



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments  
And Members of the Scientific Committee  
**IWC.ALL.264**

**Opportunity to Host Future IWC Meetings**

**IWC67 Biennial Commission Meeting in 2018**  
**IWC Scientific Committee Meeting in 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 meeting in 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 this year and 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 similar to that in 2016, i.e. approximately two weeks. This includes sub-committee and working group meetings and a plenary session of around four or five days. There is some flexibility over dates although the meeting is scheduled to be held in September/October of 2018.

The Scientific Committee meeting in 2018 will also last approximately two weeks. Attendance is expected at between 150 and 200 delegates and the meeting should take place at a convenient time between mid-May and mid-June of 2018.

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.

Any Contracting Government interested in hosting IWC67, or the 2018 Scientific Committee is encouraged to contact the Secretariat in advance of the IWC66 Commission meeting in October 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small dot.

Simon Brockington  
Executive Secretary

*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*