

Dear IWC Contracting Parties and Commissioners

This note introduces the IWC Review Team established under Resolution 2016-1, which agreed to a comprehensive, independent review of institutional and governance arrangements for the IWC.

The review team, comprising Fabio Hazin, Christian Prip and David Sheppard, met in Cambridge from 25 to 27 April at the kind invitation of Simon Brockington and the IWC Secretariat Team.

Our first meeting agreed our approach to the review will be open, transparent and consultative and that it will have a clear focus on institutional and governance arrangements for IWC and how they can be improved. Our aim is to work closely and effectively with the IWC Steering Group overseeing the review, which is chaired by Andrej Bibic.

The review team will shortly start consulting widely, including through phone and skype interviews. As a priority we aim to consult with all members of the Bureau and a representative number of the members of the IWC Review Steering Group, as well as of the scientific committee and observers. The Review Team will also prepare and distribute a questionnaire which will be distributed to all Contracting Governments, members of the scientific committee and observers.

We welcome comments and input to the Review and it would be appreciated if any input could be sent to David Sheppard david.sheppard56@gmail.com who will share it with the review team.

The review team will be in Bled, Slovenia to attend the IWC Scientific Committee Meeting and look forward to meeting people there.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Prip, Fabio Hazin and David Sheppard
IWC Review Team