

VOLUNTARY FUND FOR ABORIGINAL SUBSISTENCE WHALING

Purpose

To establish an IWC voluntary fund to allow Contracting Governments, or organisations recognised by a Contracting Government, responsible for aboriginal subsistence whaling pursuant to paragraph 13 of the Schedule to receive financial assistance to assist in achieving compliance with IWC measures identified in Schedule amendments. These include, inter alia, the priority for hunter safety, reporting, and weapons improvement programs adopted by the IWC.

The Secretary is requested to make arrangements for the creation of such a fund whereby contributions in cash can be registered and utilised by the Commission.

Contributions

The Commission calls on Contracting Governments and non-Contracting Governments, intergovernmental organisations and other entities as appropriate, in particular those most interested in aboriginal subsistence whaling, to contribute to the IWC Voluntary Fund for Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling.

Acceptance of contributions from entities other than Governments will be subject to the Commission's procedures for voluntary contributions. Where funds are to be made available through the Voluntary Fund, the donation will be registered and administered by the Secretariat in accordance with Commission procedures.

The Secretariat will notify all members of the Commission on receipt of such voluntary contributions.

Where expenditure is incurred using these voluntary funds the Secretariat will inform the donors of their utilisation.

Distribution of funds

1. The following primary forms of disbursement will be supported in accordance with the purpose of the Voluntary Fund:

- (a) provision of support for research (including surveys) in areas, species or populations that have subsistence hunts or in work identified as of direct interest or priority in the advice provided by the Scientific Committee to the Commission regarding aboriginal subsistence whaling;*
- (b) advice or activities aimed at improving the efficiency of whale killing methods and hunter safety, including weapons improvement programs and improvements in hunting techniques aimed at reducing struck and lost rates and times to death;*
- (c) technical exchange of information among aboriginal subsistence hunters; and*
- (d) other work regarding aboriginal subsistence whaling that may be identified from time to time by the Commission as requiring, or likely to benefit from, support through the Fund.*

2. Where expenditure involves research activity, the following will apply:

- (a) the normal procedures for review of proposals and recommendations by the Scientific Committee will be followed;*
- (b) appropriate procedures for reporting of progress and outcomes will be applied and the work reviewed by the Scientific Committee or relevant sub-committee or working group; and*
- (c) the Secretariat shall solicit the involvement, as appropriate, of governments in the regions where the research activity is undertaken.*

3. Where expenditure involves support for hunter safety, weapons improvement programs, or technical exchange of information, the following will apply:

- (a) the normal procedures for review of proposals and recommendations by the relevant sub-committee or working group will be followed;*
- (b) appropriate procedures for reporting of progress and outcomes will be applied and the work reviewed by the relevant sub-committee or working group; and*
- (c) the Secretariat shall solicit the involvement, as appropriate, of Governments in the regions where the activity is undertaken or that have relevant expertise.*

