CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE IWC.SC.139

Southern Hemisphere Humpback Whale Workshop (3- 6 Feb 2009) and Maximum Sustainable Yield Rate (MSYR) Review Workshop (6-8 Feb 2009)

Two IWC workshops will be held at the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Seattle during February 2009: The Southern Hemisphere Humpback Whale Workshop (3- 6 Feb 2009); and Maximum Sustainable Yield Rate (MSYR) Review Workshop (6-8 Feb 2009).

Southern Hemisphere Humpback whale workshop

It has become evident that advances in the "isolated stock" methodology that has been used to assess breeding stocks A and G of the Southern Hemisphere humpback whales are necessary to handle the complexities of mixing and sub-stock structure associated with breeding stocks B and C, and D, E and F.

The purpose of the workshop is to develop such methodology to allow its ready application to data for these regions during the 2009 meeting of the Scientific Committee. Without this prior consolidation of methodology, it will not be possible within the time available at the annual meeting of the Scientific Committee to make the progress needed on agreeing both methodology and application to secure reasonable advance in the Comprehensive assessment of humpback whales in the Southern Hemisphere. Relevant documents will be posted on the IWC website (http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/workshops/HUMPBACK.htm) and further items will be added as they become available.

MSYR workshop

The Workshop is to be held to enable sufficient progress to be made to be able to have at the 2009 meeting a thorough review of and perhaps to revise the range of plausible MSY rates (currently MSYR(mat)=1% to 7%) for use in Revised Management Procedure (RMP) trials. Relevant documents will be posted on the IWC website (http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/workshops/MSYRworkshop2.htm) and further items will be added as they become available.

If attending, you must return a completed 'Homeland Security Requirements' Form (attached) to Jeff Breiwick (jeff.breiwick@noaa.gov). This must be received by Thursday 8th January 2009.

Greg Donovan Head of Science

HOMELAND SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FORM

For non-US citizens, the following information must be received by 8^{th} January. Please send this information to Jeff Breiwick (<u>jeff.breiwick@noaa.gov</u>) 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	