



Circular Communication to Commissioners. Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee
IWC.ALL.349

Working Group on Operational Effectiveness Workshop Announcement

At IWC67, the Commission directed the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (WGOE) to develop a plan to implement reforms that will improve the institutional and governance arrangements of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. This plan will be presented at the 68th meeting of the Commission (IWC68). As a first step, the WGOE is building upon the consultation previously undertaken by the Independent Review panel, including seeking the views of subsidiary bodies, contracting governments and accredited observers through this circular.

Workshop to Develop an Implementation Plan

The WGOE will host a two-day workshop in London at the Zoological Society of London on **July 17-18**. At this workshop, the WGOE will evaluate the recommendations provided by the review panel and subsequent input received from subsidiary bodies, contracting governments and accredited observers with the goal of validating the priority given to them by the review panel and developing a draft implementation plan to support their delivery. Following this, subsidiary bodies, contracting governments and accredited observers will be given the opportunity to comment and contribute to these documents before final submission to the Commission at IWC68. The final implementation plan will be circulated 60 days before IWC68.

Request for Comment

To support the workshop, subsidiary bodies, contracting governments and accredited observers are invited to provide views on the recommendations presented in the Governance Review Report and additional reforms not included in the Governance Review Report

Views are also sought on how the WGOE should undertake to prioritize its recommendations on reforms, in particular whether different or additional criteria from those used by the Review Panel might be more appropriate. The Review Panel used seven criteria in the Governance Review Report:

- The need to take urgent/immediate action, such as, for example, in relation to the need to action due to the immediacy of the 2018 Commission Meeting
- The level of potential impact of the recommendation on effectiveness and efficiency of the IWC
- The level of potential impact of the recommendation on the reputation of the IWC
- The level of potential impact of the recommendation on the delivery of the IWC work plan

Chair: Andrej Bibic (Slovenia)

Vice-Chair: Amadou Televiel Diallo (Rep. of Guinea)

Executive Secretary: Rebecca Lent

- The level of impact on the IWC work plan and/or reputation if a recommendation is not implemented
- The level of potential for immediate outcomes or 'quick wins'
- A broad assessment of benefits relative to costs for the recommendation.

All input is requested to be provided to the WGOE by **31 May 2019**.

There is no expectation that comments will be provided on all themes or recommendations. Subsidiary bodies, contracting governments and accredited observers are invited to provide comment on reforms or recommendations relevant to them. The WG is in receipt of the feedback from the Scientific Committee (IWC/67/Rep01(2018), Annex X) and the general views of the Conservation Committee (IWC/67/CC/05). These will be taken into account during the workshop.

Workshop Details

The Meeting of the WGOE will be held at the Zoological Society of London – Mappin Pavilion, July 17-18.

Please see IWC.ALL.348 for further logistical details.

As a reminder, limited funding is available from the Voluntary Assistance fund for those who are eligible and that are members of the WG to participate in this meeting. Contracting Governments are encouraged to make additional voluntary contributions to this fund if they are able. Please let the Secretariat and Co-Chairs know if you wish to apply for this funding before **April 30**. Applicants will be notified on **17 May** as to whether their application has been successful.

The WGOE remains open for member governments to participate. Please let the Secretariat and Co-Chairs know no later than **April 30** if you would like to join the WG or participate in this workshop.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions,

Lisa Phelps, USA
(WGOE Co-Chair)

Gemma Harper, UK
(WGOE Co-Chair)

Enc. Governance Review Report

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC