

Chairman's Report of the Special Meeting, Tokyo, December 1977

1. DATE, PLACE AND PURPOSE

The Special Meeting was held, at the kind invitation of the Government of Japan, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo on 6 and 7 December 1977.

The proceedings were conducted by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr A. G. Bollen (Australia). He reminded participants that the prime purpose of the Special Meeting was consideration of the management of North Pacific sperm whale stocks including classification, the setting of catch limits and implementation of any recommendations of the Scientific Committee arising from a special meeting of that Committee held specifically to consider the problems and review the assessment of these particular stocks. A second important item for the attention of the Special Meeting was the reconsideration by the Commission of its decision in June to prohibit the take by Alaskan Eskimos of bowhead whales from the Bering Sea stock.

2. REPRESENTATION

Commissioners and delegates attended from fifteen of the seventeen member countries, Brazil and Panama being absent. Observers were present from the Governments of:

Chile
Korea, Republic of
Peru

and the following international organisations:

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
International Union for the Conservation of Nature and
Natural Resources
African Wildlife Leadership Foundation
Fauna Preservation Society
Friends of the Earth
Friends World Committee for Consultation
Greenpeace Foundation
Inuit Circumpolar Conference
International Transport Workers Federation
Project Jonah
World Federation for the Protection of Animals
World Wildlife Fund

3. ADDRESS OF WELCOME

An address of welcome on behalf of the Japanese Government was given by Mr Imai, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery.

He reviewed briefly the achievements made by the Commission since its establishment and noted its efforts in preserving and conserving whale resources. However, he regretted that there were continuous accusations against the whaling nations which did not give a fair appreciation of the efforts of the IWC. He realised that the aim of the

present meeting was to review the provisions of the Schedule with regard to the sperm whale quota in the North Pacific, and in wishing every success to the meeting, hoped that it would arrive at a fair and proper decision based on the assessment of the Scientific Committee.

4. STATEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS AND OBSERVERS

In order to make the most economical use of the time available Commissioners and Observers had been asked to present written rather than oral statements. These were collated and circulated during the course of the meeting.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The provisional annotated agenda, circulated sixty days in advance of the meeting in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, based upon a draft agenda distributed 100 days before the meeting, was adopted.

6. REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MANDATE AND FUNCTIONS

The Technical Committee supported the important initiative contained in a paper put forward by Canada. This outlined the need to develop a truly technical role for this Committee by bringing in all the necessary expertise so that it can act as an intermediary stage between the Scientific Committee and the plenary session. The Commission agreed to establish an *ad hoc* working group to discuss this question, and to develop terms of reference for a reconstituted Technical Committee, together with appropriate rules of procedure and other relevant proposals for Commission action. Canada was asked to convene the working group, which would meet in Cambridge for two days prior to the 30th Annual Meeting and report to that meeting.

7. NORTH PACIFIC SPERM WHALE STOCKS

The Scientific Committee had carried out a detailed review and analysis of the available information at a special meeting of the Committee held in Cronulla, NSW, 21–26 November 1977. Their three recommendations were endorsed by the Technical Committee and adopted by the Commission. The decisions were that:

- (1) Management of the North Pacific sperm whale stocks should be based on two Divisions divided by a line from the ice edge south along the 180° West meridian of longitude to 180° West, 50° North, then east along the 50° North parallel of latitude to 170° West, 50° North, then south along the 170° West meridian of longitude to 170° West, 40° North, then east along the 40° North parallel of latitude to 160° West, 40° North,

then south along the 160° West meridian of longitude to the equator.

- (2) Stock classifications and catch limits for 1978 should be:

		Classification	Catch limits
Western Division	Male	SMS	2,987
	Female	SMS	784
Eastern Division	Male	IMS	2,118
	Female	IMS	555

The changes in the recommended catch limits since the June 1977 meeting resulted mainly from changes in the estimated current population sizes compared to the original and were not caused by any significant change in the relative population levels in the model. The increased estimated relative populations, particularly for males, were caused principally by the effect of changes in effort modifiers.

- (3) In order to protect the breeding bulls during the pairing season, there should be a closed season for males over 45 ft in length south of 40° North for four months, March through June.

Recommendations 1 and 3 were adopted unanimously, and recommendation 2 by 13 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

The Commission accepted the Scientific Committee's view that with the introduction of these management arrangements it was not necessary to consider step procedures to minimise the economic dislocation resulting from the analyses at this time, but that consideration of the principles involved should be included in the agenda of the 30th Annual Meeting. Further information, particularly on the effect of Asdic, should be made available before that review.

8. AMENDMENT TO RULES OF PROCEDURE, RULE III

The Chairman reported that Commissioners had discussed suggested amendments to Rule III governing the admission of Observers to meetings of the Commission. The matter was still under review and would be put on the agenda of the 30th Annual Meeting. In the meantime there would be no change in the Commission's policy.

9. CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES)

The Secretary reported on the special working session of the CITES held in Geneva, attended by the Chairman and Secretary on 25–28 October 1977. Cross-representation between the two conventions would be of mutual benefit, and the CITES was to offer Observer status to the IWC at meetings of the Parties. The Commission agreed that the CITES should be granted Observer status at its meetings and those of the Scientific Committee.

10. REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE REGULATION OF WHALING, 1946

The Commissioner for Denmark extended on behalf of his Government an invitation to hold a preparatory meeting in

Copenhagen next year. The Commission accepted this offer with gratitude and considered that a four day meeting, 4–7 July 1978 would be adequate. The Secretary was instructed to circulate the agreed negotiating text to IWC member nations and 10 other whaling nations.

11. BERING SEA STOCK OF BOWHEAD WHALES

Following the total ban agreed by the Commission at its 29th Annual Meeting, the USA presented a proposal for a modest take of bowheads in 1978 to satisfy the subsistence and cultural needs of the Alaskan Eskimos, together with a scientific programme and regulatory measures. The Scientific Committee had reiterated its statement that any take could adversely affect the stock and contribute to preventing its eventual recovery. The Technical Committee, after a number of votes, agreed by a majority to recommend an amendment to the Schedule and a supporting Resolution limiting the bowhead take to 18 struck whales in 1978. The proposal failed to gain the necessary three quarters majority in plenary session (6 votes for, 6 against, 3 abstentions). An amendment by the USA, seconded by Denmark, to limit the take to 15 landed whales failed when it received 5 votes for and 3 against, with 7 abstentions. The Commission then adopted, by 10 votes to 3 with 2 abstentions, the proposal by Norway seconded by the USSR which limited the take to 12 landed or 18 struck whales. The Commission also agreed to the addition of a final paragraph to the Resolution proposed by the UK and seconded by the Netherlands. The Schedule amendment is shown in Appendix 1 and the Resolution in Appendix 2.

12. ACTION RELATIVE TO NON-MEMBER WHALING NATIONS

Japan reported that it is their practice not to authorise the transfer or sale of whaling vessels and equipment to non-member whaling nations. No Japanese firms are involved in Chilean whaling operations. With respect to restrictions on imports of whale products from non-IWC nations, there are difficulties arising from other treaty obligations such as GATT, but steps are being taken to discourage such imports.

The USA put forward three Resolutions dealing with whaling operations in Chile and Peru. Amendments to take note of a statement by the Observer for Peru indicating his Government's actions to limit whaling activities, and correction of a misunderstanding were agreed, and the Commission adopted the Resolutions shown in Appendices 3, 4 and 5.

13. CONSTITUTION OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

All member nations present.

Chairman: Mr T. Asgeirsson (Iceland).

14. AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEDULE

The amendments to the Schedule approved by the Commission are shown in Appendix 1.

A. G. Bollen
Chairman

Appendix 1

AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEDULE

Paragraph 7

Add new sub-paragraph:

(d) Geographical boundaries in the North Pacific

(1) Western Division

West of a line from the ice edge south along the 180° meridian of longitude to 180°, 50° N, then east along the 50° N parallel of latitude to 170° W, 50° N, then south along the 170° W meridian of longitude to 170° W, 40° N, then east along the 40° N parallel of latitude to 160° W, 40° N, then south along the 160° W meridian of longitude to the equator.

