



Circular Communication to Commissioners. Contracting Governments and  
Members of the Scientific Committee  
**IWC.ALL.289**

**IWC Executive Secretary**

On 31 March 2017, I was informed by Dr. Simon Brockington, our Executive Secretary, of his intention to resign his role at IWC because of an offer for a position with the United Kingdom's Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). While this is a surprise for us and we will definitely miss him at IWC, I accepted his resignation and congratulated his move as the offer from Defra is an excellent career opportunity for Simon. He has been with us since 4 June 2010 and made numerous contributions to the IWC's functions. His resignation will come to effect on 30 June 2017.

As IWC has several important issues at hand, we need to make the transition as smoothly as possible.

A recruitment process of a new Executive Secretary needs to be launched promptly and IWC has some experiences and established practices for the recruitment. Previously when we recruited Simon, the IWC's Advisory Committee played a role of a steering group. This time I would like to ask the Bureau to oversee the recruitment process, while recognizing that the Bureau is not a decision-making body. If I receive no opposition to this arrangement by **14 April 2017** I will consult with the Bureau and the Secretariat to develop a recruitment process based on the past practices. The final confirmation of recruitment of a new Executive Secretary will be decided by the Commission, probably by a postal vote.

We also need some arrangements to handle the transition process and to run this organization until a new Executive Secretary is ready to accept the task. I will suggest ideas, in consultation with the Bureau, to the Commission as early as possible.

I welcome any suggestions, comments and offers for help from the IWC Members.

Joji Morishita  
Chair, International Whaling Commission

*c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC*

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