

**Meeting of the
Small Working Group on the Future of the IWC**

15-19 September 2008, TradeWinds Island Resort, St Pete Beach, Florida, USA

DRAFT AGENDA
and annotations

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1.1 Introductory remarks from the Chair of the Commission

1.2 Introductory remarks from the SWG Chair

The SWG Chair (Alvaro de Soto) will also make some introductory remarks on the management of the meeting.

1.3 Reporting

According to the SWG's Terms of Reference, after any meetings, the working group will develop a brief progress report to be circulated to the Commission.

Nicky Grandy and Greg Donovan (Secretariat) are proposed as rapporteurs.

1.4 List of documents

1.5 Update on plans for the 2009 Intersessional Meeting of the Commission on the Future of IWC

The Secretariat will report on possible timings and potential venues for the 2009 intersessional meeting. The SWG will return to this issue under item 5.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

At its organisational meeting in Santiago on Friday 27 June, the SWG agreed that to facilitate discussions at the September 2008 meeting, it would be useful to develop the following three documents:

- A background paper summarising the current status of discussions within IWC on each of the 33 elements/issues identified during IWC/60 as being of importance to one or more Contracting Governments in relation to the future of IWC, i.e. IWC/S08/SWG 3;
- A background paper collating input from Contracting Governments on what they understand is meant/covered by each of the 33 elements/issues, i.e. IWC/S08/SWG 4;
- A draft of the discussion document referred to in the Terms of Reference for the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Issues Related to the Scientific Committee (ICG), i.e. IWC/S08/SWG 5.

The Secretariat will provide a brief overview of these documents.

4. TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OF A PACKAGE OR PACKAGES FOR REVIEW BY THE COMMISSION

It is anticipated that the SWG will spend most of its time at the meeting on this agenda item.

To initiate consideration of this item, the Chair will outline his ideas on how the development of a package or packages might be approached.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 Further work of the SWG

The SWG should decide what further work it needs to do in preparation for the 2009 Intersessional Meeting of the Commission on the Future of the IWC.

As part of the discussions on further work, the SWG may also wish to review its working methods and revise them as appropriate.

5.2 2009 Intersessional Meeting of the Commission on the Future of the IWC

According to the SWG's Terms of Reference, it must present a report on the results of its initial deliberations to the 2009 Intersessional Meeting of the Commission on the Future of the IWC; the report will be distributed at least 5 weeks before the intersessional meeting. Based on its discussions, the intersessional meeting will direct the SWG to continue working on a possible package or packages and develop a final report to be distributed at least 5 weeks before IWC/61 (i.e. by 18 May 2009). During the SWG's organisation meeting in Santiago, there was a suggestion that the working group could hold an additional meeting immediately after the 2009 intersessional meeting (i.e. back to back).

Given its discussions in Florida, the SWG may wish to give some consideration to: (a) the most appropriate timing and duration for the 2009 intersessional Commission meeting; (b) the format of the intersessional meeting; and (c) the need for, and duration of, an SWG meeting held back-to-back with the intersessional Commission meeting. This will help the Secretariat in the planning of these events.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

8. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Concluding remarks will be made by the SWG Chair and the Chair of the Commission.