(2) Eastern Division

East of the line described in (1).

Paragraph 11

Amend to read (new wording in bold):

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 8 the taking of 10 humpback whales not below 35 feet (10.7 metres) in length, per year is permitted in Greenland waters provided that whale catchers of less than 50 gross register tonnage are used for this purpose, and the taking of gray whales, **and of bowhead whales from the Bering Sea stock**, by aborigines or a Contracting Government on behalf of aborigines is permitted, but only when the meat and products of such whales are to be used exclusively for local consumption by the aborigines **and further provided, with**

respect to the Bering Sea stock of bowhead whales that:

- (a) in 1978, hunting shall cease when either 18 have been struck or 12 landed.
- (b) it is forbidden to strike, take or kill calves or any bowhead whale accompanied by a calf.

TABLE 2. NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

Amend to read as follows (changes in bold):

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE – 1978 season

	Males		Females	
	Classification	Catch limit	Classification	Catch limit
NORTH PACIFIC				
Western Division	SMS	2,987	SMS	784
Eastern Division	IMS	2,118	IMS	555

NORTH ATLANTIC

Classification	Total
	Catch limit
SMS	685

Paragraph 17

Add new sub-paragraph:

- (c) It is forbidden to take or kill any sperm whale over 45 feet (13.7 metres) in length in the North Pacific Ocean and dependent waters south of 40° North latitude during the months of March to June inclusive.

Appendix 2

Bering Sea Bowhead Whales

RESOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING
COMMISSION 1977 SPECIAL MEETING

WHEREAS it is the purpose of the International Whaling Commission to provide for the effective conservation and management of whale stocks,

WHEREAS at its 29th Annual Meeting, held in Canberra, Australia in June 1977, the Commission, acting upon the advice of its Scientific Committee, agreed on the establishment of a total moratorium on the hunting of bowhead whales,

WHEREAS the Commission has recognised that these stocks are seriously depleted, and that information is at present inadequate to provide any satisfactory guide to management of this population with a non-zero quota,

WHEREAS the Commission has reviewed its June 1977 decision as regards the Bering Sea bowhead stock, taking into account representations made concerning aboriginal subsistence and cultural needs, the degree of risk inherent in related proposals, and the management and research program prepared by the USA,

WHEREAS the Commission has concluded that a harvest, limited to the striking of 18 whales or the landing of 12, should be permitted from this stock for 1978, and has noted that, pursuant to undertakings by the Governments of Canada and the USSR, this harvest will be taken exclusively by persons under the jurisdiction of the Government of the United States,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the International Whaling Commission

- (a) that the Commission calls upon the Government of the United States to take all necessary measures to minimise adverse effects upon the Bering Sea stock resulting from the aboriginal hunt, through controls on hunting techniques and equipment, size limits, seasons, and the kill or striking of calves, and females accompanied by calves,
- (b) that the Commission welcomes the undertaking of the Government of the United States to implement management and research programs of the comprehensiveness of those tabled at the meeting of the Scientific Committee held in Australia in November of 1977, and to establish surveillance and enforcement measures for the 1978 hunt adequate to ensure that the number of whales struck does not exceed the limit established by the Commission,
- (c) that the status of the Bering Sea bowhead whale stock be reviewed at the Commission's 30th Annual Meeting in June, 1978 in the light of information resulting from the proposed research program, with a view to establishing regulations based on the advice of the Scientific Committee, which should include comment on risks associated with different levels of removals from the stock,

- (d) that all necessary measures be taken to ensure that the reduction in the take of bowhead whales does not affect the take of beluga whales to any significant degree,
- (e) that all necessary measures be taken to preserve the habitat of bowhead and beluga whales.

