



Ref: PN 14.04

18 September 2014



## **IWC's 65<sup>th</sup> meeting closes with progress - and praise for a constructive dialogue**

The four day meeting of the IWC ended today with a broad and busy programme of work agreed for the two year inter-sessional period. The constructive dialogue, and commitment of member governments to reaching consensus wherever possible, was acknowledged by the Chair, Jeannine Compton-Antoine, Commissioner for St Lucia.

She said:

“We were all aware that this first biennial meeting faced an extremely busy and challenging agenda, whilst working to a compressed timetable. I would like to thank everyone for their

constructive approach and factual interventions. In this room we have seen genuine commitment to the forum of the IWC, and a respectful tone that is conducive to reaching agreement. I thank everyone working under the umbrella of the IWC for the time, money and expertise that they invest in the organisation.”

A Schedule Amendment was adopted regarding Greenland quotas. Resolutions were adopted on aboriginal subsistence whaling, on highly migratory cetacean species, on civil society participation and transparency at the IWC, on the Scientific Committee, and on whaling under special permit. Two of these were adopted by consensus. A new welfare workplan was also adopted by consensus.

Schedule Amendments regarding the establishment of a South Atlantic whale sanctuary, and catching minke whales by small-type coastal whaling vessels, did not achieve the necessary three quarters majority vote. A Resolution on food security did not achieve consensus. Further work will be undertaken in the inter-sessional period with a view to achieving consensus at the 2016 meeting of the IWC. Finally, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by three of the range states for the western North Pacific gray whale population

### **Notes to Editors**

- 1) The IWC Commission meeting (IWC65) was held in Portoroz, Slovenia, 15-18 September.
- 2) The meeting agenda, Schedule amendments, Resolutions and supporting documents are available on the IWC website at <http://iwc.int/iwc65docs>

- 3) The Status of the Agenda document provides voting records and final versions of all agreed Schedule Amendments and Resolutions.

<https://archive.iwc.int/pages/view.php?ref=3482>

- 4) For more information please contact Kate Wilson at the International Whaling Commission [kate.wilson@iwc.int](mailto:kate.wilson@iwc.int) +44 1223 209 302.