



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

The Red House
135 Station Road
Impington, Cambridge
CB24 9NP, UK

t. +44 (0) 1223 233971
f. +44 (0) 1223 232876
e. secretariat@iwc.int
www.iwc.int

SB/JAC/32255
30 January 2017

Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments
IWC.CCG.1251

**Standing Working Group on Bycatch
Call for members**

At IWC66 in 2016 the Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendations on bycatch. It also endorsed a Conservation Committee recommendation to establish a Standing Working Group on Bycatch and to establish a Bycatch Mitigation Initiative supported by an Expert Panel and a Bycatch Coordinator.

The Initiative will consider bycatch mitigation methods as well as technology and management measures; facilitate the transfer of expertise; improve assessment of bycatch; and progress IWC priorities through engagement with other relevant fora.

The purpose of this circular is to invite Contracting Governments and accredited Observers to join the Standing Working Group on Bycatch. The first tasks of the Standing Working Group will be to appoint its Chair and agree its Terms of Reference. The Standing Working Group will then establish the Expert Panel, which will draw on a wide range of expertise including from governments, scientific experts, the fisheries community and non-governmental organisations.

Any Commissioner, Contracting Government delegate or accredited Observer wishing to join the Standing Working Group should contact the Secretariat at secretariat@iwc.int by **Monday 13 February 2017** after which time the Standing Working Group will commence its work. However, the group will remain open to new members at all times.

Simon Brockington
Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

*Chair: Dr Joji Morishita (Japan)
Vice-Chair: Mr Andrej Bibic (Slovenia)
Executive Secretary: Dr Simon Brockington*