

NJG/JAC/31035

8 January 2010

TO MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
IWC.SC.149

Note from Debra Palka, Chair of the Scientific Committee

Please find attached a note from Debra Palka in relation to the *Pre-Implementation Assessment* of North Pacific Common Minke Whales that she has asked me to circulate.

Best wishes to you all for 2010.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

Pre-Implementation Assessment of North Pacific Common Minke Whales

DEBRA PALKA (CHAIR OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE)

I am very sorry to have to inform members of the Committee that the planned North Pacific minke whale *pre-Implementation assessment* intersessional workshop planned for February has had to be postponed to a pre-meeting to the Annual Meeting in Agadir (with discussions to continue in the sub-committee). The dates of this pre-meeting will probably be 28-29 May; more information will follow as soon as possible. The Steering Group has reluctantly reached this conclusion after investigating a number of options because it has proved impossible to find dates that will allow sufficient numbers of the researchers carrying out the fundamental research to attend. I recognise that this lack of the intersessional workshop may mean that the *pre-Implementation assessment* cannot be completed this year. If that is the case, work will continue to complete this next year.

The difficulties associated with trying to organise this workshop, while perhaps atypical, have prompted me to decide to draft a working paper for the Committee to try to ensure that such problems do not occur in the future. The Steering Group is keen to facilitate work such that there is the best chance of completing the *pre-Implementation assessment* at this year's Annual Meeting. To this end the following schedule is proposed:

1 February 2010: Members of the Committee planning to undertake analyses that will contribute to the *pre-Implementation assessment* to inform Jemma Jones at the Secretariat (Jemma.Jones@iwcoffice.org) of the kinds of analyses they are planning.

30 March 2010: Draft papers describing the results of these analyses to be made available to Committee members through the Secretariat to give time for follow-up analyses to be done before the pre-meeting, as appropriate.

The draft agenda for the pre-meeting and subsequent sub-committee meetings will be the same as previously circulated for the cancelled intersessional workshop.

The Steering Group has drawn up a list of invited participants, some of whom will be requested to provide papers to the pre-meeting. Scientists who already know that they wish to present papers should inform Jemma Jones at the Secretariat (Jemma.Jones@iwcoffice.org).

Note that papers and information on the pre-meeting will be included on a special page on the Scientific Committee's website: http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/workshops/NPMworkshop.htm. Information on data availability can be found at: http://www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/data_availability.htm.