

NJG/JAC/31014

1 December 2009

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.828

Intersessional Meeting of the Commission
TradeWinds Island Grand Resort, St. Pete Beach, Florida USA 4-5 March 2010

Further to Circular Communication IWC.CCG.825 of 19 November, I am writing to provide further information on the Intersessional Meeting of the Commission at which a decision will be taken on Greenland's request for a take of humpback whales. This issue was held open from IWC/61 in Madeira.

The meeting will be held from 4-5 March 2010 at:

TradeWinds Island Grand Resort
5500 Gulf Boulevard
St. Pete Beach
FL 33706

Tel: +1-800-808-9833
Fax: +1-727-363-2222
<http://www.tradewindsresort.com/>

[The meeting of the Small Working Group (SWG) on the Future of the IWC will be held at the same venue from 2-4 March 2010. Members of the SWG have received information on this meeting separately.]

With respect to the Intersessional Meeting of the Commission, please find below information regarding the following:

- notification of participation;
- hotel accommodation;
- visa requirements;
- credentials.

Notification of participation

Please complete and return the attached form (Annex 1) to let us know who will be on your delegation to the meeting. The form should be returned as soon as possible to the Secretariat but by 22 January 2010.

Hotel accommodation

A block of rooms (Standard Hotel Room) have been reserved at the TradeWinds Island Grand Resort at a rate of 189 USD per night + tax of 12% (breakfast not included). They are being held until **29 January 2010**. After this date, requests will be subject to rate/room availability. Individuals may also book a range of other room types, if available at the time of reservation (see reservation form attached). I encourage you to make your bookings before 29 January.

A booking form for the TradeWinds is attached for you to use when making hotel reservations. The hotel recommends that you use this form and return by fax or email. Contact details are provided on the form. Note that if calling from outside the USA, the fax number is 1-727-363-2222.

Other hotel options

Contact details for a number of hotels in the area (and distance from TradeWinds) are attached (Annex 2).

Visa requirements

Observers are urged to check whether they require a visa to enter the USA. The U.S. State Department's website provides information on visas and application requirements (http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html).

Recently, the U.S. has updated its visa policies to increase security for its citizens and visitors. It may take longer to get a visa than it used to, and you will find that a few new security measures have been put into place. For details that may apply specifically to your country, see information posted by your nearest consulate or embassy (<http://www.usembassy.gov/>).

Please note that since 12 January 2009, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security now requires that all eligible persons travelling under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) obtain approval through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to travelling to the United States. ESTA is a web-based system which determines the preliminary eligibility of visitors to travel under the VWP prior to boarding a carrier to the United States. Travellers without an approved ESTA are advised that they may be denied boarding, experience delayed processing, or be denied admission at a U.S. port of entry. Visitors may apply for travel authorization via the ESTA Web site at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. For more information about the VWP, visit http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/business_pleasure/vwp/.

Should you require a letter of invitation to assist in the visa application process, please let me know as soon as possible.

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.

Note that in addition to indicating the Commissioner and any Alternates, credentials should also indicate the head of the national delegation to the Scientific Committee and any alternates (Rule D.1.(a)).

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

Dr Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

ANNEX 1

INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

Intersessional Meeting of the Commission

TradeWinds Island Grand Resort, St. Pete Beach, Florida USA 4-5 March 2010

Notification of intention to participate

Contracting Government:	
Name of delegate(s):	

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY 22 JANUARY TO THE SECRETARIAT
FAX: +44 (0)1223 232876, Email: Secretariat@iwcoffice.org**

ANNEX 2

TradeWinds and other hotel options

Hotel	Distance from Tradewinds
<p>TradeWinds Island Grand Resort**** 5500 Gulf Boulevard St. Pete Beach FL 33706 Tel: +1-800-808-9833 Fax: +1-727-363-2222 http://www.tradewindsresort.com/</p>	
<p>Sandpiper Beach Resort*** 6000 Gulf Blvd. St. Pete, FL 33706 Tel: +1 727-360-5551 www.tradewindsresort.com</p>	5 min walk
<p>Sirata Beach Resort*** 5300 Gulf Blvd St. Pete Beach, FL 33706 Tel: +1-800-344-5999 or (727) 363-5170 Email: info@sirata.com www.sirata.com</p>	5 min walk
<p>Grand Plaza Hotel*** 5250 Gulf Boulevard St. Pete Beach, Florida 33706 Tel: +1 727-360-1811 Fax: +1 727-360-6919 Email: info@grandplazaflorida.com www.grandplazaflorida.com</p>	Approx. 3 blocks away
<p>Beachcomber Beach Resort & Hotel** 6200 Gulf Boulevard • St. Pete Beach, Florida 33706 Tel: +1 727-367-1902 Fax: +1 727-367-4422 Email: info@beachcomberflorida.com www.beachcomberflorida.com/</p>	5 min walk
<p><i>Don CeSar*****</i> 3400 Gulf Blvd. St. Pete Beach, Florida 33706 Phone: +1 727 360-1881 Fax: +1 727 363-5034 Email: n/a www.loewshotels.com</p>	1.7 miles
<p>Bilmar Beach Resort*** 10650 Gulf Boulevard Treasure Island, FL 33706 Tel: +1 727-360-5531 Fax: +1 727 360-2915 Email: reservations@bilmarbeachresort.com www.BilmarBeachResort.com</p>	4 miles or so – there is a beach trolley that goes from pass-a-grill to Clearwater \$1.75/trip or \$4.00 /day. It makes frequent stops