



International
Whaling
Commission

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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
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Draft Agendas for the 65th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

The 65th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission will take place from 15-18 September 2014 at the Grand Hotel Bernardin, Portoroz, Republic of Slovenia. Sub-committees will meet from 11-13 September at the same venue. All information relating to the meeting including registration, accommodation, logistics and documents will be made available in due course through the Commission's website at: <https://events.iwc.int/index.php/commission/IWC65>

As you are aware, Rule of Procedure F.2 (d)(i) requires the Chair to work in consultation with the Bureau to develop a draft agenda for the Commission's biennial meetings, and further requires the draft agenda to be circulated not less than 100 days in advance of the meeting (i.e. before Saturday 7 June 2014). In accordance with Rule F.2, this Circular provides the draft agendas for the Commission and Sub-committees for comment by Contracting Governments.

Comments received on the attached draft agenda will be used to develop an annotated provisional agenda. This will be circulated not less than 60 days in advance of the meeting (i.e. by 17 July). Comments on the draft agenda must be received at the Secretariat by close of business on Monday 14 July to allow time for incorporation to the provisional agenda and distribution to Contracting Governments.

The Bureau met on 4 June 2014 and reviewed the draft agenda. In preparing this attached draft agenda the Chair and Bureau have taken account of: (1) decisions and recommendations made at IWC64 in 2012; (2) the extensive range of intersessional work completed since IWC64; and (3) the need to prioritise the Commission's decision making role.

Accordingly, the draft agenda:

- 1) Places items which propose an amendment to the Schedule of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling at the top of the agenda.
- 2) Introduces a new item to discuss all proposed draft Resolutions. This is placed high on the agenda (after items containing Schedule amendments) in order to allow maximum time to reach consensus.
- 3) Anticipates that all Contracting Governments will have had sufficient time to receive the reports of the Scientific Committee meetings held in 2013 and 2014. Accordingly individual agenda items will move directly to Commission discussion. The Bureau unanimously advised that this measure is necessary in order to allow the Commission to complete its extensive agenda within the four days available.

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will attend throughout the plenary meeting and will be ready to respond to questions or clarifications. Contracting Governments are encouraged to submit any advance requests for clarification through the Secretariat prior to the opening of the meeting.

- 4) Collates all Finance and Administration activities under one agenda item, with the exception of the adoption of financial statements and the Commission budget which will continue to be handled separately.
- 5) Introduces a new item near the end of the Agenda to formally adopt all Committee, Sub-committee and Working Group reports.
- 6) Allows for the adoption of a summary of outcomes, decisions and required actions by plenary immediately before the close of the meeting.
- 7) Allows for the Chair to make a closing statement.

As indicated above, all Contracting Government comments on the draft Agenda must be received at the Secretariat no later than Monday 14 July in order to allow incorporation into the annotated provisional agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Simon Brockington
Executive Secretary

c.c. Intergovernmental Organisation observers to the IWC