

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.762

**Intersessional Meeting of the Commission on the Future of IWC,
9-11 March 2009, FAO Headquarters, Rome**

Further documents and information

1. Documents

Please note that the following documents for the intersessional meeting are attached and also available on IWC's website at: <http://www.iwcoffice.org/commission/future.htm>

- IWC/M09/5: Report of the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Scientific Committee Issues
- IWC/M09/INFO 1: Chair's Report of The Pew Whales Commission, Lisbon, 9-10 February 2009 (submitted by Portugal) - a translation in French is also attached.

When submitting the Chair's Report of the recent Pew Whales Commission, Portugal made the following remarks to which I draw your attention:

'A meeting of the Pew Whales Commission held in Lisbon, Portugal on 9-10 February 2009 addressed issues pertinent to the agenda of the intersessional Meeting on the Future of the IWC.

Like several other delegations, Portugal attended this meeting as an observer.

The Pew Whales Commission is an initiative of the Pew Environment Group. However we believe that delegations at the Intersessional Meeting would benefit from the Chair's Summary produced after the Lisbon meeting.

At IWC 59 the Chair's Summary of the First Pew Whale Symposium had been submitted (<http://www.iwcoffice.org/documents/commission/IWC59docs/59-11.pdf>).

The Chair's Summary of the Second Pew Whale Symposium was also at the first Intersessional Meeting on the Future of the IWC held in Heathrow (<http://www.iwcoffice.org/documents/commission/future/IWC-M08-INFO8.pdf>).

With no prejudice to our position in Rome and in Madeira, Portugal is also submitting as an Information document the Chair's Report of this third Pew meeting. The original version in English and its translation into French are both available.'

We kindly ask you to **BRING COPIES OF ALL PRE-CIRCULATED DOCUMENTS WITH YOU TO THE MEETING** as we do not intend to provide extra copies of these documents in Rome on a routine basis.

2. Information for participants

Please also find attached a document providing the following information:

1. Venue address;
2. Transportation:
 - a) To Rome from Leonardo da Vinci (Fiumicino) Airport;
 - b) To Rome from Ciampino Airport;
 - c) From FAO to the airports;
 - d) Public transportation;
3. On site registration – location, timing, identity requirements;
4. Food and drink facilities at FAO;
5. Other useful information;
6. Map of the area.

3. Reminders

Participation

If you intend to send a delegation to the intersessional meeting but have not yet informed the Secretariat, please do so as soon as possible.

Private meeting of Commissioners

As announced in Circular Communication (IWC.CCG.759 of 16 February) there will be a short private meeting of Commissioners immediately prior to the start of the Intersessional Meeting. This will start at 10.00 on Monday 9 March **and will be held in the Malaysia Room** (Building B, second floor).

The usual rule of Commissioner + one alternate (and interpreter as appropriate) will apply. Note that there will be simultaneous interpretation for French and Spanish.

Location and start time of intersessional meeting

This will be held in the **Red Room** (Building A, First Floor) and will start at 11.00 on Monday 9 March.

Credentials

It is important that proper written credentials are forwarded to the Secretariat in advance of, or are presented at, the meeting as set out in Rule of Procedure D.

D. Credentials

1.(a) The names of all representatives of member and non-member governments and observer organisations to any meeting of the Commission or committees, as specified in the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, Technical and Scientific Committees, shall be notified to the Secretary in writing before their participation and/or attendance at each meeting. For member governments, the notification shall indicate the Commissioner, his/her alternate(s) and advisers, and the head of the national delegation to the Scientific Committee and any alternate(s) as appropriate.

The written notification shall be made by governments or the heads of organisations as the case may be. In this context, 'governments' means the Head of State, the Head of Government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs (including: on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs), the Minister responsible for whaling or whale conservation (including: on behalf of this Minister), the Head of the Diplomatic Mission accredited to the seat of the Commission or to the host country of the meeting in question, or the Commissioner appointed under Rule A.1.

(b) Credentials for a Commissioner appointed for the duration of a meeting must be issued as in D.1(a). Thereafter, until the end of the meeting in question, that Commissioner assumes all the powers of a Commissioner appointed under A.1., including that of issuing credentials for his/her delegation.

(c) In the case of members of delegations who will attend the Annual Commission Meeting and its associated meetings, the notification may be made en bloc by submitting a list of the members who will attend any of these meetings.

(d) The Secretary, or his/her representative, shall report on the received notifications at the beginning of a meeting.

(e) In case of any doubt as to the authenticity of notification or in case of apparent delay in their delivery, the Chair of the meeting shall convene an *ad hoc* group of no more than one representative from any Contracting Government present to decide upon the question of participation in the meeting.

Fax or email notifications will not be accepted as the formal credentials, although advance notification by these means is helpful.

Opening Statements

As announced in Circular Communication IWC.CCG.759, Contracting Governments and observers may submit written Opening Statements if they so wish. No time has been allowed on the Draft Agenda for oral opening statements. The arrangements for the receipt and distribution of Opening Statements will be as agreed by the Commission at IWC/54 (see Circular).

While the official deadline for Opening Statements is 17.00 on Monday 9 March, it would be very helpful if they could be sent by email to the Secretariat (Secretariat@iwcoffice.org) to arrive by **Tuesday 3 March**. This will allow them to be collated and copied in advance and made available to participants at the start of the meeting. Opening Statements received on Monday 9 March will be made available as soon as possible.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission