from SOWER/IDCR cruises. The new methods are needed because some of the assumptions of basic line transect methods are violated in the Antarctic minke whale data and these violations lead to bias in absolute abundance and in trends. Although good progress has been made with the new methods, to the point where preliminary abundance estimates from one method were discussed by the Committee this year, there are still a number of important details (in particular concerning analysis of recent data from SOWER experiments, appropriate simulation tests, diagnostic checks including some of those used in evaluating abundance estimates of North Atlantic common minke whales, and space/time extrapolation/interpolation) that need to be resolved before the Committee can agree on a set of abundance estimates with reasonable scientific confidence.

A Workshop related to this will be held from 7-10 February 2008 at the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Seattle, USA. The full Terms of Reference for the Workshop can be found on the IWC Website (http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/workshops/SOWER_ABUNDANCEworkshop.htm) and further details can be found in IWC/59/Rep 1 Annex G.

It is **essential** that you inform the Secretariat (jemma.miller@iwcoffice.org) as soon as possible that you wish to attend and certainly by **20th December 2007**. If attending, you must return a completed 'Homeland Security Requirements' Form (attached) to Debi Palka (dpalka@whsun1.wh.who.edu); This must be received **at least 30 days** before the meeting.

In addition, Committee members are requested to:

- (a) indicate to Helen Sharp (helen.sharp@iwcoffice.org), with a copy to Greg Donovan, (greg.donovan@iwcoffice.org) whether they will be submitting new papers to the Workshop and to provide, if possible, a brief abstract of what they will contain or topics they will address;
- (b) submit any relevant 'in press' or 'in review' papers as soon as possible via the Secretariat (helen.sharp@iwcoffice.org) - it is of course possible to include a note on restrictions on citation.

A block booking has been made at the Watertown hotel and the special rate for a room is \$142, plus 15.6% tax (please quote 'IWC Feb meeting'). For further information please refer to the hotel's website www.watertownseattle.com.

Greg Donovan
Head of Science

HOMELAND SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FORM

For non-US citizens, the following information must be received one month prior to your arrival. Please send this information to Debi Palka (dpalka@whsun1.wh.who.edu) who will kindly check and compile it.

1	Full name	
2	Gender	
3	Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	
4	Place of Birth (Please include City, region and country)	
5	Place of residence (Please include City, region and country)	
6	Passport number and country of issue	
7	Country of current residence	
8	Citizenship and country(ies) of dual citizenship (if applicable)	
9	Purpose of visit	
10	Arrival date	
11	Departure date	