

## **Draft Proposal for Dealing with Long-term ASW Issues**

### United States of America

In its opening statement, the United States proposed that the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Subcommittee divide issues pertaining to aboriginal subsistence whaling (ASW) into two groups, those to be dealt with in the short-term and those in the long-term.

Possible long-term issues would include:

- Controlling commercialization and ensuring local consumption
- Defining key ASW terms
- Setting long-term catch limits
- Improving the welfare aspects of ASW hunts

To help address these long-term issues, the United States proposes that the ASW Subcommittee establish a small (8-10 member) Ad Hoc Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Working Group comprised of the four ASW member countries and a small number of other interested member countries and registered Observers. A Working Group is needed because of the time required to conduct an in depth examination of these issues. The terms of reference for the Ad Hoc ASW Working Group would be:

- To consider the unresolved issues identified by the ASW Subcommittee with the view of recommending steps forward for consideration by the Commission;
- To convene an organizational meeting near the end of the 2011 annual meeting;
- To work by correspondence and, as time permits, to meet during the subcommittee week preceding each succeeding annual meeting; and
- To report on its progress to the ASW Subcommittee at the IWC 64 and IWC 65 annual meetings, with the expectation that the Commission would consider taking final action at IWC 65, based upon the Ad Hoc Working Group's final report and the ASW Subcommittee's recommendations.

The United States suggests that the Secretariat participate on the Ad Hoc ASW Working Group, particularly with respect to compiling a list of previously agreed management measures and definitions. The Secretariat should also assist the Ad Hoc ASW Working Group's 1) consideration of the disposition of these existing measures and definitions in terms of direct placement in the Schedule or elsewhere (such as in an appendix of agreed ASW measures), 2) identification of missing terms and proposing definitions for them, and 3) development of options for consideration by the Commission.

The United States also proposes that the Scientific Committee assist the ASW Subcommittee and Commission by examining the risks to the conservation of ASW stocks, as well as any other scientific consequences, of adopting catch limits for an indefinite period and various other extended periods (greater than 5 years), as part of its deliberations for the 2012 annual meeting.