



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and  
Members of the Scientific Committee

**IWC.ALL.248**

**Opportunity to Host IWC Meetings**

**IWC67 Biennial Commission Meeting in 2018  
IWC Scientific Committee Meetings in 2017 and 2018**

This Circular offers IWC member governments the opportunity to host the IWC67 Commission meeting in 2018. It also offers the opportunity to host the associated Scientific Committee meetings in 2017 and 2018.

The experience of hosting the 2014 Commission meeting led the Government of Slovenia to host again this year. With sincere thanks to Slovenia and in this very positive context, the Secretariat is now seeking expressions of interest for hosting the 2018 Commission meeting.

The role of the host government is to provide an appropriate venue and backdrop for the biennial meeting. The IWC Secretariat holds a meeting budget which aims to cover the majority of costs, and most of the arrangements (including administration, logistics, IT and communications) are made by the IWC Secretariat, whose Conference Manager will lead in both the planning and on-site management of the meeting.

More than 500 delegates from 64 countries visited Slovenia for the 2014 Commission meeting. In addition, over fifty journalists, photographers and camera crews attended the meeting which attracted media attention around the world. Similar numbers are anticipated in 2018, and potential venues will need hotel rooms and facilities to accommodate these numbers.

A list of recent venues is attached to this Communication. It shows a wide variety of countries have hosted previous IWC meetings, and that venues have ranged throughout Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe and North, Central and South America.

The duration of the Commission meeting in 2018 will be approximately two weeks. This includes sub-committee and working group meetings and a plenary session of around four days. There is some flexibility over dates although the meeting is scheduled to be held in September/October of 2018.

C.C. Accredited observers to the IWC

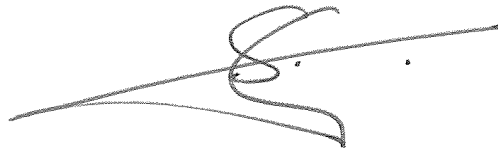
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*Chair:* Mr Bruno Mainini (Switzerland)  
*Vice-Chair:* Dr Joji Morishita (Japan)  
*Executive Secretary:* Dr Simon Brockington

The Scientific Committee meetings in 2017 and 2018 will also last approximately two weeks each. These meetings are attended by between 150 and 200 delegates and are scheduled from mid-May to mid-June each year. Again, there is some flexibility in dates in order to take account of host country preferences and timing of other scientific meetings.

If you would like to know more about what hosting would involve or would like to explore this opportunity informally, please contact Simon Brockington, Executive Secretary or Mark Tandy, Conference Manager at [secretariat@iwc.int](mailto:secretariat@iwc.int). Andrej Bibic, the IWC Commissioner for the Government of Slovenia, has also kindly agreed to offer a host government perspective and can be contacted via the Secretariat. All communication will be treated in confidence.

Formal offers to host IWC67 should be received at the IWC Secretariat ahead of this year's Commission Meeting which opens on Monday 24 October 2016.

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

Simon Brockington  
Executive Secretary