



Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments  
And Members of the Scientific Committee  
**IWC.ALL.266**

**Conservation Committee's review of the proposed South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary (SAWS)**

The Chair of the Conservation Committee has asked that the following request be circulated to Contracting Governments. The purpose is to obtain input to the Conservation Committee's review of the proposed South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary (SAWS).

Dear Conservation Committee members,

At its 2015 meeting, the IWC Scientific Committee agreed on a dual process to complete its review of the proposed South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary (SAWS). It was agreed that the Scientific Committee would review the scientific aspects of the SAWS proposal, whilst aspects relating to policy would be deferred to the IWC Conservation Committee for the provision of advice to the Commission. In 2016 the Scientific Committee completed its review, identifying a number of questions that might usefully be considered by the Conservation Committee. The 2016 planning meeting of the Conservation Committee subsequently agreed a process for contributing to the review carried out by the Scientific Committee without duplicating effort. Full details on the process and associated background documents are included in Attachment 1 to this circular.

The Chair of the Conservation Committee would now like to invite comments on, and contributions to, the first draft of the Conservation Committees review (Attachment 2 to this circular) which is intended to address:

- 1. Whether the SAWs is consistent with other measures to protect whales from anthropogenic and other environmental factors.**
- 2. The effectiveness of the SAWs and any adjacent IWC Sanctuaries in terms of International agreements concerning biodiversity and conservation of nature.**
- 3. Whether the SAWs is consistent with the precautionary approach in accordance to Principle 15 of the 1992 Rio Declaration.**
- 4. Any further points or provide additional relevant information for inclusion in the Conservation Committees review of the SAWs proposal.**

Returns are requested to [Catherine.Bell@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Catherine.Bell@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and copied to [lrojasbracho@gmail.com](mailto:lrojasbracho@gmail.com) and [Jamie.rendell@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Jamie.rendell@defra.gsi.gov.uk) by **Thursday 13 October 2016**. A final draft will then be provided for consideration and agreement at the Conservation Committee meeting on Friday 21 October.

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

Simon Brockington  
Executive Secretary

*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*