

COMHAFAT IWC Preparatory Meeting (7 September 2021)

**SUMMARY**  
**Results of Working Group on**  
**Operational Effectiveness**  
**(WG-OE)**

Director for Fisheries Negotiations  
Fisheries Agency of Japan

**Hideki MORONUKI**

**IWC67 (2018) directed Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (WG-OE)**  
**to develop a plan;**  
**to implement reforms; and,**  
**to improve institutional/governance arrangements of Commission & its subsidiary bodies**  
**to be presented to IWC68.**

**(Resolution 2018-1)**

# Points to be noted in Paper #1

## Paper #1: Potential reforms to Commission structure and meeting operations

### - Establishment of Management Committee

This is basically a **good idea** which is quite similar to Japan's proposal at IWC67 in 2018 (Creation of Sustainable Whaling Committee).

### - Giving the same status as SC to CC

This is a very **bad idea**. The biggest priority has to be given to SC so that **superiority of science** can be kept.

### - Non whaling activities under Management Committee

This is also a very **bad idea**. Non whaling activities such as Whale Watching has to be solely under CC, which are by all means out-of-competence from ICRW.

# Points to be noted in the Paper #2

## Paper #3: Potential “low-hanging fruit” items, including those relating to the Rules of Procedure

- **Giving the same status as SC to CC**

**Superiority of science** has to be kept, and the biggest priority has to be given to SC.

- **Inclusion of CC Chair in Bureau**

Chair of CC must **NOT** be included in Bureau simply because CC’s activities are totally outside the objectives of ICRW.

- **Penalty provisions**

Any provision of “penalties” must **NOT** be discussed nor decided by the Management Committee since it is solely under the jurisdiction of each Member.

# Points to be noted in the Paper #4

## Paper #4: Budget Reform Strategy

- **4-year budget planning**  
This might introduce further complicated situation.
- **Expansion of Voluntary Contributions**  
Acceptance of funds from “sources” outside the Contracting Governments is proposed. This is very very **bad idea** which allows NGOs to maneuver IWC.
- Fixation of “due date” for payment of annual contribution  
Proposed fixation to “30 June” would deprive Contracting Governments of flexibility. Instead, amendment of condition on voting-right with an introduction of **“two-years Grace”** has to be introduced as other RFMOs.

# Developing States' Voting Right at IWC

Many developing state IWC Members have been **UNABLE** to participate in decision making due to lack of voting rights because of unpaid contribution/arrear.

65th IWC in 2014

22.7% of Members - no voting rights

70% of which (i.e. 15.9% of all Members) ⇒ **developing state Members**

66th IWC in 2016

17.0% of Members - no voting rights

67% of which (i.e. 11.4% of all Members) ⇒ **developing state Members**

67th IWC in 2018

15.7% of Members - no voting rights

93% of which (i.e. 14.6% of all Members) ⇒ **developing state Members**

# Need of Gracefulness - 1

Almost all RFMOs have a provision of  
**“two-years grace”**  
to pay annual contribution/arrear,  
which fairly provides Members a right to vote in  
**“Decision Making”**.

But,

**IWC does NOT.**

## Need of Gracefulness - 2

IWC performance review (2017) recommended improved participation of developing state Members:

### **Recommendation 10**

*IWC should **increase the participation of developing States in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies** and develop a capacity-building policy/capacity development plan to enhance their effective involvement, in a transparent manner. This should go beyond participation in meetings, to include also technical and scientific training in specific areas, deemed as priority by IWC. In this regard, the capacities, weaknesses, and **needs of developing states should be assessed so that they can be properly addressed.***



# Planned Schedule toward IWC 68 in 2022

<b>30 Nov 2021</b>	<b>Comments on the draft Papers</b>
<b>31 Mar 2022</b>	<b>Refined draft Papers distributed</b>
<b>May 2022</b>	<b>In-person Meeting (margin of SC)</b>
<b>Aug 2022</b>	<b>Final draft Papers distributed</b>
<b>Oct 2022</b>	<b>Discussion at IWC 68</b>