

- (c) Schedule Paragraph 8(d)—Closing date of Antarctic pelagic baleen season.
- (d) Schedule Paragraph 8(a)—(i) Blue whale unit catch limit in the Antarctic.
- (e) Schedule Paragraph 8(c)—(ii) Limit for daily notification of catch to the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics.
- (f) Provision for the restriction of the catch of sperm whales.
 - (i) Add new sub-paragraph to paragraph 6:—"It is forbidden to use a whale catcher attached to a factory ship for the purpose of killing or attempting to kill sperm whales in the waters between 40° South Latitude and 40° North Latitude."
 - (g) Provision for the restriction of the catch of whales in the North Pacific.
- 18. Election of Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.
- 19. Date and place of next meeting (Rule XVII of the Rules of Procedure refers to meetings outside London).
- 20. Arrangements for Press Release.
- 21. Any other business.

APPENDIX III

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING

1. Date and Place The Seventeenth Meeting of the International Whaling Commission was held at Burlington House, Burlington Gardens, London, W.1, from 28th June to 2nd July, 1965. The proceedings were conducted by the Chairman Mr. M. N. Sukhoruchenko (U.S.S.R.).

2. Representation Commissioners and Delegates of Contracting Governments represented Argentina, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Observers also attended from Chile, Italy, Portugal, Peru, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific, the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, the World Wildlife Fund, the Fauna Preservation Society and the International Society for the Protection of Animals.

3. Address of Welcome At the opening session an address was given by the Minister of State for Scotland, Mr. E. G. Willis. Mr. Willis said that conservation had not yet been sufficient to maintain the whale stocks at a satisfactory level and that conservation demanded immediate sacrifices if whaling were to survive and give an economic return. The agreement at the Special Meeting that the Antarctic catch limit should be reduced to 4,500 blue whale units for the next season and that reductions should be made in the following two years to a level which would allow the stocks to recover was, therefore, a very gratifying one. Mr. Willis concluded by saying that he hoped all concerned would accept the full implications of the situation and support the further reductions necessary if the stocks were to be rebuilt from their present depleted conditions. He trusted that, as a result, the foundations of a prosperous future might be laid.

4. Adoption of Agenda The Agenda's adoption was moved by the Commissioner for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This was seconded by the Commissioner for the United States of America and accepted without dissent.

5. Review of Previous Season's Catch It was pointed out by Mr. Vangstein that he had little to add to the oral report made to the Special Meeting, but he emphasized that, because reports from seven factory ships and two land stations had not been received until the 3rd June, it had not been possible to complete the usual surveys of catch and production in the Antarctic last season. To remedy such a state of affairs expeditions should send in their reports to the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics not later than the 15th of May. An important change in last season's catches referred to those of the sperm whale made by factory ships on their way to and from the Antarctic whaling grounds but actually outside the Antarctic limits. Last season this catch was 5,595 whales compared with 3,600 in 1963/64.

6. Scientific Investigations The Scientific Committee met during the week before the Commission's meeting but was unable to elect a Chairman. However, Doctor D. G. Chapman (U.S.A.) agreed to act as Rapporteur so that relevant comments and recommendations from this Committee could be put forward. A number of these are embodied in the succeeding paragraphs of this report. During the meeting of the Commission Dr. Chapman was elected Chairman of the Scientific Committee. The proceedings of the Scientific Committee are set out in Appendix IV.

7. Stock Assessments An offer from the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that, provided adequate conservation plans were in train, he would help in a co-operative programme of stock assessment in connection with Antarctic and other whales, was discussed. On a proposal of the Commissioner for Australia seconded by the Commissioners for Canada and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the Commission agreed that the Secretary should be asked to resume arrangements with F.A.O. similar to those intended prior to the Sixteenth Meeting.

8. Economic Assessment There had been a recommendation from the Scientific Committee that a group of economists expert in the types of problem involved in the whaling industry but not currently employed in the industry should be established to study whaling problems from an economic point of view. The Commissioner for Australia proposed that this idea should be borne in mind during the year so that it could be considered more closely at the Eighteenth Meeting. The Commissioner for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics supported this view with which all present agreed.

9. Protection of Blue Whales The Commission agreed without dissent that in Paragraph 4 of the Schedule it would be forbidden to kill or attempt to kill blue whales in the Pacific Ocean and its dependent waters north of the equator for five years beginning with the 1966 season. The proposal was made by the Commissioner for Canada and seconded by the Commissioner for the United States of America.

10. The taking of blue whales in the area south of 40° South Latitude is forbidden but this provision in the Schedule was objected to after the Sixteenth Meeting by all the Antarctic pelagic whaling countries. The result is that blue whales are still unprotected in Antarctic waters north of 55° South Latitude from 0° eastwards to 80° East Longitude. Acting on a resolution proposed by the Commissioner for Australia and seconded by the Commissioner for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Commission therefore agreed at this meeting to an appeal being sent to the Antarctic pelagic countries to ask them to withdraw their objection to the change in the Schedule, Paragraph 6(3) brought about by the deletion of the words "except in the waters north of 55° South Latitude from 0° eastwards to 80° East Longitude."

11. Protection of Humpback Whales There was unanimous agreement that it should be forbidden to kill or attempt to kill humpback whales in the Pacific Ocean and its dependent waters north of the equator for the 1966 season pending further assessments. The resolution was moved by the Commissioner for Australia and seconded by the Commissioner for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

12. Protection of Sperm Whales Great concern was expressed by some of the Commissioners at the increased taxation of the stocks of sperm whales. There had been much larger catches in the last year and it was feared that decreased whaling in the Antarctic might divert more factory ships to pursue this species in the area outside the Antarctic where the female breeding stocks are to be found. Moreover, while the minimum size limit—38 feet—should be enough to save the great majority of females, massive evidence was available to the Commission to show that this regulation was being broken on a large scale. Although much more information is needed on the state of the stocks of this species, it was pointed out that delaying conservation action until better evidence on depletion is obtained has already produced instances of having waited until the sustainable yield is no longer economic.

13. With these arguments before them, the Commission therefore considered an amendment to the Schedule, Paragraph 6 moved by the Commissioner for Australia and seconded by the Commissioner for New Zealand which stated "6(4) it is forbidden to use a whale catcher attached to a factory ship for the purpose of killing or attempting to kill sperm whales in the waters between 40° South Latitude and 40° North Latitude". The amendment was carried by seven votes in favour to two against but there were four abstentions.

14. In accepting the Report of the Scientific Committee the Commission also agreed that there should be a further meeting of the Sperm Whale Subcommittee. This would be in 1966 either immediately before or immediately after that of the North Pacific Working Group. The meeting would be convened by Mr. R. Gambell (U.K.).

15. Appeal to Chile and Peru In relation to the conservation of sperm whale stocks the Commission considered a recommendation of the Scientific Committee that appeals should be made to Chile and Peru to adhere to the 1946 Convention and in any case to observe the Commission's minimum size-limits for sperm whales and to continue to supply complete data to the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics. As a result the Commissioner for Australia, seconded by the Commissioner for the United States of America made a recommendation

that the Commission appeals to Chile and Peru to adhere to the 1946 Convention and that in the meantime they observe the minimum lengths applying to sperm whales and continue to supply complete statistical data to the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics. The recommendation was carried without any objection.

16. Blue Whale Unit Limit At the Sixteenth Meeting no quota of blue whale units had been agreed for the 1964/65 season, but at the Special Meeting in May 1965 Commissioners had agreed to recommend to their Governments a quota for the 1965/66 Antarctic season of 4,500 blue whale units and that further reduction should be made in the 1966/67 and 1967/68 seasons so that the quota for the 1967/68 season would be less than the combined sustainable yields of the fin and sei whale stocks as determined on the basis of more scientific evidence. During the Seventeenth Meeting this recommendation of the Special Meeting was implemented by an amendment of the Schedule which was proposed by the Commissioner for the United Kingdom and seconded by the Commissioner for Canada. The amendment was to delete in Paragraph 8(a) of the Schedule the words "10,000 blue whale units in 1963/64" and add "4,500 blue whale units in 1965/66. There shall be reductions for the years 1966/67 and 1967/68 that will assure that the total catch for 1967/68 will be less than the combined sustainable yields of the fin and sei stocks as determined on the basis of more precise scientific evidence". On this amendment being put to the vote all twelve Commissioners present were found to be in favour of it.

