

4 March 2010

## **Statement by the Vice-Chair of the International Whaling Commission, Anthony Liverpool, on the Future of the IWC**

A group of 25 member countries of the International Whaling Commission gathered in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida this week to review the Chair's report on the Future of the IWC.

This Small Working Group of the IWC was assembled to advise the Chair on ways to improve how the IWC operates and to seek ways to reconcile differing views about whale conservation and management worldwide. The meeting concluded in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida today.

Representatives from the non-governmental community were invited to observe the meeting and gave public comments, which provided valuable input to the Small Working Group.

All of the governments indicated a desire to move forward and I believe that is commendable and extremely important to the future of the IWC. I'm gratified we made it to this stage, it gives me hope.

This diplomatic process will continue up to our annual meeting in June in Agadir, Morocco.

I'd like to encourage members to continue to move forward in this fashion as there is much work to be done before IWC members can make final decisions.

My report will be available shortly.

Chairman Cristian Maquieira of Chile was unable to attend our meeting this week due to the tragic earthquake that occurred late last week. Our hearts go out to the chairman and his country during this difficult time.

All supporting documents and presentations from this meeting, and any future documents resulting from this meeting, are available at the International Whaling Commission's Web site at: <http://iwcoffice.org/meetings/swg0310.htm>