



Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments
IWC.CCG.1291

Notice of Meeting of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Working Group

This circular communication is to notify Commissioners, Contracting Governments and Observers that a meeting of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Working Group (ASWWG) will be convened in Barrow, Alaska, 10-13 April 2018.

At IWC63, the Commission agreed the membership of the ASWWG as follows: Argentina, Austria, Denmark/Greenland, Japan, Russian Federation, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Switzerland, United States, two scientific advisors (currently from Norway and Brazil), the Secretariat Head of Science and the Executive Secretary. Some non-ASWWG member governments and non-governmental organizations have informally expressed interest in attending this ASWWG meeting as observers, and they will be accommodated as far as the budget and venue allow (a maximum of 50 participants can be accommodated at the venue).

The purpose of the meeting is to allow the ASWWG to complete its deliberations on the seven long-term ASW issues (shown in the attached draft agenda) assigned by the Commission in the ASWWG's original terms of reference. Moreover, at IWC 66, the Commission asked the ASWWG to give further consideration to the 2015 Maniitsoq Expert Workshop Report, particularly with regard to the pilot implementation of the proposed ASW process for reviewing/renewing ASW catch/strike limits at IWC67.

A website for this meeting is at <https://iwc.int/aswwg-april-2018>. This will host the most recent version of the draft agenda, the draft annotated agenda, meeting documents, copies of other reading materials, a map of Barrow, meeting venue, hotel details and rates, and other relevant information as it becomes available.

I would like to thank the Government of the USA for its generous contribution to the ASW Voluntary Fund to support the convening of this meeting.

Any non-ASWWG member government or non-governmental organization having an interest in attending this ASWWG meeting as an observer should contact the ASWWG Chair, Dr. Michael Tillman, at mf tillman@mac.com by Friday 2 February 2018.

Dr Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC