



SB/JAC/32092
21 January 2016

Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments
and Members of the Scientific Committee
IWC.ALL.241

Draft text for IWC Contribution to United Nations Secretary General's Report

Circular Communication IWC.ALL.240 of 22 December 2015 notified Contracting Governments of an invitation for the IWC to contribute to the forthcoming Secretary General's report on oceans and law of the sea.

As explained in the attached invitation, this year the report will focus on the topic of marine debris, plastics and microplastics. The IWC added this topic to its agenda in 2011 and to the Scientific Committee's agenda in 2012 and has since convened two expert workshops.

I am pleased to attach text in draft form for submission to the UN Department of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS). It has been prepared by the Secretariat working with the convenor of the IWC's expert workshops on debris, and has been compiled from IWC expert workshop reports, including documents presented to those workshops, as well as from the record of discussions at Scientific Committee and Commission.

This draft text is currently undergoing review by the Chair of the Scientific Committee and relevant scientists within the Committee and Secretariat.

Although DOALOS have kindly offered to extend the time available for the IWC to contribute to the report scheduling remains tight. Accordingly, please can I ask for Contracting Government comments on the attached draft text to be returned in track changes to secretariat@iwc.int by close of business on Monday 1 February 2016 at the latest. In the absence of comments to the contrary, silence will be interpreted as approval for the draft text.

The final report will take account of comments provided by the Scientific Committee representatives as well as those submitted by Contracting Governments in response to this Communication.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the hard work of members of the Scientific Committee and secretariat staff for compiling this comprehensive draft in such a short period of time.

Simon Brockington
Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC