

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.819

Exploration of the due date for the payment of financial contributions, imposition of penalty interest and proposed amendments to the Commission's Financial Regulations

At IWC/61 in Madeira, a number of Contracting Governments, particularly of developing countries, noted that because of conflicts between the due date for financial contributions to the IWC and their own national budgetary cycles, they find it difficult to meet the due date. They therefore often incur penalty charges and have requested that the due date be revised to give them a longer time period in which to pay before a financial penalty is incurred.

As this issue had been raised on a number of previous occasions, the Commission, in Madeira, requested the Secretariat to explore the implications of changing the due date and to report to the intersessional meeting of the Commission to be held principally to address Greenlandic aboriginal subsistence whaling quotas (in Madeira, the Commission agreed to leave open the decision on Greenland's request for the taking of humpback whales until an intersessional meeting). It was noted that if the intersessional meeting is held before the due date for the 2009/2010 contributions and if adequate notice and draft text of proposed changes to the Commission's Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations is provided (i.e. 60 days – see Rule of Procedure R.1), then any changes agreed by the Commission could take effect for the 2009/2010 financial contributions.

If it is decided that an intersessional meeting of the Commission will be required to address Greenland's proposed schedule amendment in relation to its aboriginal subsistence whaling, this will be held in Florida on 10 and 11 December (see Circular Communication IWC.CCG.811 of 26 August 2009). Please therefore find attached a document prepared by the Secretariat that explores this issue and proposes amendments to the Commission's Financial Regulations.

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Secretary to the Commission