

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.876

Letter from the Chair of the Commission regarding discussions at IWC/62 on the Future of the IWC

As you are aware, perhaps the most important item to be addressed at the forthcoming Commission meeting in Agadir, Morocco is the future of the IWC itself.

In addition to plenary discussions on the future of the organisation (21 – 25 June), time has been set aside during the previous week (i.e. on Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 June) and on Sunday 20 June during the private meeting of Commissioners for discussions on this issue. There will be simultaneous interpretation in French and Spanish during all these sessions.

The basis of these discussions will be the ‘Proposed Consensus Decision to Improve the Conservation of Whales’ released by me and Anthony Liverpool (Vice-Chair of the Commission) on 22 April (see Circular Communication IWC.CCG.865 and Document IWC/62/7rev). The Vice-Chair and I developed this document on the basis of discussions of the Support Group and of the Small Working Group (SWG) on the Future of the IWC who met in Florida in early March, and comments submitted subsequently by Contracting Governments in writing. I would again like to emphasise that the proposed Consensus Decision does **not** represent an agreed approach of the Support Group or the SWG. Neither does it necessarily represent the views of the authors regarding the content of a finally agreed document. Rather we put it forward as a compromise text to serve as a basis for further negotiations prior to, and during IWC/62.

The discussion sessions set aside in Agadir will provide the first opportunity for all Contracting Governments to discuss collectively the proposals and to engage in the necessary further negotiations that I very much hope will result in achieving consensus. I am only too well aware that negotiations will be difficult given the very challenging issues being dealt with and the strongly-held and differing views among member governments on a number of issues. However, I hope that despite our fundamental differences of views on whaling, we can put these aside for a period so that we can focus on ensuring the world has healthy whale stocks. **I therefore encourage all Contracting Governments to make their utmost effort to attend IWC/62 and to participate in discussions on IWC’s future starting on Wednesday 16 June.**

Ambassador Cristian Maquieira
Chair of the Commission

