

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.291

IWC/55: Exploring the provision of facilities for simultaneous translation

During a private meeting of Commissioners in Shimonoseki, while recognising that English remains the official language of the Commission, it was agreed that the use of simultaneous translation to improve communication at Annual Meetings should be explored. Currently a system of consecutive translation is used. Simultaneous translation would shorten the time taken for discussions and would enable delegations sharing a common language to share interpreters more readily if they so wished.

Noting the high budgetary implications if the Commission was to provide full simultaneous translation facilities, i.e. both the technical facilities (interpretation booths, ear-pieces, multi-channel listening devices etc.) and the interpreters, it was agreed that the Secretariat should investigate the costs and other implications of the Commission providing only the technical facilities with a view to implementation at IWC/55. Engaging and paying for interpreters would continue to be the responsibility of those delegations requiring them.

The Secretariat has information on most of the elements needed to estimate the costs for providing the technical facilities for simultaneous translation at IWC/55, but to complete the picture, it requires information on the number of Contracting Governments wishing to use such facilities and for which languages.

All Contracting Governments are therefore requested to complete the form attached and return it to the Secretariat by Friday 10 January 2003.

The Commissioners delegated responsibility for making a final decision on the provision of simultaneous translation facilities for IWC/55 to the Chair in consultation with the Advisory Committee. The Chair will obviously also need to consult with the host government prior to reaching a decision. Contracting Governments will be informed of the outcome as soon as possible in the New Year.

Please note that the Secretariat has assumed that current arrangements for interpretation will continue to be used during the meeting of the Scientific Committee.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

LANGUAGE AND INTERPRETATION REQUIRED AT IWC/55

All Contracting Governments are requested to complete and return this form

Contracting Government:	
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Does your Government intend to use English at IWC/55?	
If your Government would prefer to use another language, please indicate which language you wish to use	

Relevant meetings taking place during IWC/55	For which meetings would you like simultaneous translation facilities available? (please indicate 'yes' or 'no')
Infractions Sub-committee	
Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Sub-committee	
Finance and Administration Committee	
Private Commissioners' meeting on the RMS	
Private Commissioners' meeting on Sunday 15 June	
Annual Commission Meeting (i.e. the Plenary)	

Does your Government intend to share interpreters with other delegations using the same language?	
If your Government intends to share interpreters with other delegations, please indicate the other delegations concerned.	

Please return this form by email or fax to the Secretariat by Friday 10 January 2003
 Email: Secretariat@iwcoffice.org
 Fax: +44 (0)1223 232876