

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS  
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
IWC.CCG.783

**Annual Meeting in 2010**

At IWC/60 last year the Commission deferred to IWC/61 taking a decision on whether it needed to meet in 2010. This matter will be addressed under agenda item 24.2 of the Annotated Provisional Agenda for IWC/61.

In the Report of the Small Working Group (Document IWC/61/6) circulated on Monday 18 May (see Circular Communication IWC.CCG.781) you will note that to keep up the momentum on discussions on the future of IWC the SWG recommends to the IWC *'that, when it meets at Madeira, it should direct that the efforts underway should be continued for a further year and decisions taken at IWC/62'*. The need for a meeting in 2010 was also proposed in Bill Hogarth's letter of 18 May in which he stated that in Madeira he would propose that *'the Commission continue its efforts for one more year to further deliberate the issues and present a "package" or "packages" to the Commission at its 2010 annual meeting for decision making'*.

If the Commission supports these recommendations, clearly arrangements will need to be made at least for a meeting of the Commission in 2010.

In Madeira, there will also be discussions on the functioning of the Scientific Committee based on the *'Report of the Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) on issues related to the Scientific Committee'* presented to the Commission at its intersessional meeting in Rome in March 2009 (see Document IWC/M09/5). These will include *inter alia* consideration on the frequency of Scientific Committee meetings and whether to separate in time the meetings of the Scientific Committee and the Commission. With respect to frequency, in the past, some countries have supported continued annual meetings of the Scientific Committee even if the Commission was to meet less frequently. With respect to timing, considerable support has been voiced, including at the Rome meeting, for the separation of the Scientific Committee and Commission meetings.

**Given the above, individual Contracting Governments may wish to consider, prior to coming to IWC/61, whether they would be prepared to offer to host some (e.g. Scientific Committee or Commission plenary) or all of a meeting in 2010.** This would greatly assist preparations should the Commission decide to hold an Annual Meeting next year. In the absence of an offer, the Secretariat would have to make appropriate arrangements.

If any Contracting Government is interested in hosting the 2010 meeting, the Secretariat would be pleased to provide further details (e.g. budget and costs).

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