

## APPENDIX III

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING

#### 1. *Date and Place*

The Twenty-first Meeting of the International Whaling Commission was held at Riverwalk House, Millbank, London, S.W.1, from 23rd to 27th June 1969. The proceedings were conducted by the Chairman, Mr. I. Fujita (Japan).

#### 2. *Representation*

Commissioners and Delegates of Contracting Governments represented Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom and the United States of America. Observers attended from Chile, Italy, Portugal, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Fauna Preservation Society, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the International Society for the Protection of Animals, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the World Federation for the Protection of Animals.

#### 3. *Address of Welcome*

At the opening session an address was given by Mr. Norman Buchan, the Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland. Mr. Buchan referred to the fact that this was the twenty-first meeting of the Commission and remarked that in the ordinary course a twenty-first birthday is regarded as a milestone calling for celebrations or congratulations. He was not sure whether this would be entirely appropriate recalling the high ideals and aspirations that inspired the Commission in its early days for the rational exploitation of common resources under international control, contrasting with events which had led to the withdrawal of two countries from pelagic whaling in the Antarctic, joined last winter by another great whaling nation. But the flame started in 1946 still burned and he thought the Commission could congratulate itself on the fact that but for its work the whale stocks in some areas might well have been extinct altogether and that through the deliberations of the Commission there had been a greater readiness among member countries to recognize the danger signals and take action in time. He trusted that with the renewed vigour of maturity the Commission would tackle the continuing problems of conservation. The important agreement reached last year to restrict the catching of fin and sei whales in the North Pacific—the only large pelagic whaling area outside the Antarctic—was perhaps a happy augury for the next 21 years.

#### 4. *Dr. Remington Kellogg*

The death was reported of Dr. Kellogg, the first Chairman of the Commission and the United States Commissioner until 1965. Tributes were paid to the contribution of Dr. Kellogg to the work of the Commission and the meeting stood in silence to his memory.

## 5. *Adoption of Agenda*

The agenda was adopted on the proposal of the Commissioner for the U.S.S.R. seconded by the Commissioner for the United States.

## 6. *Review of Previous Season's Catches*

Statistics relating to the catch outside the Antarctic in 1968 and the catch in the Antarctic in 1968/69 prepared by the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics were distributed. The delegate for Norway presented a report on behalf of Mr. Vangstein, the Director of the Bureau, who was unable to be present. He said that three Japanese and three U.S.S.R. expeditions participated in the Antarctic season of 1968/69. They limited their catches to the quotas allotted to them under the quota agreement. The total catch was 2,469 blue whale units, 731 less than the total limit of 3,200 units, this 731 being the quota allotted to Norway and not taken up. The activities of the expeditions were brought to a close before the official closing date, 7th April. There was a marked change in the relation between the sei and fin whale catches in the past season; in 1965/66 it was 7.6:1, in 1967/68 4.8:1 and in the last season 1.9:1. The activities of the expeditions moved somewhat eastwards and northwards compared with the previous season. In Areas IV and V about 63 per cent of the total catch in terms of BWU was taken as against about 47 per cent in 1967/68. About 2,680 sperm whales were caught in the Antarctic and 1,225 on the journey to and from those areas. Outside the Antarctic the largest catch is made in the North Pacific. Six pelagic expeditions, three from Japan and three from U.S.S.R., caught 1,717 blue whale units and 12,542 sperm whales. Mr. Vangstein said that reports on the catches outside the Antarctic were often received very late and the Bureau had to process them at the same time as the statistics from the last Antarctic season. In order to facilitate the work of the Bureau substantially he asked the Commissioners to use their best efforts to have the data concerning the catch outside the Antarctic forwarded to the Bureau as soon as possible.

## 7. *Scientific Committee*

The report by the Scientific Committee which met under the Chairmanship of Dr. D. G. Chapman (U.S.A.) is contained in meeting document IWC/21/4.

## 8. *Investigations of Whale Stocks*

A report on baleen whale stocks in the Antarctic during the 1968/69 season was provided by F.A.O. and this was examined by the Scientific Committee in conjunction with whale population studies in that area prepared by scientists of member countries. The report by F.A.O. was the latest in a series of annual reports on the state of the Antarctic stocks prepared for the Commission by the Organization. The observer from F.A.O. informed the Commission that F.A.O., after reviewing its commitments in the various fields as well as the needs of the Commission, had reached the conclusion that now that several national delegations contained scientists in stock assessment and with the reduction in the catch quotas it was no longer necessary for F.A.O. to continue its regular reporting on the state of the stocks. F.A.O. therefore wished to withdraw from regular stock assessment work. It would however like to continue to send observers to the Commission's meetings, in particular the scientific meetings, and occasionally contribute studies on specific subjects. The Chairman expressed on behalf of the Commission its deep appreciation and gratitude to F.A.O. for its great contribution to the stock assessment work of the Commission and for its intention to continue to co-operate with the Commission in this work.

