

SB/JAC/31145

4 August 2010

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.903

New Commissioner for Chile and effect on the position of Chair to the IWC

We have been informed today that Ambassador José Luis Balmaceda has been appointed as Commissioner to the IWC for Chile and takes over from Ambassador Cristian Maquieira. Consequently Ambassador Maquieira has resigned as Chair of the Commission. The letter of resignation is attached.

Accordingly the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Ambassador Anthony Liverpool (Antigua and Barbuda) will preside in the place of the Chair as set out in Rule of Procedure G.1 until a new Chair is elected. Given that no intersessional meetings of the Commission are currently planned and recognising the procedural difficulties of postal votes, a new Chair will be elected at IWC/63 in 2011. The timing of the election during IWC/63 will be decided upon at the regular private meeting of Commissioners that occurs the day before plenary sessions begin.

Ambassador Balmaceda's contact details are as follows:

Director of Environment, Antarctic and Maritime Affairs Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Teatinos 180, piso 13
Santiago
CHILE

Tel: +56 2 827 4373

Fax: +56 2 380 1759

E- mail: jlbalmaceda@minrel.gov.cl

Dr. Simon Brockington
Secretary to the Commission

Asunción, July 28, 2010

Dear Commissioners:

Please accept this as formal notice of my resignation from the position of Chairman of the International Whaling Commission, effective immediately. The Government of Chile has appointed Ambassador José Luis Balmaceda, Director of Environmental, Law of the Sea and Antarctic Affairs of the Foreign Ministry as the new Commissioner of Chile, so that I can concentrate on my bilateral responsibilities as Ambassador to Paraguay.

It was an honor and a privilege to hold the post and to work closely with you during a crucial period in the life of the Commission, where efforts are being made to renew the IWC for the coming years. It is not an easy task nor the bearing apparent. I am heartened by the passion and dedication shown by all so far. With a bit of luck, and good will, I am convinced current challenges will progress from impediments to accomplishments.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. I trust that you will afford Anthony Liverpool, and ultimately the new Chair your continued support, as well as providing Commissioner Balmaceda the same assistance as I received from you.

Sincerely,

Cristian Maquieira