

14<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Dear Commissioner

**Re: Progressing animal welfare and ethics in the International Whaling Commission**

We write to bring to your attention the newly released report of the 'Whale Welfare and Ethics Workshop' and, in particular, to urge you to support the recommendations of the Workshop at the 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the IWC in July.

The United Kingdom's proposal for the Workshop, at IWC62, was welcomed and encouraged by many contracting governments. The Workshop was subsequently held in March and the report, submitted by the UK, is now available at:

<http://iwcoffice.org/documents/commission/IWC63docs/63-WKM&AWI4.pdf>

The Workshop brought together over 30 international experts in the fields of animal welfare, ethics, and marine mammals. The resulting conclusions and recommendations, agreed by consensus, provide a highly credible foundation for the Commission to update and improve its approach to the management of animal welfare and ethics. Signatories to this letter consider that the Workshop's findings will be of significant value to the IWC in determining its future position and work plan on these important issues.

Importantly, the report of the Workshop presents several recommendations which, if adopted, could enable the Commission to implement a more scientific and objective approach to decision making incorporating animal welfare concerns, as is practised in many other multilateral environmental agreements. These measures, for example the introduction of an ethics review committee, would allow the Commission to more effectively address and reach agreement over divisive issues.

We encourage you to endorse the report in Jersey and to support its recommendations, in particular the formation of an ad hoc intersessional Welfare and Ethics Working Group to review the Workshop report in detail and present recommendations for action by the Commission to IWC64. In the event the Commission endorses this intersessional Working Group we also urge you to consider participating in it.

We would be pleased to hear your views on the Workshop report and recommendations prior to IWC63.

With thanks for your time and attention, we look forward to seeing you in Jersey.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Bass  
Oceans campaign leader  
World Society for the Protection of Animals  
[clairebass@wspa-international.org](mailto:clairebass@wspa-international.org)  
Direct: +44 (0) 207 239 0585

**Signed by the following organisations:**

Manel Cases	Asociación Defensa Derechos Animal (ADDA)	Spain
Susan Millward	Animal Welfare Institute	USA
Sidney Holt and James Barnes	Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition	USA
Martha Watkins Gilkes	Antigua Barbuda Independent Tourism Promotion Corporation	Antigua & Barbuda
Mónica Echegaray-Julio Reyes	Áreas Costeras y Recursos Marinos (ACOREMA)	Perú
Gabriel Despaigne	Asociación Verde de Panamá (ASVEPA)	Panamá
Deborah Cutting	BlueVoice	USA
Alan Knight	British Divers Marine Life Rescue	UK
Andy Ottaway	Campaign Whale	UK
Heather Rockwell	Cetacean Society International	USA
Elsa Cabrera	Centro de Conservacion Cetacea	Chile
Juan Carlos Cárdenas	Centro Ecoceanos	Chile
Mercedes Anzures	COMARINO	México
Nancy Azzam	Dolphin Connection	USA
Tanya Schumacher	Dyrebeskyttelsen Norge	Norway
Peter Mollerup	Dyrenes Venner	Denmark
Mona George-Dill	East Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness (ECCEA)	East Caribbean
Jennifer Lonsdale	Environmental Investigation Agency	UK
Marlon Mills	Friends of the Tobago Cays, Saint Vincent, W. I.	Saint Vincent

Cecilia Gasparrou	Fundacion Cethus	Argentina
Lilián Flórez- González	Fundación Yubarta	Colombia
Idelisa Bonnelly	FUNDEMAR / Dominican Foundation for Marine Studies	Dominican Republic
Kitty Block	Humane Society International	International
Kitty Block	Humane Society of the United States	USA
Alan Knight	International Animal Rescue	International
Vassili Papastavrou	International Fund for Animal Welfare	International
Marcia Engel	Instituto Baleia Jubarte	Brasil
Mariano Sironi and Roxana Schteinbarg	Instituto de Conservacion de Ballenas	Argentina
Deb Adams	LegaSeaS International	International
Scott J. Leonard	Nantucket Marine Mammal Conservation Program	USA
Chris Kuch	National Council of SPCAs	South Africa
Taffy Williams	New York Whale and Dolphin Action League	USA
Siri Martinsen	NOAH – for dyrsrettigheter	Norway
Laurent Bouveret Ommag	Observatory of the Marine Mammals of the Archipelago of Guadeloupe FWI	Guadeloupe
Sigrid Lüber	Oceancare	Switzerland
Marsha Green	Ocean Mammal Institute	USA
Ross Minett	OneKind	UK
Rodrigo García P.	Organización Conservación Cetáceos (OCC)	Uruguay
Carlos Yaipén-Llanos	Organización Científica para Conservación de Animales Acuáticos (ORCA)	Perú
Peggy Oki	Origami Whales Project	USA
Kimberly Muncaster	Project Jonah	New Zealand
Javier Rodriguez Fonseca	Promar Foundation	Costa Rica
Sandra Altherr	ProWildlife	Germany
Mariana Almeida	SELVA-Vida Sin Fronteras Foundation	Ecuador
Birgith Sloth	Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals	Denmark
Elena Politi	Tethys Research Institute	Italy



Jeff Pantukhoff	Whaleman Foundation	USA
Philippa Brakes	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society	International
Claire Bass	World Society for the Protection of Animals	International
Marina Fastigi	YWF-Kido Foundation	Carriacou, Grenada (WI)