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Circular Communication to Commissioners, Contracting Governments and
Members of the Scientific Committee
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**World Marine Mammal Science Conference- Harmonising Global Strandings Response
(7 December 2019)**

This Circular provides information on a workshop entitled *Harmonising Global Strandings Response*, to be held on 7 December 2019 at the World Marine Mammal Science Conference (WMMC), Barcelona. This is being organised by the IWC Strandings Initiative in collaboration with the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, International Fund for Animal Welfare, the University of Padua, University of California, Davis and Sea Alarm.

The workshop aims to synergise existing initiatives in marine mammal emergency response and to identify what is required to coordinate, support, enhance and globalise the response to marine mammal strandings. It will bring together government and non-government marine mammal and environmental protection agencies around the world, marine mammal managers and policy makers, first responders and researchers working on strandings. Countries with established networks as well as countries with minimal or no current capacity for stranding response but who share interest in the development of such capacity are welcome to join the workshop. The anticipated output of the workshop is a white paper based on the workshop proceedings that will be circulated to specific international organisations involved in stranding and oil spill responses globally.

We hope that many of the IWC community will be attending the WMMC and will consider participation in this workshop. Participants are invited to view further information and register on the WMMC website [here](#).

The IWC Secretariat and partners will be seeking funding to cover the costs of developing country participation at the WMMC and this workshop. Developing country participants interested in attending in support of the development or enhancement of strandings capacity in their countries are invited to contact secretariat@iwc.int by **30 August 2019** to be considered for financial assistance. The Secretariat welcomes voluntary contributions in support of developing country participation.

Dr Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary

c.c. Accredited observers to the IWC

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