

**Annual Report of the International Whaling Commission 2000
52nd Annual Meeting, 2000**

**IWC Resolution 2000-1
Resolution on Community-Based Whaling in Japan**

RECALLING that the International Whaling Commission has recognised (IWC/45/51) the socio-economic and cultural needs of the four community-based whaling communities in Japan and the ongoing distress to these communities which has resulted from the whaling moratorium, and resolved to work expeditiously to alleviate the distress to these communities which has resulted from the cessation of minke whaling,

NOTING the widespread recognition in various UN covenants, conventions, and other documents, of the importance for communities to continue customary resource use practices on a sustainable basis,

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:

REAFFIRMS the Commission's commitment to work expeditiously to alleviate the distress caused by the cessation of minke whaling to the communities of Abashiri, Ayukawa, Wadoura and Taiji.

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IWC Resolution 2000-2
Resolution on Whaling of highly endangered Bowhead Whales in the Eastern Canadian Arctic

WHEREAS the 52nd meeting of the Scientific Committee concluded that the Davis Strait and the Hudson Bay-Foxe Basin bowhead whale stocks are two distinct and separate populations, both of which number in the low hundreds;

CONSIDERING THAT the Government of Canada withdrew from the IWC in 1982 but continues to allow the taking of bowhead whales in the Eastern Canadian Arctic;

CONCERNED THAT the Government of Canada has agreed to grant one license if requested from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to take one bowhead whale from the Hudson Bay-Foxe Basin stock in 2000-2001;

WHEREAS the IWC is concerned about whaling not conducted under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946);

NOTING THAT the Government of Canada has been notified of IWC Resolutions 1996-9, 1998-13 and 1999-7, each of which calls for refraining from issuing permits to hunt either highly endangered bowhead whale stocks in the Eastern Canadian Arctic;

FURTHER NOTING THAT Canada is signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) which under Article 65 (Marine Mammals) requires that States co-operate through the appropriate international organizations for the conservation, management and study of cetaceans;

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:

REAFFIRMS its opposition to whaling conducted on highly endangered stocks of whales;

EXPRESSES particular concern that whaling activities in the Eastern Canadian Arctic are ongoing outside the control of the IWC;

URGES the Government of Canada to refrain from issuing a license for the taking of one bowhead whale from the Hudson Bay-Foxe Basin population;

INVITES the Government of Canada to rejoin the IWC and, in the meantime, not to issue further whaling permits;

REQUESTS THAT the Secretariat transmit the text of this Resolution to the Government of Canada.

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IWC Resolution 2000-3
Resolution on the Revised Management Scheme

WHEREAS the concept of the Revised Management Scheme and its main elements were identified by the Commission in a Resolution adopted by the Commission in 1992 (*RIWC* 43:40);

WHEREAS the structure of the RMS was specified in Commission Resolution 1994-5 (*RIWC* 45:43-44);

WHEREAS the Commission identified in Resolution 1996-6 the three remaining elements of the RMS still to be completed, namely:

(i) an effective observation and inspection scheme;

(ii) arrangements to ensure that total catches over time are within the limits set under the Revised Management Scheme;

(iii) incorporation into the Schedule the specification of the Revised Management Procedure and all other elements of the Revised Management Scheme.

WHEREAS the Working Group on the RMS has prepared a draft text (*IWC/52/14* Appendix 4), which is not yet finalized, for a revision of Chapter V of the Schedule (“Supervision and Control”);

WHEREAS the Scientific Committee has provided, and the Working Group on the RMS has amended, a recommendation for arrangements on total catches over time;

WHEREAS the process of development of the RMS has already taken several years;

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:

CONSIDERS that it is important for the future of the Commission that the process of completion of the RMS proceed expeditiously;

REAFFIRMS that the Revised Management Scheme shall be structured as agreed in Resolution 1994-5, and shall include, but not be limited to, the elements identified in the 1992 and subsequent Resolutions of the Commission on the RMS;

