

NJG/JAC/30963

21 August 2009

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
IWC.SC.145

Researchers for the 2009/10 IWC/SOWER Cruise

The International Whaling Commission is seeking up to three researchers to participate in the 2009/10 SOWER cruise.

The Japanese Government will generously provide one vessel (*Kaiko-Maru*). Details of the cruise are given in IWC/61/Rep1, Annex G, Appendix 2 (attached as a pdf file). The main cruise objectives for the 2009/10 season are:

- 1) collaboration with the proposed Australian aerial survey to investigate the distribution and abundance of Antarctic minke whales with respect to sea ice;
- 2) collection of data necessary to understand stock structure and mixing of primarily humpback whales (biopsy sampling and photo-identification).

The cruise will take place from approximately 25 December 2009 to 26 February 2010 with the research period in the Antarctic being from 10 January to 12 February. 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 probable research area will cover an area from 100-110°E.

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 should be submitted (**on the form attached**) to the IWC Secretariat (secretariat@iwcoffice.org) no later than **Monday 21 September 2009**, preferably in electronic format. Researchers will be selected at the Planning Meeting.

A copy of the application form as a Rich Text Format document (Appform.rtf) is attached.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission