



Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments  
**IWC.CCG.1193**

**Notification of an IWC workshop on welfare**

At IWC65 in 2014 the Commission adopted the report, recommendations and action plan from its intersessional working group on welfare. The action plan includes inter alia proposals to:

- Identify and quantify the nature and extent of threats to cetacean welfare, gaps in understanding and specific data needs; and
- To utilize existing strandings networks to produce recommendations to the Commission on the welfare implications of stranding events.

I am pleased to report that the Government of South Africa has offered to host a workshop to address the action points above. The workshop will be held from 3-6 May 2016 in Kruger National Park and will be financially supported by voluntary contributions from the Government of the United Kingdom and World Animal Protection. There will be some limited funds made available to support the attendance of experts.

Planning for the workshop is being progressed through the intersessional working group on welfare. Membership of this group remains open and any Contracting Government wishing to join is invited to contact the Secretariat.

The workshop will comprise two back to back sessions dealing with (1) current knowledge regarding non-hunting threats to cetacean welfare and priority issues for management advice and (2) development of a practical framework for the handling of cetacean stranding events. Draft terms of reference are attached to this circular. Further details on the workshop will be made available here: <https://iwc.int/iwc-workshop-on-welfare-may-2016>

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C.C. Accredited observers to the IWC

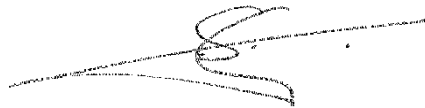
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*Chair:* Mr Bruno Mainini (Switzerland)  
*Vice-Chair:* Mr Joji Morishita (Japan)  
*Executive Secretary:* Dr Simon Brockington

IWC Contracting Governments and observer organisations are invited at the earliest opportunity to:

- Express interest in attending the workshop and identify any financial assistance that may be necessary
- Comment upon the draft Terms of Reference;
- Express interest in joining the workshop steering group;

All responses should be directed to [secretariat@iwc.int](mailto:secretariat@iwc.int)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Brockington', written over a horizontal line.

Simon Brockington  
Executive Secretary