

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.834

**Letter from the Chair of IWC, Cristian Maquieira, regarding
the recruitment of a new Secretary to the Commission**

Further to Circular Communication IWC.CCG.821 of 26 October 2009, I am writing to: (a) report on the status of the ongoing process for the recruitment of a new Secretary; and (b) make a proposal with respect to the interviews of short-listed candidates.

Status of the recruitment process

The post of Secretary was advertised at the end of September 2009 with a closing date of 16 November 2009. Advertisements were placed in the Economist (magazine and online), The New Scientist (magazine and online), the Guardian and Times newspapers (and online), the Telegraph online and on IWC's website. The advertisement was also circulated to Commissioners and Contracting Governments (with the request that arrangements for circulation/publication of the advertisement be made as appropriate in their own countries) and to all IGOs and NGOs with whom IWC co-operates.

Applications were received from 121 individuals from 22 member countries.

The Selection Panel met in Seattle on 7 December 2009 to review the applications and to agree a short-list of candidates for interview. The meeting was held in Seattle to take advantage of the fact that most Panel members were in Seattle for a meeting of the Support Group. Seven candidates have been short-listed for interview. Interviews will be held in Hawaii on 31 January and 1 February, i.e. immediately following the next meeting of the Support Group. Again we are taking advantage of the fact that most Panel members will be together at this time.

As previously agreed, on the basis of the interviews, the Selection Panel will propose a single candidate (who has indicated that he/she will accept the post if confirmed) to the Commission and a secret postal ballot of Commissioners for approval of the proposed candidate will be initiated.

My proposal regarding the interviews

The interviews will be conducted by the Selection Panel. The Selection Panel comprises the members of the Advisory Committee (i.e. myself as Chair of IWC (Chile); Anthony Liverpool - Vice Chair of IWC and Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda; Donna Petrachenko, Chair of the F&A Committee and Commissioner for Australia; Djobo Anvra Jeanson, Commissioner for Côte d'Ivoire; and Jorge Palmeirim, Commissioner for Portugal) and the Commissioners for Japan and the USA (or their alternates). The Panel thus provides a good representation of the IWC membership in terms of geography, socio-economic status and views on whaling.

Unfortunately however, now that the interviews are to be in Hawaii and not in Cambridge as initially anticipated, Jorge Palmeirim will not be able to attend. In addition to work commitments, travel from Sao Tome where Jorge is currently living, also presents difficulties. If Jorge cannot attend the interviews, this will mean that Europe (which has many IWC members) would not be represented on the Panel. I believe this would be a shame and therefore, with your indulgence would like to propose that Bo Fernholm, Commissioner for Sweden, join the Panel for the interviews. He will already be in Hawaii for the Support Group Meeting. Bo has been involved with the Commission for many years, including as Chair, and therefore has a good understanding not only the work of the IWC but also the role of the Secretary and Secretariat. He has indicated his willingness to take part in the interviews if this is acceptable. I trust that my proposal will be acceptable, but please let me know by Wednesday 15 January if you have any concerns.

Ambassador Cristian Maquieira
Chair of the Commission