17. Limit for Daily Notification of Catch At the time this meeting commenced Paragraph 8(c) of the Schedule to the Convention gave the number of blue whale units caught in the Antarctic after which daily records of catches must be sent to the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics at Sandefjord, Norway as 9,000 and referred to the 1963/64 catch. This allowed the Bureau to indicate to the factory ships the day when the total quota for 1963/64 had been reached. For the future, however, it was proposed by the Commissioner for Australia and seconded by the Commissioner for Japan that Paragraph 8(c) of the Schedule should be changed by the deletion of "9,000" in the third from the last line and its replacement by the words "85 per cent of whatever total catch limit was imposed by the Commission". This proposal was carried without dissent.

18. Sanctuary and Length of Antarctic Season No action was taken by the Commission in connection with the Sanctuary and the length of the Antarctic baleen whaling season. This means that for the next Antarctic season the Sanctuary will remain open and that the dates for commencing and ending the baleen whale season will remain the same.

19. Catching of Whales at Land Stations The catching of Antarctic whales from land stations south of 40° South Latitude as well as in other areas of the Southern Hemisphere received the special attention of the Commission. They considered that these catches had increased in importance in the light of the recent situation of whale stocks in the Antarctic. To deal with this position and after some amendment the Commission accepted a resolution of their Technical Committee set out in the following terms:

With regard to the catch of Antarctic baleen whales from land stations situated south of 40° South Latitude as well as in other areas of the Southern Hemisphere, it is recommended that:

- (a) Taking into consideration the fact that the problem of catching the Antarctic whales at land stations has increased its importance in the light of the recent situation of whale stocks in the Antarctic, it is desirable for the Commission to set up a special group representing member countries concerned with land stations situated south of 40° South Latitude as well as in other areas of the Southern Hemisphere in order to elaborate suggestions to bring into order the catching of whales at such land stations so that this problem may be discussed in detail at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Commission.
- (b) The Commission shall determine the total catch limit of Antarctic pelagic whaling for the 1966/67 season and after, taking into consideration the catch of Antarctic whales from land stations situated south of 40° South Latitude as well as in other areas of the Southern Hemisphere.
- (c) The Commission invites the Governments concerned with land stations situated south of 40° South Latitude as well as in other areas in the Southern Hemisphere to take domestic measures on a voluntary basis so that the level of catch from such land stations for the forthcoming season does not exceed that in the 1964/65 Antarctic season or the average (calculated in blue whale units) of the catches over the last three seasons 1963, 1964 and 1965, outside the Antarctic as the case may be.
- (d) The Commission recommends to the countries at present discussing the problems of national quotas that, for the 1966/67 and 1967/68 seasons, they take into consideration the catches of Antarctic whales from land stations situated south of 40° South Latitude as well as in other areas of the Southern Hemisphere.

The resolution was carried with the assent of all thirteen Commissioners present but with a reservation made by the Commissioner for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that the fourth point of the resolution should also apply to the 1965/66 season.

20. The International Observer Scheme

The International Observer Scheme was the subject of a proposal by the Commissioner for Norway amended by the Commissioner for Japan. It ran as follows:

The International Whaling Commission, referring to Paragraph 1(a) of the Schedule according to which the Commission can appoint international observers on factory ships operating in Antarctic pelagic whaling; taking note of the expressed desire of the countries parties to the Agreement concerning an International Observer Scheme dated 28th October 1963 to conserve whale stocks and to maintain proper productivity of pelagic whaling by establishing such a scheme; reaffirming their views expressed at every session since the agreement came into force, supported by the F.A.O. that an International Observer Scheme should be implemented as quickly as possible; bearing in mind the fact that the international observers agreement expires after the 1965/66 season and fearing that such a scheme might never come into existence if not implemented in the coming season; strongly request the countries concerned to ensure the implementation of the International Observer Scheme in the 1965/66 season; *invite* each of the active pelagic whaling nations to give a firm assurance at the Seventeenth Session to the effect that they on their part will put the Scheme into operation in the 1965/66 season in accordance with the rules for the implementation of the International Observer Scheme agreed upon among the five countries concerned in Sandefjord on 26th June, 1964.

This resolution received the affirmative votes of all twelve Commissioners present. The Commissioner for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, however, explained that his vote in favour was made to give the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the right to discuss the problem of the allocation of national quotas.

21. With regard to the assurances in the resolution invited from the active pelagic whaling nations, two were able to give these but the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that, while they were in favour of implementation of the scheme in the coming season, their assurance must be qualified by the reserve that both the quota of the whole catch and the International Observer Scheme should be extended to both factory ships and to all land stations catching Antarctic whales and that to implement the International Observer Scheme it would be necessary to solve on a just basis the problem of re-allocation of national quotas between the countries concerned. It was agreed that talks on these matters would be continued but no solution had been worked out by the end of the Commission's meeting.

22. Attention was then given to the relevance of an International Observer Scheme to land stations. In this connection the Commissioner for the United Kingdom proposed and the Commissioner for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics seconded the following resolution:

The Commission considers that provisions comparable to those of the International Observer Scheme should be made in respect of land stations in the Southern Hemisphere and asks the special group which is to meet to bring into order the catching of whales at such land stations to study the matter and make recommendations to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Commission.

This resolution was carried; there being four in favour and eight abstentions.

23. National Quotas The countries party to the Arrangements for the Regulation of Antarctic Whaling of 1962, represented by their Commissioners, met together before and during the Seventeenth Meeting to discuss proposals for the allocation of national quotas but had not been able to conclude these discussions by the end of the meeting. To these countries the Commission recommended that for the 1966/67 and 1967/68 seasons they take into consideration the catches of Antarctic whales from land stations situated south of 40° South Latitude as well as in other areas of the Southern Hemisphere.

24. North Pacific Whale Stocks Bearing in mind the Scientific Committee's views on the threat to the whale stocks in the North Pacific area, where, for instance, against a catch of 3,991 fin whales in 1964 there was an estimated sustainable yield of 1,600, the Commission considered that the four North Pacific countries, Canada, Japan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America should meet to discuss this matter. At a first discussion under the chairmanship of Dr. McHugh, it was agreed that representatives of the countries concerned should meet sometime in 1966, probably in January or February.

25. With the acceptance of the Scientific Committee's Report the Commission agreed that the North Pacific Working Group should meet as soon as possible after the completion of the 1965 season but not later than early 1966 to complete their scientific analyses which are based so far on incomplete data.

26. The Commission also agreed that an appeal be made to the countries

concerned in taking humpback whales in the Pacific Ocean north of the equator not to exceed in 1965 their catch in 1964.

27. Infractions The Infractions Sub-Committee reported to the Technical Committee on their concern that the minimum size-limits fixed by the Commission were not being properly enforced by all member nations. As a result of its deliberations the Sub-Committee urged that international observation should be extended to all pelagic and land whaling stations as soon as possible. The Technical Committee concurred with the views of the Infractions Sub-Committee. On the proposal of the Commissioner for Australia seconded by the Commissioner for the United States of America the Commission accepted the report on this subject by the Technical Committee.

