

**DIRECTIONS FOR FURTHER WORK OF THE SWG (Item 5)**

The Commission had before it a full report regarding the Small Working Group (SWG) on the Future of the International Whaling Commission (IWC/MO9/4) to which were attached, notably, the Chairs' Suggestions on the Future of the International Whaling Commission (Appendix 1) put forward following the meetings held at St Petersburg, Florida, and Cambridge, United Kingdom. The Commission also heard an oral presentation by the Chairman of the SWG. Some clarifications were requested and given and various delegations made comments about the progress achieved so far.

The Chairman of the IWC noted that since the start of the process regarding the future and in the course of the work of the SWG and in the Commission itself, there had been a significant improvement in the atmosphere.

Both Chairs emphasized that the Suggestions paper does not purport to reflect agreement nor should it be seen as a final proposal for action by the IWC.

Accordingly, the Commission asked the Small Working Group to resume its work building on progress achieved so far and taking into account views expressed during the intersessional meeting. The SWG is also hereby authorized to request advice on issues, as required, from the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee is requested to make provision for urgent consideration of any such request from the SWG and to report to IWC61.

The SWG should specifically strive to complete a package/packages of proposals including, as appropriate, draft Schedule changes and other decisions where required as well as guidance on category (b) issues including elaboration of how these issues will be advanced beyond IWC61.

The Commission looks forward to receiving a further report on the SWG by 18 May including the Report of the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Scientific Committee Issues (IWC/M09/5).