

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS  
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
IWC.CCG.723

**Contracting Government input to the Small Working Group (SWG) on the Future of IWC:  
Question regarding availability of background documents**

In Circular Communication IWC.CCG.712 of 16 July, Contracting Governments were invited to provide input that would be used in the development of two documents for the forthcoming meeting of the SWG being held in Florida from 15-19 September, i.e.

1. A background paper collating input from Contracting Governments on what they understand is meant/covered by each of the 33 elements/issues identified at IWC/60 as being of importance to one or more Contracting Governments in relation to the future of IWC;
2. A draft of the discussion document referred to in the Terms of Reference for the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Issues Related to the Scientific Committee (ICG). Contracting Governments were invited to provide comments/suggestions on any or all of the four areas identified in the ICG's Terms of Reference.

The Circular Communication noted that these two documents would be circulated to all Contracting Governments prior to the SWG meeting.

In the interests of transparency, the Chair of the Commission, Bill Hogarth, would also like to make these documents publicly available prior to the SWG meeting by posting them on IWC's website. However, given that this was not discussed in Santiago or made explicit in the Circular Communication of 16 July, he is now seeking the agreement of those governments that have provided comments to make them available in this way.

Given the shortness of time between now and the start of the SWG meeting, Bill Hogarth would be grateful if those governments providing comments could let the Secretariat know as soon as possible if they can agree to the documents being made available via IWC's website prior to the SWG meeting. It will be assumed that those providing input agree to this approach if they have not contacted the Secretariat by Tuesday 9 September 2008.

Dr. Nicky Grandy  
Secretary to the Commission