



**Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee**
IWC.ALL.346

Submission of Scientific Progress Reports

Scientific Progress Reports have their origin in Article VIII, Paragraph 3 of the Convention and are formalised in the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee (Rule E.1).

The topics covered in the progress reports include the provision of information on:

- Sightings
- Natural Marking
- Telemetry & Artificial Marking
- Tissue & Biological Samples
- Direct Catches of Large Whales
- Vessel Strikes of Large Whales
- Fishery Bycatch of Large Whales
- Direct Catches of Small Cetaceans
- Vessel Strikes of Small Cetaceans
- Fishery Bycatch of Small Cetaceans
- Strandings

The Scientific Committee has frequently stressed that National Progress Reports are a valuable tool for its work of on a number of topics. They provide an opportunity for countries to share an overview of their national cetacean research and data to the IWC community. This may lead to collaborations that are greater than the individual datasets. It should be stressed that the reports are primarily aimed at providing an overview not detailed data. For example, with respect to bycatches they are not intended to contain all of the individual data (e.g. on every bycaught animal) but rather present a summary of the total bycatch available by species and area with contact details stating where the detailed information can be obtained. This is true for the other topics covered within progress. They are not a replacement for in-depth studies but play a valuable role in enabling such studies to occur.

Prompt submission of the reports enables the Secretariat to provide a valuable compilation of the available information to the full Committee. In addition, the Committee has also recognised that the reporting process can assist nations themselves in determining their cetacean research strategy and needs.

In order to assist in this process, the Committee regularly reviews the structure of progress reports and has developed an online submission facility. Accordingly, with the endorsement of the Commission, the Scientific Committee **recommends** that **all** member countries provide National Progress Reports to the Scientific Committee using the online facility (<https://portal.iwc.int>).

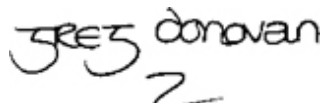
The individual log-in details for submission of data set up last year are still current and can be used again this year. You may need to reset your password. If you or your representative have not previously accessed the portal you will need to first register online and then contact it.support@iwc.int

If your country has not submitted a recent Progress Report, please send the following information to it.support@iwc.int

- Country represented
- Full name
- Email address
- Organisation or Department

On receipt of this information, detailed instructions on how to use the online portal will be forwarded to new users.

All data received by the **3 May 2019** will be available for statistical query at the meetings of the Scientific Committee at SC/68a in Nairobi, Kenya.


Greg Donovan
Head of Science

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC