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5 October 2006

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
IWC.SC.119

**Workshop On Sighting Survey Collaborations For The Common Minke Whales Off The Korean Peninsula.**  
**15 - 17 November 2006, Ulsan, Korea (Rep. of)**

Zang Geun Kim, Convenor of the Organising Committee, has asked that the attached information on the above workshop be circulated to all members of the Scientific Committee. It includes information on:

- Terms of Reference and draft Agenda;
- Venue and timing;
- Participation and accommodation arrangements
- Visa requirements

Dr. Nicky Grandy  
Secretary to the Commission

**WORKSHOP ON SIGHTING SURVEY COLLABORATIONS FOR THE COMMON MINKE WHALES  
OFF THE KOREAN PENINSULA. 15 - 17 NOVEMBER 2006, ULSAN, KOREA (REP. OF)**

At the Commission meeting in Ulsan, Republic of Korea, 2005, a Resolution was passed (Resolution 2005-2; see attached) calling for a Workshop focused on collaborative, non-lethal research for the common minke whales off the Korean peninsula. In accordance with the Resolution, the Workshop will take place at the Cetacean Research Institute, the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute in Ulsan City, 15-17 November 2006. The provisional agenda for the Workshop is attached.

The Commission has classified the stock of common minke whales that predominantly reside off the Korean peninsula and migrate off Korea, Russia, China and Japan as a 'Protection Stock'. Since there has not been an in-depth assessment for it during the past twenty years, the Scientific Committee is preparing for one and has noted that the spatio-temporal coverage of the past research on this stock for a population assessment was restricted and that data and samples for stock identification were as yet insufficient. The Commission recognised that this common minke whale stock should be conserved and managed appropriately and encouraged all range states and other interested parties to participate in the Workshop. It also requested the relevant countries that have unsurveyed waters under their jurisdiction to conduct cooperative, non-lethal scientific research for the 2006 surveys and recommended that scientists from range states and other countries, in association with the IWC Scientific Committee, collaborate and harmonise efforts to develop a research programme and conduct analyses of data, and that funds to be provided.

The Workshop will consist of an initial one-day symposium on the present status of research and knowledge of the common minke whales off the Korean peninsula, followed by a sighting survey collaborative Workshop to formulate an appropriate survey plan. At the symposium, any relevant presentations will be welcomed. The following sighting survey Workshop will be based on the information and papers presented at the symposium.

Please inform Zang Geun KIM<sup>1</sup> ([zgkim@nfrdi.re.kr](mailto:zgkim@nfrdi.re.kr)) if you wish to attend and if you require accommodation at Lotte Hotel (about US\$140 per night). Anyone wishing to submit papers should also contact Helen Sharp ([helen.sharp@iwcoffice.org](mailto:helen.sharp@iwcoffice.org)) with a copy to Kim for document numbers; Kim will handle document reproduction. Information on Korean visa requirements can be found attached to this email.

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## **Draft Agenda for the sighting survey collaboration Workshop**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of Reference for the Workshop are to identify problems in order to: (1) obtain better estimates of abundance for future In-Depth Assessments; (2) improve the survey methods used in migration corridors, such as in the waters off the Korean peninsula; (3) improve  $g(0)$  estimation; and (4) improve the spatio-temporal coverage over the EEZ of range states. Therefore, the Workshop will aim to collate all of the available data and cruise tracks in order to identify gaps and thus develop appropriate research plan and recommendations.

## **1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS**

**1.1. Convenor's opening remarks**

**1.2. Election of Chair**

**1.3. Appointment of rapporteurs**

## **2. REVIEW OF KNOWN DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE INFORMATION ON COMMON MINKE WHALES FOUND IN WATERS OFF THE KOREAN PENINSULA**

**2.1. Short review of stock identity issues**

**2.2. Seasonal distribution**

*2.2.1. From catch data*

*2.2.2. From systematic sightings surveys*

*2.2.3. From opportunistic surveys*

**2.3. Abundance**

*2.3.1. Methods used*

*2.3.2. Areas covered*

## **3. IDENTIFICATION OF KNOWLEDGE GAPS**

**3.1. Seasonal distribution**

**3.2. Abundance**

## **4. DEVELOPMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS**

**4.1. Abundance estimation cruises**

*4.1.1. Vessels, participants*

*4.1.2. Methods (e.g. single platform, double platform, use of big-eyes etc) – see RMP guidelines for conducting surveys*

*4.1.3. Area, coverage, cruise track design*

*4.1.4. Additional experimental work e.g. biopsy sampling, photo-identification etc*

*4.1.5. Logistics including permission to work within national waters*

## **5. ADOPTION OF REPORT**

## **Resolution 2005-2**

### **RESOLUTION ON FACILITATING CLOSER COOPERATION AMONG THE RANGE STATES TO EXPEDITE SIGHTING SURVEYS FOR THE COMMON MINKE WHALES OFF THE KOREAN PENINSULA**

RECOGNISING THAT the common minke whale stock migrating off Korea, Russia, China and Japan should be conserved and managed appropriately, and that the Scientific Committee is now preparing the in-depth assessment for this stock;

NOTING THAT the spatio-temporal coverage of the past research on this stock for a population assessment was restricted and that data and samples for stock identification are still insufficient;

NOTING THAT the Commission has classified this stock as a 'Protected Stock' and a comprehensive assessment has not been conducted during the past twenty years;

#### **NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:**

WELCOMES a workshop for non-lethal research collaboration on this stock to be held in Ulsan early in 2006 to be hosted by the Republic of Korea and encourages all range states and other interested parties to participate in the workshop;

REQUESTS the relevant countries that have unsurveyed waters under their jurisdictions to conduct cooperative non-lethal scientific research for the 2006 surveys;

RECOMMENDS THAT scientists from range states and other countries, in association with the IWC Scientific Committee, collaborate and harmonise efforts to develop a research programme and conduct analyses of data, and that funds to be provided.

*Information on visa requirements for the Republic of Korea*

The following information was extracted from the web site of the Embassy of the Government of the Republic of Korea ([http://korea.embassyhomepage.com/korea\\_tourism\\_pusan\\_tourism\\_inchon\\_tourist\\_information.htm](http://korea.embassyhomepage.com/korea_tourism_pusan_tourism_inchon_tourist_information.htm)) on 05 October 2006. **This information is provided as a guide, and you are urged to verify your own requirements.**

*Passport/Visa*

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Passport Required</b>	<b>Visa Required</b>	<b>Return Ticket Required</b>
British	Yes	No	Yes
Australian	Yes	No	Yes
Canadian	Yes	No	Yes
USA	Yes	No	Yes
Other EU	Yes	No/1	Yes
Japanese	Yes	No	Yes

*Passports*

Passport valid for a minimum of three months required by all.

*Visas*

Required by all except the following:

(a) nationals countries referred to in the table above except 1. nationals of Latvia and Slovak Republic, who *do* need a visa;

(b) nationals of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Grenada, Guam, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong (SAR), Iceland, Israel, Jamaica, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Macau (SAR), Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Qatar, Romania, Serbia & Montenegro, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Surinam, Swaziland, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Vatican City, Venezuela and Yemen.

*Note*

(a) For a national who cannot fulfil the necessary requirements and entry conditions (such as the expiration of passport validity) due to unavoidable circumstances, or is required for further review before a visa can be issued, a conditional entry permit may be granted with a validity of up to 72 hours. In regards to this permit, the chief of a district or branch office may impose conditions such as a reference, financial guarantee, restrictions on duration of stay, a duty to obey summons or other necessary conditions, and, if deemed necessary, a monetary deposit not exceeding 10 million won (US\$10,000). (b) When a short-term visitor or unregistered national who visited Korea (DPR) re-enters the Republic of Korea, an immigration officer shall issue the same visa which was granted, minus the duration of stay in Korea (DPR). If a national's duration of stay on the visa expired whilst in Korea (DPR), or remaining period is less than 30 days, a new visa may have to be granted. (c) A national who wishes to enter the Republic of Korea via Korea (DPR) must carry a valid passport and visa. If the national has a visa waiver agreement with the Republic of Korea, they must present a passport, a written paper outlining the reason for visiting Korea (DPR) and E/D Card (Immigration Card) to the Immigration officer at an inspection counter.

*Temporary residence*

Applications for a residence certificate or for a stay of more than 90 days should be made to the Immigration Office in Seoul.

