

SC66a Scientific Committee Meeting in 2015: Accommodation, Visa Arrangements and Timetable

Travel to the United States

Foreign Travelers coming into the United States require visas unless they qualify for entry under the Visa Waiver Program. Information regarding the requirements and process for securing a visa for entry into the United States may be found at <http://usvisas.state.gov/> or <http://travel.state.gov/>. Delegates are encouraged to begin the process early as wait times for an interview (if necessary) at U.S. embassies may be lengthy. If you require further assistance please contact Julie.creek@iwc.int

Venue and dates

The 66a session of the International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee (SC66a) will take place in San Diego, California, United States, from 22 May to 3 June 2015 at the San Diego Marriott Marquis and Marina: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/event-planning/travel/sandt-marriott-marquis-san-diego-marina/>.

The San Diego Marriott Marquis and Marina is 5 kilometers (3.3 miles) from the San Diego International Airport, a short 10-15 minute drive by taxi. The San Diego Marriott Marquis and Marina is a waterfront hotel and convention center. The venue, which was renovated recently, is centrally located and within easy walking distance of many restaurants, attractions, and other hotels.

Accommodation in San Diego, California

The Government of the United States has negotiated a special rate at the San Diego Marriott Marquis and Marina for delegates participating in the SC66a. The special rate is \$142.00 + taxes. This rate does not include the cost of breakfast or internet in the room. Internet access is complementary in all common spaces and meeting rooms.

To obtain the special rate, participants must make their room reservations by April 28, 2015. To make your hotel room reservation, please visit the dedicated booking website for SC66a participants: https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=12114214.

Hotel reservations may also be made via phone by using the following dedicated group reservations phone number: 1-877-622-3056. If you make your reservations via the phone, please use this number provided and indicate you are a participant of SC66a in order to access the special room rate.

General Information on San Diego, California

San Diego is on the United States' West Coast and sits on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Close to San Diego you will find the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service's Southwest Fisheries Science Center, the prestigious Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the world renowned San Diego Zoo, excellent whale watching opportunities, and many other interesting activities. Please visit the San Diego Tourism Authority's website for additional information on the climate, environment, and activities available in the San Diego area: <http://www.sandiego.org/>.

Welcoming Reception

A welcome reception for SC66a participants will be held at the San Diego Marriott Marquis and Marina the evening of 22 May.

SC66(a) Timetable

			Morning	Afternoon
Wednesday	20	May	Joint meeting of the Commission's Standing Working Group on whalewatching and the Scientific Committee's Sub-committee on whalewatching.	
Thursday	21	May	Available for pre-meetings	
Friday	22	May	First day of plenary Opening remarks; Adoption of Agenda	Reserved for reading
Saturday	23	May	Second day of plenary Establishment of Sub-committees and working groups	Reserved for reading
Sunday	24	May	Sub-committee meetings (7 days)	
Monday	25	May		
Tuesday	26	May		
Wednesday	27	May		
Thursday	28	May		
Friday	29	May		
Saturday	30	May		
Sunday	31	May	Rest day and report preparation	
Monday	1	June	Plenary session (3 days) to adopt reports and conclude agenda items. The meeting will close on the afternoon of 3 June	
Tuesday	2	June		
Wednesday	3	June		
Thursday	4	June	Convenor's meeting	