Appendix 3

Bryde's Whales in the South Pacific Ocean

RESOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING
COMMISSION 1977 SPECIAL MEETING

WHEREAS it is the purpose of the International Whaling Commission to provide for the effective conservation and management of whale stocks,

WHEREAS the Commission has classified the stock of Bryde's whales in the South Pacific Ocean as an Initial Management Stock and recommended that, until estimates of stock sizes are completed, catching effort on this stock should not be increased,

WHEREAS the Commission has noted that this stock is exploited primarily by Peru which is not a member of the Commission, and by Japan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics which are members of the Commission and take a certain number for scientific research as authorised by the relevant provisions of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling,

WHEREAS member countries have agreed to take no Bryde's whales in the South Pacific until estimates of stock sizes are completed,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the International Whaling Commission

- (a) that all necessary measures should be taken to ensure that catching effort on Bryde's whales in the South Pacific does not exceed present levels; and
- (b) that all Governments concerned be encouraged to provide to the Commission, concerning the Bryde's whale stocks in question, biological data and catch per unit of effort data from their whaling activities.

The Commission requests that the Chairman transmit the text of this resolution to the Government of Peru requesting with regard to the conservation of the Bryde's whale stocks of the South Pacific Ocean the development of scientific information related to these stocks, and urging them to join the Commission.

Appendix 4

Sperm Whales in the South Pacific Ocean

RESOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING
COMMISSION 1977 SPECIAL MEETING

WHEREAS it is the purpose of the International Whaling Commission to provide for the effective conservation and management of whale stocks,

WHEREAS the Commission has adopted a regulation related to the taking of sperm whales in the South Pacific Ocean, and has declared the sperm whale stock in the area bounded by the ice edge of Antarctica and the Equator and by 100° West longitude and 60° West longitude, to be a Protection Stock, or one from which no animals may safely be taken, using information now available,

WHEREAS the Commission has noted that this stock is exploited by vessels under the jurisdiction of Chile and Peru, which are not members of the Commission,

WHEREAS the Commission has noted with appreciation

the statement of the observer representing the Government of Peru at the Commission's 29th Annual Meeting, describing Peruvian whaling activities,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the International Whaling Commission that all necessary measures should be taken to ensure that no sperm whales are taken in the area of the South Pacific Ocean described above in the 1978 season.

The Commission requests that the Chairman transmit the text of this resolution to the Governments of Chile and Peru, requesting their cooperation with regard to the conservation of the sperm whale stocks of the South Pacific Ocean and the development of scientific information related to this stock, and urging them to join the Commission.

Appendix 5

Sei Whales in the South Pacific Ocean

RESOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING
COMMISSION 1977 SPECIAL MEETING

WHEREAS it is the purpose of the International Whaling Commission to provide for the effective conservation and management of whale stocks,

WHEREAS the Commission has adopted a regulation related to the taking of sei whales in the South Pacific Ocean in the area bounded by the ice edge of Antarctica

and the Equator, and by 120° West longitude and 60° West longitude, establishing a catch limit of 353 animals as the number which can be safely removed from this stock, using information now available,

WHEREAS the Commission has noted that this stock is exploited by vessels under the jurisdiction of Japan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, members of the Commission, and by vessels under the jurisdiction of Chile and Peru, which are not members of the Commission,

WHEREAS the Commission has noted with appreciation the statement of the observer representing the Government of Peru at the Commission's 29th Annual Meeting, describing Peruvian whaling activities,

WHEREAS the Commission has further noted with appreciation the statement of the observer representing the Government of Peru at the Commission's Special Meeting in December 1977 describing the action taken by Peru to establish a limitation on whaling activities,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the International Whaling Commission

- (a) that all necessary measures should be taken to ensure that catches of sei whales in the South Pacific Ocean in 1978 do not exceed the catch limit which has been established by the Commission, to prevent the over-exploitation of this stock; and
- (b) that the Governments of Chile and Peru be encouraged to undertake appropriate research programs on South Pacific sei whales, and provide the Commission with the results of these programs.

The Commission requests that the Chairman transmit the text of this resolution to the Governments of Chile and Peru, requesting their cooperation with regard to the conservation of the sei whale stocks of the South Pacific Ocean and the development of scientific information related to these stocks and urging them to join the Commission.