



MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
Dirección de Medio Ambiente y Asuntos Oceánicos

30th November 2017.

Ms Kate Wilson
Interim Executive Secretary
International Whaling Commission
The Red House, 135 Station Road
Impington, Cambridge, CB24 9NP, UK
kate.wilson@iwc.int

Dear Ms Wilson,

I would greatly appreciate if you could kindly circulate to all members of the IWC, an invitation to all Contracting Governments and Accredited Observers to contribute to the Small Working Group on Cetaceans and Ecosystem Functioning, of the Conservation Committee.

As you know, in 2016 the Commission adopted a resolution on cetaceans and their contribution to ecosystem functioning (Resolution 2016-3). The resolution "*...resolves to review the ecological, management, environmental, social and economic(al) aspects related to the contributions of cetaceans to ecosystem functioning to people and natural systems...*" and "*...directs the Conservation Committee to undertake the review...*" among other matters. During the 2017 Conservation Committee Planning Meeting, a small working group was established to make recommendations for the next biennial IWC meeting on how the Conservation Committee could address this resolution.

The small working group is open to new members that would like to make a contribution on this topic. Contracting Governments and Accredited Observers wishing to collaborate should contact me (jfernandez@minrel.gob.cl).

Finally, I would like to inform you that a workshop on cetaceans and ecosystem functioning was conducted in July 2017 at the Society for Conservation Biology Conference in Colombia, with the support of the Governments of Belgium and Chile. A report thereof is attached, in case you consider it advisable to distribute it together with the circular communication.

Sincerely yours,




José Fernández
Commissioner of Chile to the IWC