INSTRUCTS the Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman, and taking such independent legal advice as is necessary, to prepare a draft for a Schedule amendment that would incorporate the structure and elements of the RMS, including the RMP, into the Schedule;

FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretary to circulate the draft text to Commissioners and Contracting

Governments for consideration and comment before the 30 November 2000;

AGREES to re-convene the Working Group on the RMS before the end of February 2001 for the purposes of:

making further progress on the draft text in *IWC/52/14* Appendix 4 for a revision of Chapter V of the Schedule;

(ii) developing a text, based on the draft to be prepared by the Secretary, for the incorporation of the structure and elements of the RMS, including the RMP, into the Schedule;

FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretary to circulate the report from the above meeting and the resulting suggested Schedule texts to Commissioners and Contracting Governments for consideration and comment at least 60 days before the 53rd annual meeting;

NOTES that this Resolution cannot and does not commit the Commission to amend the Schedule now or at any future time;

CONFIRMS that this Resolution does not prejudice the positions of Contracting Governments with respect to the status of paragraphs 10(d) and 10(e) of the Schedule.

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IWC Resolution 2000-4
Resolution on whaling under Special Permit in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary

NOTING that since the 51st meeting in May 1999, the Government of Japan has issued special permits, under the provisions of Article VIII of the Convention, for lethal scientific research on minke whales in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary.

NOTING also that the Scientific Committee this year considered all estimates of Southern Hemisphere minke whale population sizes which have been made available since 1990, and concluded that these estimates were “appreciably lower” than the estimate of 760,000 accepted by the Scientific Committee in 1990.

NOTING further that the Scientific Committee this year recommends that “minke whale” should be listed as two species in Section 1 of the Schedule to the Convention.

RECOGNISING that the Commission has agreed on the urgent need for the Scientific Committee to proceed with the planned review of the estimates of population sizes of minke whales, including development of agreed estimates, prior to seeking advice from the Commission on how to assess the impacts of JARPA on these stocks

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION REQUESTS that the Government of Japan refrains from issuing any Special Permits for the 2000/2001 season for the take of minke whales in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary.

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IWC Resolution 2000-5
Resolution on Whaling under Special Permit In The North Pacific Ocean

WHEREAS Paragraph 1 of Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (Convention) provides that, notwithstanding anything contained in the Convention, any Contracting Government may grant to any of its nationals a Special Permit (Special Permit) authorising that national to kill, take and treat whales for the purposes of scientific research, subject to such other conditions as the Government thinks fit;

RECALLING previous IWC Resolutions on whaling under Special Permit adopted by the Commission (1996-7, 1997-5, 1998-4, and 1999-3) and in particular Resolution 1995-9, in which the Commission recommended that scientific research involving the killing of cetaceans should only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where the questions address critically important issues which cannot be answered by the analysis of existing data and/or use of non-lethal research techniques;

RECALLING also that in 1997 the Commission affirmed that the JARPN programme did not address critically important research needs for the management of whaling in the North Pacific Ocean;

WHEREAS Paragraph 30 of the Schedule to the Convention provides that all proposed Special Permits be reviewed by the Scientific Committee, and that IWC Resolution 1999-2 specifically requested the Scientific Committee to provide advice on this to the Commission;

NOTING the Government of Japan's proposal to instigate in 2000 the JARPN II programme, under which takes of minke whales, and, for the first time, takes of sperm and Bryde's whales, would be authorized;

FURTHER NOTING the many major concerns expressed and not allayed during the 52nd meeting of the Scientific Committee, including (among others) concerns that the proposal did not address questions of high priority relevant to management, did not make full use of existing data, and revealed many methodological problems;

NOTING, in particular, that the Scientific Committee did not endorse the JARPN II proposal;

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:

AFFIRMS that gathering information on interactions between whales and prey species is not a critically important issue which justifies the killing of whales for research purposes;

PROPOSES that information on stock structure, which may be relevant to management, be obtained using non-lethal means;

STRONGLY URGES the Government of Japan to refrain from issuing special permits for whaling under JARPN II.

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IWC Resolution 2000-6
Resolution on POPS and heavy metals

RECALLING the two protocols on International Actions on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Heavy Metals under the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution which were signed in Aarhus, Denmark on 24 June 1998 by the European Union and 35 countries;

NOTING that the International Whaling Commission with its specific responsibility in management and conservation of whale stocks may have a mutual interests in supporting the process of ratification of the protocols;

NOTING that most IWC countries have signed the protocols but that only a few member states have ratified the protocols;

WHEREAS the Commission several times has expressed concerns about the negative effects of degradation of the environment;

WHEREAS organic contaminants and heavy metals are seriously polluting the environment and its living resources including whales, and may have a significant negative health effect on consumers of marine mammal products;

NOW THEREFORE the Commission:

ENCOURAGE Contracting Governments, who has signed the protocols but not yet ratified these, to do so as soon as possible;

FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Governments who has not yet signed the protocols, to consider doing so.

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IWC Resolution 2000-7
Resolution on Environmental Change and Cetaceans

NOTING that the study of the effects of environmental changes on cetaceans is an integral part of their conservation and management;

RECALLING that, at the 49th Annual Meeting, the Commission requested the Scientific Committee to develop appropriate research in the priority areas identified by the Standing Working Group on Environmental Concerns (SWGEC), namely climate/environmental change, ozone depletion and UV-B radiation, chemical pollution, impact of noise, physical and biological habitat degradation, effects of fisheries, Arctic issues, disease and mortality events;

RECALLING that, at the 51st Annual Meeting, the Commission endorsed the SOWER 2000 and POLLUTION 2000+ research programmes, and provided core funding for these projects;

NOTING that the first research collaboration of IWC and CCAMLR under the SOWER 2000 programme, which took place during the 1999/2000 Antarctic season, was highly successful;

NOTING that the Scientific Committee has endorsed the further development of an IWC workshop on physical and biological habitat degradation;

NOTING that the Scientific Committee has endorsed the development of a symposium on competition between cetaceans and fisheries;

APPRECIATING the financial and in-kind contributions from several countries to these projects;

NOTING however that the funding available to the Scientific Committee for these environmental initiatives is currently insufficient to allow them to be fully implemented or developed;

NOW THEREFORE the Commission:

REITERATES its strong support for the research programmes SOWER 2000 and POLLUTION 2000+ and other investigations on the impact of environmental change on cetaceans;

CONGRATULATES the Scientific Committee for its success in conducting the first IWC-CCAMLR research collaboration in the Southern Ocean;

ENDORSES the further development of an IWC workshop on habitat degradation and a symposium on cetaceans and fisheries interactions;

WELCOMES the production by the Scientific Committee of the first State of the Cetacean Environment Report and requests the annual submission of this report to the Commission; and

URGENTLY REQUESTS contracting governments and other interested parties to continue financial and other support for these research priorities.

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IWC Resolution 2000-8
Resolution on Western North Atlantic Right Whales

RECALLING that the Commission passed a Resolution on Small Populations of Highly Endangered Whales at its 51st meeting, noting with concern the status of all stocks of northern right whale, including those in the North Atlantic;

ALARMED that the Western North Atlantic right whale numbers only around 300 throughout the North Atlantic, and, despite having been protected from whaling since the 1930's, appears to be decreasing and is projected to become extinct if trends continue;

CONCERNED that the two major causes of human-induced mortality for this species are ship strikes and entanglement in fishing nets and gear;

WELCOMING the recommendations from IWC Northern Right Whale Workshops in 1998, 1999, and 2000, and the consequent actions taken to date by the United States and Canada of investing in relevant research and taking measures to reduce human-induced mortality;

COMMENDING the United States for submitting, and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for adopting, a Mandatory Ship Reporting System (MSR) for ships entering two areas off the eastern United States where right whales and high ship traffic both occur, to reduce the threat of ship strikes;

FURTHER COMMENDING the Canadian government for the real time radio advisories to shipping as to the location of whales in the Bay of Fundy;

NOTING the management recommendations of the 2000 Scientific Committee which stress the urgency of making every effort to eliminate anthropogenic mortality in the population, and further state that "There is no need to wait for further research before implementing any currently available management actions that can reduce anthropogenic mortalities."

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:

CALLS UPON the United States and Canada to continue to pursue actively, practicable actions to reduce as far as possible ship strikes on right whales, in particular by using the information from the Mandatory Ship Reporting System to assess further mitigation steps, including adjustment of traffic;

URGES range states to consider appropriate fishery measures to reduce right whale mortality and injury, including fixed gear modifications and restrictions on usage;

ENCOURAGES the United States and Canada, as well as other countries whose ships transit through northern right whale habitat, to continue and expand educational programs to help mariners actively avoid collisions with right whales;

ENDORSES the research and management recommendations of the Scientific Committee at IWC 52 and the recommendations endorsed by the Scientific Committee from the Workshop on Status and Trends and from the Workshop on Causes of Reproductive Failure;

REQUESTS that the Secretariat transmit the text of this Resolution to the IMO for distribution at its Maritime Safety Committee and Marine Environment Protection Committee;

FURTHER REQUESTS range states for this species to report back to IWC 53, and annually thereafter, on progress made on the management recommendations.

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IWC Resolution 2000-9
Resolution on the conservation of Freshwater Cetaceans

NOTING that freshwater dolphins and porpoises are among the world's most threatened mammal species;

NOTING further that river cetaceans in Asia are particularly threatened, and the Yangtze river dolphin (Baiji) is Critically Endangered;

NOTING that habitat degradation and alteration is the primary threat to the survival of freshwater cetaceans;

CONCERNED that many populations of freshwater cetaceans have been fragmented by water developments such as dams and barrages, and that these projects have many other adverse ecological effects;

CONCERNED that by-catches of freshwater dolphins and porpoises in gill nets and other fishing gear have caused population declines, and that fishing effort is increasing rapidly in many areas where freshwater cetaceans occur;

WELCOMING the establishment of committees in Asia which facilitate regular exchange of information and planning of conservation strategies for Asian river cetaceans;

RECOGNISING the value of protected areas in conserving populations of freshwater cetaceans, but noting that many offer little protection due to insufficient size, inadequacy of regulatory measures and failures in enforcement;

NOTING with appreciation the recommendations resulting from this year's review of freshwater cetaceans in the small cetacean sub-committee of the Scientific Committee;

NOW THEREFORE the Commission:

ENCOURAGES all governments to continue and expand efforts to monitor the status of freshwater cetaceans and implement strategies for their conservation;

ENCOURAGES thorough evaluation of the impact of development projects on freshwater cetacean populations, and the implementation of measures to ensure that ongoing and future projects do not threaten these populations;

RECOMMENDS that efforts are made to assess the relative magnitude of incidental catches of freshwater cetaceans among different areas and fishing techniques, and that appropriate mitigation strategies be developed to reduce by-catch to levels known to be sustainable;

RECOMMENDS that future protected areas be of appropriate size and location to encompass the range of seasonal movements and life history stages of the cetacean populations they are intended to protect, and that threats to freshwater cetaceans be eliminated or greatly reduced in these areas;

ENCOURAGES support for existing fora in Asia and the fostering of new opportunities for dialogue in other regions to facilitate the exchange of information on freshwater cetaceans;

CALLS UPON all contracting governments to submit information on all known direct and incidental takes of freshwater cetaceans and measures taken to conserve these cetaceans in their annual progress reports to the Scientific Committee.