

Annual Report of the International Whaling Commission 2003
55th Annual Meeting, 2003

Resolution 2003-4
Resolution on Use of Simultaneous Interpretation at Annual Meetings
of the International Whaling Commission

RECOGNISING that the composition of the IWC is becoming more diverse in character as more nations for whom English is not their primary language adhere to the Convention, and that this has led to a multiplicity of languages placing on the organisation a greater need to accommodate the requirements of all of its members, including nations for whom English is a second language;

AWARE that the Commissioners, at IWC54 in Shimonoseki, recognised that English remains the official language of the Commission, and that the use of simultaneous interpretation should be explored to improve communication at annual meetings;

NOTING that the current system used by several Commissioners is currently one of consecutive interpretation;

CONSIDERING that document IWC/55/F&A 2, provided by the Secretariat, discusses implications for the provision of technical facilities only, leaving the cost of the more expensive task of engaging and paying for interpreters to be the responsibility of the delegations requiring them;

AWARE that the cost of providing technical facilities required would be significant;

NOTING that during F&A Committee meetings at IWC55, various contracting parties expressed, with emphasis, the need for simultaneous interpretation, including the associated technical facilities and interpreter services;

CONSCIOUS of subsequent bilateral consultations between individual Contracting Governments underscoring their desire for document translation;

MINDFUL that the complete participation of members for whom English is a second language is possible only through full understanding of the many issues communicated at annual meetings, such understanding being possible only through a mechanism of interpretation; and

RECALLING that some member countries proposed that a Working Group be established to further explore the administrative, budgetary and operational implications for the provision of technical components for simultaneous interpretation.

THE COMMISSION THEREFORE NOW DECIDES

To establish a Working Group aiming at exploring the various implications for the provision of technical components for simultaneous interpretation;

That the Working Group shall consider and make recommendations on how provision of technical components for simultaneous interpretation may be provided at the IWC to accommodate the needs of contracting parties for whom English is a second language;

That this Working Group will be guided by the following Terms of Reference:

- a) To review and consider the costs as set out in document IWC/55/F&A 2 and to identify ways in which these costs could be apportioned or reduced;
- b) To recommend options and scope for the provision of technical components for simultaneous interpretation;
- c) To determine the operations and costs of other international organizations providing such components; and
- d) To consult with member states on these issues.

That the Working Group, while open to any IWC contracting party, shall ideally remain small, conduct its work by email correspondence in order to limit expenditures, and submit its recommendations to the F&A Committee prior to the 56th Annual Meeting.