



INTERNATIONAL
WHALING COMMISSION

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RJL/JAC/32579
05 February 2019

Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity
413, Saint Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montreal QC H2Y 1N9
CANADA

Dear Ms Paşca Palmer and CBD Colleagues:

On behalf of the Secretariat of the International Whaling Commission, I wish to respond to your request for submission of information relevant to the preparations for the 11th meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) related to indigenous and local community organizations.

The IWC's mandate includes the determination of quotas for aboriginal subsistence whaling (ASW) in St. Vincent and The Grenadines, Russia, Greenland and the United States. The IWC has recently marked two important milestones in this part of our mandate:

- 1) The Scientific Committee (SC) of IWC has completed the necessary research to ensure that ASW catch limits will not harm the targeted stocks. Long-term *Strike Limit Algorithms* that explicitly account for scientific uncertainty have been developed for all the originally intended stocks subject to ASW, and the results from applying these showed that none of the catch/strike limit requests made on behalf of indigenous peoples had conservation implications for the targeted stocks. Regular reviews (normally every 5-6 years) of new information are carried out, including information provided by indigenous peoples.
- 2) The Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling was amended at the 2018 Commission meeting (IWC67) in Florianopolis to establish catch/strike limits for ASW for the years 2019-2025. The agreed limits (originally proposed by ASW governments in light of their discussions with the relevant indigenous communities) include carry-over provisions to account for annual variation in hunting conditions. Furthermore, these catch limits will be extended every six years thereafter provided there is no change in the scientific findings relative to the lack of harm to the stock, there is no change in the catch limit request from the ASW country, and the ASW country has complied with the approved timeline and information requirements.

A copy of the Schedule Amendment is attached, and the Chair's Report of the IWC67 meeting can be found on our [website](#).


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Chair: Andrej Bibic (Slovenia)
Vice-Chair: Amadou Télivel Diallo (Republic of Guinea)
Executive Secretary: Rebecca Lent

We will follow with interest this area of work in the CBD as it develops and continue to input relevant information from the IWC, including through our participation in discussions on the post-2020 framework for biodiversity. Furthermore, the Secretariat will send a notice to our Contracting Governments and Accredited Observers to notify them of the opportunities to participate in CBD's process under Article 8(j), including webinars, submission of information, and other activities. National delegations and observers to IWC include representatives from ASW communities and we hope they will choose to engage in this CBD process.

Thank you for this opportunity to highlight our work with indigenous communities through the science and stewardship of ASW, and to share this CBD opportunity with our relevant stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Lent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Lent
Executive Secretary