

NJG/JAC/30660

20 December 2007

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
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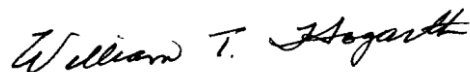
Letter from the Chair of the Commission regarding JARPA II

Dear Commissioners and Contracting Governments,

I am pleased to report that the Government of Japan, through Vice-Chair Morimoto, has agreed to delay the take of humpback whales in its Antarctic research program at least until after the June 2008 Annual Meeting. The Government of Japan is willing to do this in order to reduce tensions among members and assist the process that I initiated in Anchorage to move forward over the coming months. This process will seek to improve how negotiations within the IWC are conducted (this will be the focus of the March 2008 intersessional meeting), and will subsequently include discussions of many issues, including small-type coastal whaling and non-lethal use of cetaceans.

I would like to thank the Government of Japan for its co-operation and sincerely hope that all other Contracting Governments will help Vice-Chair Morimoto and me in moving this process forward.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Hogarth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.
Chair of the International Whaling Commission