



International Whaling Commission

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NJG/JAC/30022

20 August 2004

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.426

**Call for comments/positions on key issues in relation to the
Chair's Proposals for a Way Forward on the RMS**

You will recall that at IWC/56 in Sorrento, the Commission adopted, by consensus, Resolution 2004-6 on Completion of the Revised Management Scheme. The Resolution included an ambitious 10-point plan of intersessional work to complete both the drafting of text and technical details of the RMS with the aim of having the results ready for consideration, including for possible adoption, at IWC/57, and/or to identify any outstanding policy and technical issues.

Point 2 of the intersessional plan of work was to invite all Contracting Governments to send comments/positions on key issues to the RMS Working Group (presumably via the Secretariat). ***The purpose of this Circular is to invite such comments/positions using the questionnaire attached.*** Although the attached document consists of quite a few pages (because it includes *inter alia* extracts from the Chair's proposal and Resolution 2004-6) there are only 12 questions. Responses will be collated by the Secretariat and made available to all Contracting Governments prior to the meeting of the RMS Working Group scheduled to take place before December 2004. You will be receiving a separate communication shortly regarding this meeting and implementation of the other parts of the intersessional plan of work.

For background information, the following documents from IWC/56 are also provided:

- IWC/56/28: Statement from Henrik Fischer, Chair of the Commission, to the private meeting of Commissioners/Alternate Commissioners on the 16th July 2004;
- IWC/56/36: Discussion document: Further work required on the RMS based on IWC/56/26.

Please return your responses to the questionnaire to the Secretariat by Friday 24 September 2004.

Dr Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission