

Voting Record IWC/63

The Commission **agreed by consensus** a Resolution on safety at sea. The Resolution inter alia reiterated that the Commission condemns any actions that are a risk to human life and property and that this is not the way to pursue the resolution of different view regarding whales and whaling. It also recognises the importance of the International Maritime Organisation with respect to safety at sea; and encourages all governments to fulfil their obligations under IMO and UNCLOS.

A proposal sponsored by Brazil and Argentina was made for the creation of a South Atlantic Sanctuary. This has been a particularly contentious item within the Commission for several years. To establish a Sanctuary requires an amendment to the Schedule to the Convention and requires a three-quarters majority of those voting 'yes' or 'no'. It became clear during discussions that consensus on the sanctuary was not possible. After a proposal to take this to vote and the subsequent withdrawal of a number pro-sustainable use member governments from the room, the Chair called a Private Commissioners' meeting, inter alia to try to resolve a serious procedural issue with respect to a quorum. **The agenda item has been left open until the 2012 Annual Meeting.** While recognising the diversity of views on this issue, the Commission recognises the importance of a South Atlantic Sanctuary to many member governments. The Commission has resolved to continue to discuss the item as the first substantive agenda item at IWC64. If consensus cannot be reached then a decision will be taken in accord with the Commission's Rules of procedure.

The Commission **agreed by consensus** a Resolution on improving the effectiveness of operations within the IWC that also incorporated some changes to its Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations. In addition to the rule changes, the active parts of the resolution included: investigating options for providing assistance to member governments with limited means to participate actively in the Commission's work; establishing a working group to further consider the role of observers at meetings of the Commission based on experience gained in that regard at IWC/63; agreeing to regularly review its rules in the light of international good practice and to address specific problems that may arise.