

Level of Press and Observer fees for 2015-2016

The Secretariat

1. Introduction

The Commission decided in 1992 that fees for Observers from non-member Governments and Inter-governmental Organisations should be held constant at £800 while the fee for NGO observers should increase annually.

2. NGO observers

A new procedure for setting NGO registration fees was agreed at IWC59 in 2007 which provided for a charge per individual observer rather than a charge per organization. This charge was to be income neutral to the IWC, with the intention that it is used to offset the cost of the larger venue needed to accommodate observers at Commission Meetings. In 2008 the Secretariat worked with the Advisory Committee to determine the initial fee structure.

Since 2008 NGO fees have been increased in line with UK inflation. For the next Commission meeting in 2016 it is proposed that NGO fees again increase in line with an annual UK inflation rate of 1.6%¹. Thus the NGO registration fee for the next meeting would be set as follows:

Current fee for attending IWC/65:	Proposed fee for next meeting in 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £ 580 for the first observer, and• £ 285 for each additional observer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £ 600 for the first observer, and• £ 295 for each additional observer.

Previously, the registration fee was treated as an annual fee covering attendance at the Annual Meeting to which it related and any other meeting of the Commission or its subsidiary groups in the interval before the next Annual Meeting. With the recent move to biennial Commission meetings the BSC may wish to recommend that the fee covers the entire biennial period.

There is no charge for interpreters from NGO organisations for languages other than French, Spanish or Japanese as interpretation into these languages is provided free of charge to all delegates and observers.

3. Press fee

The Commission charges a nominal press fee to offset the costs of facilities provided to media organisations during the its meeting. For 2014 the Commission agreed to set this fee at £80. The Secretariat have provided a separate paper (IWC/65/BSC04) recommending that fees are waived for media representatives.

¹ UK Consumer Price Index for July 2014 indicated a UK inflation rate of 1.6%.