

NJG/JAC/29135

11 January 2002

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
AND INVITED PARTICIPANTS
IWC.SC.74

Scientific Committee Meeting Draft Agenda for IWC/54 and Related Issues

Judy Zeh, Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC), has asked that the following information on:

- (1) the draft agenda;
- (2) Invited Participants; and
- (3) the development of improved procedures for reviewing new sanctuary proposals and existing sanctuaries

be circulated to the members of the SC. Please pay particular attention the various deadlines given for responses on the various items.

Draft Annotated Agenda

The draft annotated SC agenda for the 27 April – 9 May 2002 SC meeting in Shimonoseki, Japan (SC54), is attached. Any comments on this draft agenda or proposals for additions should reach the Chair by **18 March 2002** if they are to be considered for incorporation into the draft agenda presented to the opening plenary. Judy's contact details are as follows:

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Invited Participants

Potential Invited Participants (IPs) and local scientists who wish to attend SC54 and have not yet received an invitation need to notify the Chair as soon as possible of their interest. According to SC Rule of Procedure 6(a), potential IPs should have expressed their interest by 27 December, but the Chair will consider further requests received by **21 January 2002**, as communications were delayed by the holidays. Requests for IP status should include information on the agenda items to which the potential IP would like to contribute and, if the requestor has not attended recent SC meetings, a brief CV giving his/her scientific qualifications. Potential local scientists should also send such a CV.

Sanctuary reviews

The e-mail correspondence group chaired by Zerbini has made progress on developing an improved procedure for the SC to review new sanctuary proposals and existing sanctuaries, in particular on the process for the Indian Ocean Sanctuary review that will take place during SC54. Members of the group will review manuscripts dealing with the Indian Ocean Sanctuary before SC54. They have agreed that they need two months to carry out that review, so authors need to submit SC documents regarding the Indian Ocean Sanctuary to the Secretariat by **28 February 2002**. These documents should focus on how well sanctuary objectives have been fulfilled in scientific terms. The SC will not discuss social, economic, or cultural aspects of the Indian Ocean Sanctuary. Although documents may deal with concepts and definitions that relate to sanctuaries in general, the focus should be on the Indian Ocean Sanctuary. In particular, detailed information regarding the Southern Ocean Sanctuary will not be reviewed during SC54. Authors should also bear in mind the instructions from the Commission regarding reviews of sanctuaries that were circulated as part of IWC.SC.73. Zerbini's group will circulate further information as soon as possible.

Further details on the submission of documents, including Scientific Progress Reports, for consideration by the SC in Shimonoseki will follow shortly.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission