

Appendix 2

Outline proposal for an expert workshop to assist the ASW Sub-Committee and the Commission with respect to improved procedures for considering ASW catch limits, with a focus on consideration of need

OBJECTIVES

The Commission will be reviewing catch limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling at its 2018 Biennial Meeting. The Commission has recognised a number of issues to be addressed that will assist the Commission in its consideration of such catch limits, recognising that the Rules of Procedure E states that the ‘Commission shall make every effort to reach its discussions by consensus.’ To this end it established an *ad hoc* Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Working Group in 2011.

Recognising the complexity of the topics assigned to that group and the need to agree to a revised process by the 2016 Biennial Meeting if it is to assist in reviewing catch limits at the 2018 Biennial Meeting, the proposal here is for an expert workshop to take place, probably in 2015, to *inter alia* develop a proposal or options for circulation well in advance of the 2016 meeting for consideration by the ASW sub-committee and Commission in 2016. In making this proposal, the positive experience from the previous expert workshop held in 1979 was considered.

While the Workshop may consider aspects of all of the issues raised in IWC/63/12rev, an important focus must be on consideration of ‘need statements’ in the broad sense. In no particular order at this stage, topics to be considered under this will include but not necessarily limited to:

- (a) Types of need (e.g. cultural and nutritional)
- (b) Cultural and sociological variation across whaling communities with regard to conditions of the hunt and methods of distribution of products, including evolution through time;
- (c) Description of the methods used to present information on need to the Commission in an informative manner including an account of types of need and how they are characterised as well as cultural and sociological variation;
- (d) Consideration of approaches to objectively review ‘need statements’ presented to the Commission.
- (e) Food security considerations

EXPERTISE

The Workshop will require experts on at least the following:

- (1) the present and past subsistence whaling operations including representatives of whaling communities;
- (2) anthropologists and sociologists with expertise in the appropriate geographical regions and subsistence communities;
- (3) nutritionists with expertise in native diets.

The possibility of collaboration with appropriate Intergovernmental Organizations and other stakeholders should be investigated.

STEERING GROUP

There is insufficient time at this meeting to develop a full list of participants, agenda, venue, precise dates, budget etc. necessary to ensure a successful workshop. It is therefore proposed that a Steering Group be established comprising the existing ASW Working Group (Argentina, Austria, Denmark, Japan, Russian Federation, Switzerland and the USA as well as the Head of Science and two Scientific Committee members). Past experience has shown that workshops function best when (1) there are no more than about 40 participants; (2) sufficient time is allowed for the Workshop itself to develop its recommendations and finalise its report – for a complex such as this then 4-days may be appropriate; (3) papers on specific topics are requested, developed and submitted well in advance of the workshop; and (4) sufficient funding is necessary to support participation and costs associated with involvement of experts and other participants