28. Finance The Finance Committee's Report was given careful consideration by the Commission. From the Ordinary Budget, the Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st May, 1965 and the Provisional Balance Sheet at 31st May, 1965 it was noted that expenditure was £6,174 17s. 0d. compared with £5,227 13s. 8d. in 1963/64. The increase was mainly due to additional meetings and printing. It was recommended that an item of £500 paid to the National Institute of Oceanography for many years should be the subject of a letter to the Institute from the Secretary. In his letter he should enquire about the efficiency of the whale marking scheme and whether more or less support might be appropriate. The answer should be conveyed to the Scientific Committee for its next meeting.

29. Income amounted to £5,775 13s. 9d. and was made up of £5,100 from the annual contributions of £300 from 17 Contracting Governments and £675 13s. 9d. contributed from the special funds for scientific investigations in the Extra-Ordinary Budget. The contribution from the latter was agreed to by the Commission at their Special Meeting in May 1965 to cover the costs of that meeting. The deficit—£399 3s. 3d.—between income and expenditure was met from the balance in hand which was thereby reduced at 31st May, 1965 to £1,629.

30. Outside the balance brought forward the Extra-Ordinary Budget had no income. Expenditure including the contribution to the Ordinary Budget just mentioned, the cost of the meeting of the Committee of Four Scientists in June 1964 and some data computing expenses came to £2,320 16s. 1d. This was met from the funds in hand—£3,359 11s. 7d. leaving a balance at 31st May, 1965 of £1,038 15s. 6d.

31. This first part of the Finance Committee's Report was accepted by the Commission on a proposal of the Commissioner for the United Kingdom seconded by the Commissioner for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

32. Estimates for the year ending 31st May, 1966 envisaged a continuance of expenditure in the Ordinary Budget at the 1964/65 level; in addition it was intended to resume the contribution from the Ordinary Budget to the Extra-Ordinary Budget for stock assessment work which was suspended in 1964/65. Expenditure on the stock assessment work in 1965/66 was expected to be met mainly from the available funds possibly leaving a small deficit of around £100 by 31st May, 1966.

33. The Commissioner for the United Kingdom proposed and the Commissioner for Japan seconded the acceptance of the estimates. The proposal was agreed.

34. In view of the Commission's financial position the Finance Committee believed that an increase of £50 was necessary in the annual contribution from each country. The Commission examined this position and the Commissioner for Australia proposed that member countries be recommended to increase their annual contribution by £50. The Commissioner for South Africa seconded this proposal which was carried. There were ten votes in favour, one against and three abstentions.

35. Election of Vice-Chairman Having been transferred to work in the United Kingdom Government not connected with whaling, the Vice-Chairman Mr. H. Gardner (United Kingdom) had resigned during the past year. As he would have had one more year of office it became necessary to elect a successor for this period. The Commissioner for Canada therefore moved and the Commissioner for Australia seconded a proposal that Mr. W. C. Tame (United Kingdom) should be appointed to this position. Mr. Tame was elected with general approval.

36. Representation at Meetings of other Organizations The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea had invited the Commission to be represented by an observer at the Fifty-third Statutory Meeting of their Council which was to be held in Rome from 4th-13th October, 1965. The Commission considered this and decided to ask Mr. A. J. Aglen (United Kingdom) to represent them as an observer on this occasion.

37. Constitution of Committees The membership of the Commission's Committees was as follows. *Technical Committee* Argentina, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and United Kingdom. *Scientific Committee* Australia, Canada, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and United Kingdom. Doctor D. G. Chapman (U.S.A.) was elected Chairman. *Finance Committee* The Chairman of the Commission nominated His Excellency Mr. H. Sv. Bjornsson (Iceland), Mr I. Fujita (Japan), Mr. R. B. Atkins (New Zealand), Mr. K. Holler (Norway) and Dr. J. L. McHugh (U.S.A.). Dr. J. L. McHugh was elected Chairman.

38. Place and Date of Next Meeting At the meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee it had been recommended that the Eighteenth Meeting of the Commission should begin on Monday 27th June, 1966 in London. The Commission approved this recommendation.

39. Press Release The Commission agreed that the Chairman and Secretary should issue the Press Release.

M. N. SUKHORUCHENKO
Chairman