



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

AUG 5 2014

Dr. Simon Brockington
Executive Secretary
International Whaling Commission
The Red House, 135 Station Road
Impington, Cambridge
CB4 9NP, UK

Dear Dr. Brockington,

The United States has been a member of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) since its inception in 1948. The United States has participated in each meeting of the Commission and its Scientific Committee since that time, serving as Chair of each body on multiple occasions. Consequently, we have experience in the work of the IWC and its bodies.

The United States would like to again offer to host the IWC Scientific Committee. We offer to host the Scientific Committee's 2015 meeting, SC66a, in May 2015 in San Diego, California. The exact dates are yet to be determined, but will likely be the last two weeks of May 2015.

San Diego is on the United States' West Coast. It is conveniently situated, nearly equidistant geographically for our IWC colleagues in Europe, Africa and Asia, and very close geographically for our IWC colleagues in Latin America and the Caribbean. San Diego has excellent air and road connections, including a large airport within the city limits. There is second, larger airport within 100 miles in Los Angeles, California. Furthermore, there are excellent conference and tourist facilities.

The United States' West Coast, bordering the Pacific Ocean, has a long tradition of marine research institutions. Close to San Diego one will find the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service's Southwest Fisheries Science Center, as well as the prestigious Scripps Institution of Oceanography. We believe that in the two weeks of the Scientific Committee meeting, leading cetacean scientists will find the working environment in San Diego inspiring.

Thank you for your consideration of the United States' offer to host the IWC Scientific Committee's 2015 meeting. Please contact me at Ryan.Wulff@noaa.gov, or Melissa Garcia, U.S. IWC Coordinator, at Melissa.Garcia@noaa.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ryan Wulff
Acting U.S. Commissioner to the IWC