



International  
Whaling  
Commission

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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS  
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
IWC.CCG.969

**Call for Membership of an Intersessional Group to Develop Proposals to Allow Biennial Commission Meetings and Establish a Bureau**

At the 2011 meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee there was widespread support for moving to biennial Commission meetings (IWC/63/Rep 2). A small group was convened by the Secretary to prepare a series of actions to enable the Commission to meet every two years from 2012 onwards and its report (IWC/63/Rep 7) was delivered to the Commission by the Chair of the F&A Committee at IWC/63.

The Commission adopted IWC/63/Rep 7 and in doing so gave approval for the group on biennial meetings and a Bureau (hereafter IGBB) to work intersessionally and report to IWC/64 in 2012. Its objectives and method of working are described below, followed by a call for membership.

**Objective**

The IGBB's objective is to return a checklist and associated options for moving to biennial meetings in accordance with the nine recommendations made in IWC/63/Rep 7. These include consideration of:

- (1) changes to the Schedule (relating to renewal of aboriginal whaling catch limits);
- (2) changes to the Commission's Rules, Procedures and Financial Regulations;
- (3) the development, operation and responsibilities of a Bureau to guide the Commission's work during the extended intersessional period.

**Method of Working**

The IGBB will base its work on the recommendations in IWC/63/Rep 7 and the associated comments made during IWC/63 itself. The timetable for the Group's work is given below.

- (a) *October 2011*. The Secretary makes a call for membership of the IGBB
- (b) *January 2011*. The Secretary circulates the following documents, with a request for comments from the IGBB:
  - a draft checklist of actions required to move to two yearly meetings that includes proposed changes to the Schedule and all Commission Rules and Procedures;
  - a review of the constitution and operation of Standing Committees and Bureaux in other intergovernmental organisations;
  - based upon that review and material developed during the 'Future of the IWC' process, options for the formation of an IWC Bureau including, as appendices, draft text to constitute the Bureau under the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

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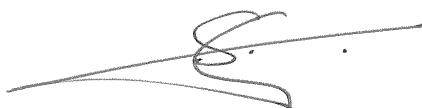
Secretary: Dr. Simon Brockington

- (c) *End of February 2012.* Deadline for comments on the checklist and proposals for an IWC Bureau.
- (d) *March & April 2012.* The Secretary collates and incorporates comments on the checklist and Bureau into the draft report of the IGBB and invites final comments by Friday 6 April 2012.
- (e) *At least 60 days in advance of IWC/64 [i.e. before 3 May 2012].* The final IGBB report (including proposed textual changes to the Schedule and Rules of Procedure) is circulated to Contracting Governments. The report will be considered by the F&A Committee at IWC/64 before being discussed at the plenary session as part of the Agenda Item on Finance and Administration.

### **Membership and Action Required**

The membership of the original small group from IWC/63 in 2011 was Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Japan and USA and these countries indicated they would like to remain as members of the group. Additionally at IWC/63 Switzerland, Iceland, New Zealand, Colombia and France also registered their interest in taking part.

This Circular Communication is a call for membership for any further Contracting Governments who would like to take part in the work of the small group on meeting frequency. Any Contracting Government wishing to join the group is kindly requested to notify the Secretariat via email at [secretariat@iwcoffice.org](mailto:secretariat@iwcoffice.org) by **Monday 31 October**, after which time a membership list for the small group will be circulated to all Contracting Governments. The membership of the group will remain open and other Contracting Governments wishing to join at a later date will be able to do so.



Simon Brockington  
Secretary to the Commission

c.c. Intergovernmental Organisation observers to the IWC