



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**U.S. FISHERIES CHIEF, WILLIAM HOGARTH, ELECTED TO CHAIR
INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION**
2007 meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska

St. Kitts and Nevis, West Indies — Member nations of the International Whaling Commission have elected NOAA Fisheries Service Director, William Hogarth, to be the next chair of the Commission. Elected by consensus of the 70 commissioners, the chairman serves for a period of three years confronting issues of commercial and subsistence whaling limits, the rebuilding of whale stocks, whale sanctuaries, and the sharing of latest scientific data and information.

Dr. Hogarth is the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries at the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. As Assistant Administrator, he is responsible for overseeing the management and conservation of marine fisheries and the protection of marine mammals, sea turtles, and coastal fisheries and their habitats within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone. In 2005, Dr. Hogarth was elected as Chair of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) — an organization responsible for the conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas.

“I am honored to be elected Chair of the IWC,” said Bill Hogarth. “I expect to bring a spirit of cooperation and openness to the work conducted by the IWC and the debate that surrounds the many challenging issues we face.”

The United States will host the 59th International Whaling Commission meeting, held for the first time in Anchorage, Alaska, May 4 through May 31, 2007. A critical focus of the meeting will be subsistence hunting quotas of the Western Arctic bowhead whale. Ten Alaska Native villages in the far north conduct subsistence bowhead whale hunts overseen by the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and NOAA Fisheries Service. Also to be discussed are aboriginal whaling quotas for the eastern population of the North Pacific gray whale.

The International Whaling Commission was set up under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling on December 2, 1946. The purpose of the Convention is to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and the orderly development of the whaling industry. The main duty of the Commission is to keep under review and revise the measures specified in the Schedule to the Convention—governing conduct of whaling throughout the world.

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NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of the nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, over 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

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