

**SOLICITATION LETTER TO POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE STATE OF THE
CETACEAN ENVIRONMENT REPORT (SOCER)**

This letter is a call for submissions to enable us to produce a draft State of the Cetacean Environment Report (SOCER) for consideration by the IWC's Scientific Committee. The objective is to provide Commissioners (in response to Resolution 2000-7) and other interested parties with a non-technical periodic summary of events, developments and conditions in the marine environment that are relevant to cetaceans. Such developments might range from unusual mortalities to new legislation protecting marine habitats.

The report is compiled on an annual basis, with pre-selected regions to be treated each year. These regions include: Mediterranean and Black Seas; North and South Atlantic; North and South Pacific; Arctic and Southern Ocean; and Indian Ocean. Each report also contains a brief Global section and a glossary of technical terms.

This year will be devoted to the Indian Ocean.

We are asking for submissions of information that in your opinion merit inclusion in this report. This should primarily include information from 2015, 2016 and the months of 2017 before the submission deadline, although earlier data may be submitted if relevant over the long term or if representing a milestone but not included in the last treatment of the region. Please submit the information as follows:

Send an email to one of the SOCER editors (see below) and include the relevant scientific paper(s) as an attachment (e.g. pdf). With few exceptions, only information stemming from published scientific papers and reports or other authoritative sources can be accepted. If you have other forms of information please provide any supporting documentation to assist in the editorial decision-making process.

The deadline for submissions for the 2017 SOCER is: March 31, 2017.

The draft version will be written by the principal SOCER editors and circulated as a Scientific Committee document at the Scientific Committee meeting for comments and suggestions.

Thanks for your help in keeping us updated about cetaceans and their changing environment.

Michael Stachowitsch
Dept. of Limnology and Bio-Oceanography
University of Vienna
Althanstrasse 14, A-1090
Vienna, Austria
Email: stachom5@univie.ac.at

Naomi Rose
Animal Welfare Institute
900 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20003 USA
Email: naomi@awionline.org

Chris Parsons
Department of Environmental Science and Policy
George Mason University
Fairfax, VA 22030 USA
Email: ecm-parsons@earthlink.net