



Circular Communication to Commissioners. Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee
IWC.ALL.287

Progress Update: Independent Review of the International Whaling Commission

At IWC66 in 2016 the Commission adopted Resolution 2016-1 by consensus. Through this Resolution the Commission agreed to a comprehensive, independent review of its institutional and governance arrangements based upon Terms of Reference which were annexed to the Resolution.

A Steering Group comprised of Contracting Governments who responded to the call for membership in Circular Communication IWC.CCG.1244 is overseeing the review. Membership of the Steering Group remains open and any Contracting Government wishing to join should contact secretariat@iwc.int. The Group have appointed me (Andrej Bibic, Slovenia) as their Chair.

The review itself will be conducted by a panel of three independent reviewers appointed by the Steering Group following a limited tender round.

The limited tender round took place in February 2017. A total of 18 Contractors were approached and nine bids were received. Following a thorough evaluation of bids the Steering Group has agreed, by consensus, to appoint the following Contractors:

- Professor Fabio Hazin of the Universidade Federal Rural De Pernambuco in Brazil. Fabio is an expert in fisheries was Vice-chair and then Chair of the FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) from 2012 to 2016. He was Chair of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna from 2007-2011 and has chaired recent performance reviews of CECAF, SWIOFC, NAFO and WCPFC.
- Christian Prip of the Fridtjof Nansens Institutt in Norway. Christian is a senior researcher on biodiversity and natural resources related policy and law and on implementation of related international commitments. Previously Christian was Denmark's Chief Negotiator to the Convention on Biological Diversity and was Chairman of the CBD's subsidiary body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) from 2005 to 2007.
- David Sheppard of TierraMar Consulting Pty Ltd in Australia. David has extensive experience of institutional and governance issues at the international level following his Term of Office as Chief Executive Officer of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme from 2009 to 2015. Prior to this David was Head of the IUCN's Global Protected Areas Programme for 16 years.

The panel will commence its work in April 2017. All members of the review panel have expressed their desire to work collaboratively and in consultation with the Commission and its full range of stakeholders. Consequently, they will be seeking to approach a broad range of Commissioners, Contracting Government representatives and accredited observers. Any Contracting Government or observer wishing to speak to the review team should contact secretariat@iwc.int.

I am delighted that the Steering Group have been able to appoint such a highly experienced and diverse panel and wish them every success in their work ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrej Bibič', written in a cursive style.

Andrej Bibič
IWC Vice-Chair and
Chair of the Steering Group established under Resolution 2016-1.

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC