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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
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Press release of Friday 7 May 2010

As I informed you last week via email, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission issued a press release on Friday 7 May to respond to a number of comments in the press and elsewhere regarding the Proposed Consensus Decision to Improve the Conservation of Whale (Document IWC/62/7rev) released on 22 April 2010.

Today the Secretariat realised that the advice it had given to the Chair and Vice-Chair regarding the reduction in the number of whales that would be taken in non-indigenous hunts over the 10-year period of stability (included as part of the proposed Consensus Decision) when compared to recent years' catches was incorrect, since it did not incorporate the actual number of whales taken in the Antarctic in 2009/10 which recently became available (and for which the number of Antarctic minke whales was considerably lower than in 2008/09). Using the actual data, the annual average for the 2005-2009 period (1,610 whales) results in about 3,200 whales fewer taken over the 10-year period rather than 'some 4,000' fewer as stated in the press release. There is also an additional correction to the Spanish translation in the fourth sentence of the section ¿Una Constitución pro-ballenera o una propuesta equilibrada y realista?

The press release posted on IWC's website has now been corrected and a revised version (in English, French and Spanish) is attached.

Please accept my most sincere apologies for this error.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission