

NJG/JAC/31057

16 February 2010

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.842

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

Draft agenda, transport information and reminder re credentials and voting rights

Further to Circular Communications IWC.CCG.828, 836 and 840 (of 1/12/09, 18/01/10 and 08/02/10 respectively), this letter deals with the following in relation to the Intersessional Meeting of the Commission:

- Venue and start time;
- Draft agenda and list of documents;
- Transport from Tampa to St. Pete Beach;
- Credentials and voting rights.

Meeting venue and start time

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 will start at 15.00 on Thursday 4 March.

Draft agenda and list of documents

The Draft agenda and list of documents (Document IWC/M10/1) is attached and is available on IWC's website at:

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/meetings/intersession10.htm>

Transport

The TradeWinds is about a 35 minute drive from Tampa International airport. Some of you may be planning on hiring a car. For others, there are a number of other options, including:

Taxi

Taking a taxi from the taxi stand - this will cost about somewhere between 65-75 USD one way. You can also share a taxi with others travelling to St. Pete Beach. The Share taxi stand is near the regular taxi stand.

Super Shuttle

Using the Super Shuttle - this is a service in which you can share a car/van with other people. I understand that travelling in a shared van (sharing with up to 10 people would cost around 25 USD per person). However, as you may be travelling with people being dropped off at other hotels in St Pete beach, you could be on the car/van for several stops. The Super Shuttle has a booking booth at the airport and staff there will be able to book vehicles and advise on availability/schedule. You can pre-book on their website at www.supershuttle.com or telephone: (+1) 727-571-4222 or toll free on (800) 622-2089.

Finally, and importantly, when giving instructions to the driver as to where you want to go, please make sure that you tell them that you want to go to the **TradeWinds Island Grand Resort** as there are a number of other TradeWinds properties.

Credentials and voting rights

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 (see Annex). It is important that credentials indicate who is/are the Commissioner and/or Alternate Commissioner(s) as it is only such individuals who are entitled to vote. *Fax or email notifications will not be accepted as the formal credentials, although advance notification by these means is helpful.*

Voting rights

As indicated in Circular Communication IWC.CCG.836, Contracting Governments attending the Commission meeting in March whose financial contributions, including any interest due, have not been received by the time of the meeting will not have voting rights. The Secretariat has been sending reminders to Contracting Governments regarding the payment of financial contributions.

Finally, please bring documents circulated in advance with you to the meeting.

Dr Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

Annex

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.