#### *9. Pelagic Catch Limit in the Antarctic*

The Scientific Committee had agreed on an estimate of 5,000 whales (833 blue whale units) for the 1969/70 sustainable yield of sei whales in the Antarctic but was unable to reach agreement on the yield of fin whales for which the estimates ranged from 1,000 to 5,600 whales. The difference arose in methods and assumptions and the Scientific Committee proposed that it should meet early in 1970 to discuss and review methods and assumptions of fin whale stock assessment when these questions would be studied in greater detail and more precise estimates obtained. The Commission accepted the Technical Committee's recommendation that pending the more precise estimates to be made at the meeting early in 1970 the Antarctic catch limit in 1969/70 should be 2,700 blue whale units. It was accordingly agreed unanimously to amend paragraph 8(a) of the Schedule to the Convention by deleting "3,200" and substituting "2,700" and deleting "1968/69" and substituting "1969/70."

#### *10. Exclusion of the North Pacific Ocean and its Dependent Waters North of the Equator from the Restrictions on the Use of the Antarctic Factory ships*

The Japanese delegation had discussed this matter with other delegations concerned and because of the agreement on North Pacific whaling they had decided to withdraw their request that paragraph 11 of the Schedule be so amended as to allow factory ships to be used in the North Pacific immediately after service in the Antarctic. They intimated, however, that they would resubmit the proposal at the 1970 meeting.

#### *11. Length of Antarctic Season*

The Commission accepted the Technical Committee's recommendation that there should be no change in the opening and closing dates of the baleen whaling season in the Antarctic.

#### *12. The Sanctuary*

The Commission accepted the Technical Committee's recommendation that the Sanctuary should remain open in 1969/70.

#### *13. North Pacific Whale Stocks*

The Technical Committee reported that agreement had been reached by the Commissioners for the North Pacific countries on catch limits for the 1970 season for the pelagic fleets for fin, sei and sperm whales. The catch limit for fin whales would be 1,332 whales and for sei whales 4,924 whales, in each case a 10% reduction on the 1969 limit. The fin whale quota could be converted to sei whales and vice versa, in terms of blue whale units, provided that the total catch of either species did not exceed the 1969 quota for that species. For sperm whales the limit would be 11,273 whales, a 10% reduction on the 1968 catch. The whale catches of the land stations of Japan and the U.S.A. would not exceed the levels established for 1969. The Commissioners had also agreed that the countries would exert their best efforts to put into effect observer schemes for both pelagic and land station whaling.

#### *14. Sperm Whale Stocks*

The Scientific Committee had reported that the principal new information on sperm whale stocks related to the North Pacific where it recommended no further increase in the catch. In view of the agreement to limit the catch in the

North Pacific the Technical Committee did not make any recommendation to the Commission. Because of the lack of assessment of sperm whale stocks except in the North Pacific the Scientific Committee proposed to hold a meeting early in 1970 to study sperm whale biology and methods of assessment, and if possible to make assessments for all stocks.

#### 15. *International Observer Scheme*

The North Pacific countries had reported their intention to exert their best efforts to put into effect observer schemes. Several countries indicated their willingness to co-operate with other countries in other areas in receiving observers and the Chairman urged the countries concerned to implement the International Observer Scheme at the earliest opportunity.

#### 16. *Blue Whale Unit*

The Scientific Committee reaffirmed its opinion that from the viewpoint of maintaining all stocks, it was desirable to set separate quotas by species for the Antarctic catch rather than in terms of blue whale units. The Technical Committee did not recommend any action in regard to the Schedule but felt the Commission should keep a watchful eye on the situation.

#### 17. *Economic Studies of Whaling Regulations*

The Technical Committee reported that it had been informed by F.A.O. that there had been no progress on the economic studies. The Commission agreed that a further request to F.A.O. would not be justified at present and this item should be excluded from the agenda for future meetings.

#### 18. *Infractions*

The Technical Committee appointed an Infractions Sub-Committee to consider the reports on infractions of the Convention from the whaling countries. The average number of infractions was about 1.7 per cent of the total catch, the figures being much higher for sperm whales than for baleen whales. The Committee urged countries to continue to try to hold the percentage of infractions down.

#### 19. *Ban on Killing Blue and Humpback Whales in North Atlantic Ocean*

The Scientific Committee reviewed the data relating to the stocks of blue and humpback whales in the North Atlantic. From limited evidence it seemed that there was some rebuilding of humpback stocks in the North-west Atlantic but there was nothing to suggest any substantial increase elsewhere in the North Atlantic. It recommended that the present ban on killing blue whales in the North Atlantic, which terminates on 24th February 1970, and that on killing humpback whales in the North Atlantic Ocean, which terminates on 8th November 1969, be extended for three years. In the meantime it urged that companies operating in that area should provide sighting data on the prohibited species. The Technical Committee accepted the recommendations and on the proposal of that Committee the Commission agreed unanimously to make the following amendments to the Schedule of the Convention:

paragraph 4(1)(a)  
delete the words after "North Atlantic Ocean" and substitute for them "for three years ending on 24th February 1973"

paragraph 6(1)  
delete "1969" and substitute "1972"

## 20. *Bryde's Whale*

At its meeting in 1968 the Scientific Committee had suggested that sei whales and Bryde's whales should be recognized as distinct species and suggested amendments to the Schedule for this purpose. It requested that this item with the appropriate amendments to the Schedule should be put on the agenda for the next meeting. The Technical Committee endorsed this and the Secretary was asked to include it in the agenda for the 1970 meeting.

