

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.368

Information regarding the RMS and the Conservation Committee

Henrik Fischer, Chair of the Commission, has asked that the following information be circulated to Commissioners and Contracting Governments.

RMS

At IWC/55 in Berlin, the Commission agreed to allow the new Chair to convene a small group to explore ways and possibilities to take the RMS process forward. It also agreed that he should be allowed to constitute this small group rather than being directed by the Commission regarding whom to involve.

The Chair subsequently, on 15 October, invited Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the USA to take part in his small group. All countries have accepted his invitation with the exception of Ireland. Ireland's Commissioner unfortunately had to decline due to pressures of work associated with the lead-up to Ireland's Presidency of the EU during the first six months of 2004.

The group will meet at the Secretariat's offices in Cambridge on 9 and 10 December 2003. The Chair will report to the Commission at IWC/56 on the outcome of his consultations.

Conservation Committee

At IWC/55, the Commission decided by Resolution to establish a Conservation Committee that will meet for the first time at IWC/56 in Sorrento.

According to our Rules of Procedure (M.2), it is the responsibility of each committee to elect its Chair. Clearly, this will not be possible for the Conservation Committee until IWC/56. In the meantime, Henrik Fischer has decided to invite Carlos Dominguez Diaz, Commissioner for Spain and Vice-Chair of the Commission, to convene the Conservation Committee until and including the opening of the Conservation Committee meeting in Sorrento when an election for Chair must be conducted.

Henrik Fischer has spoken with Carlos Dominguez Diaz who has agreed to take on the role of convenor.

Dr Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