## 21. *The Commission's 20th Report*

The draft report which had been circulated was approved subject to minor drafting amendments.

## 22. *Finance*

The report of the Finance and Administration Committee was considered by the Commission.

### a. *The statement of income and expenditure for 1968/69*

The statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31st May 1969 on the *Ordinary Budget* showed that expenditure amounted to £4,745 compared with £4,571 in 1967/68. There was an increase in the cost of the annual meeting and the payment of the Secretary's salary was for a full year. On the other hand the cost of administration was down as a result of a reassessment of staff times, as well as the expenditure on stationery, printing and postage. Income, apart from the contributions of £350 from each Contracting Government, included £247 from interest on investments. After the transfer of £86 to meet the excess expenditure in the Extra-ordinary Budget in accordance with the decision at the previous meeting, the balance at the end of the year was £752.

On the *Extra-ordinary Budget*, expenditure on travel and subsistence in connection with stock assessment work in 1968 amounted to £568 and a contribution of £500 was made to the National Institute of Oceanography in respect of the whale marking work. The total expenditure was therefore £1,068 which was met from the balance of £982 brought forward from the previous year and £86 transferred from the Ordinary Budget.

The statement of income and expenditure for 1968/69 was accepted on the proposal of the Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee (the Commissioner for Canada), seconded by the delegate for Japan.

### b. *The estimate for 1969/70*

The estimate for the Ordinary Budget for 1969/70 showed an accumulated balance at the end of the year of £2,597. In addition the contribution to the National Institute of Oceanography for whale marking would amount to £500 and the Scientific Committee had recommended the provision of £500 to enable the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics to undertake the collection and processing of catch, effort and length distribution data. The funds in the Extra-ordinary Budget were exhausted and it was decided that this expenditure should be met from the Ordinary Budget reducing the accumulated balance expected at the end of the year to £1,597. On the proposition of the Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, seconded by the delegate for Japan, the Commission accepted the revised estimate for 1969/70 (1WC/69/3B revised).



*c. Amount of contribution*

The Commission decided on the proposition of the Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, seconded by the Commissioner for the United States, that there should be no change in the contributions from member countries for 1969/70.

*d. The financial position of the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics*

The Finance and Administration Committee reported that the representative of Norway had referred to the statement made to the Committee at the 1968 meeting about the financial position of the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics. He said that his Government had taken measures to make funds available to enable the Bureau to continue until some other solution could be found. The Commission would be given ample and fair warning if and when it was necessary to change these arrangements. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the understanding shown and of the action taken by the Norwegian Government.

*23. Collection of Biological Data*

The Finance and Administration Committee considered a proposal by the Scientific Committee that the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics should be asked to act as a central agency for the collection and processing of catch, effort and length distribution data and that the sum of £500 should be earmarked for payment to the Bureau for that part of the work it was able to undertake in the current year. The Committee agreed with the Scientific Committee's proposal and, as recorded in paragraph 22b, to the inclusion of £500 for that purpose in the revised estimate for 1969/70.

*24. Date and Place of Next Meeting*

The Commission accepted the Finance and Administration Committee's recommendation that its next meeting should be held in London in the week commencing 22nd June 1970.

*25. Representation at Meetings of Other Organizations*

Invitations were received for the Commission to send observers to the Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission's sixth meeting to be held in Paris in September and to the meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea to be held in Dublin from 29th September to 8th October. It was agreed that the Chairman should arrange in consultation with the Secretary for observers to attend these meetings on behalf of the Commission.

*26. Statements by Observers from Other Organizations*

Statements were made by Mr. L. K. Boerema of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Mr. A. J. Aglen of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, Mr. R. S. R. Fitter of the Fauna Preservation Society, Dr. C. W. Holloway of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Mr. C. Platt of the International Society for the Protection of Animals. A statement was made on the withdrawal of New Zealand from the Commission by Mr. P. Cotton who attended on behalf of the New Zealand Government.

*27. Constitution of Committees*

The membership of the Commission's Committees for the coming year was as follows:

*Technical Committee:* Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Norway, South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom and United States of America. Dr. J. L. McHugh (United States of America) was elected Chairman.

*Scientific Committee:* Canada, France, Japan, Norway, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, United States of America, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Adviser). Dr. D. G. Chapman (United States of America) was elected Chairman.

*Finance and Administration Committee.* The Chairman of the Commission nominated representatives from Canada, Japan, Mexico, Norway and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Dr. W. M. Sprules (Canada) was elected Chairman.

I. FUJITA  
Chairman