

International Commission on Whaling

(Constituted under the International Whaling Convention
signed at Washington on 2nd December, 1946)

TENTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

(covering the tenth fiscal year 1st June, 1958 to
31st May, 1959)

*(As approved by the Commission at its eleventh meeting in London, June/July
1959, and authorised to be printed)*

LONDON

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1959



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LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

<i>Australia</i>	Mr. F. F. ANDERSON
<i>Brazil</i>	(Not yet appointed)
<i>Canada</i>	...	...	...	...	Mr. G. R. CLARK (Vice-Chairman)
<i>Denmark</i>	...	...	...	...	Mr. J. NØRGAARD
<i>France</i>	...	...	...	...	Mr. P. GRIDELIN
<i>Iceland</i>	...	...	...	...	His Excellency Dr. K. GUDMONDSSON
<i>Japan...</i>	...	...	...	...	Mr. I. FUJITA
<i>Mexico</i>	...	...	...	...	(Not yet appointed)
<i>Netherlands</i>	...	...	...	...	Dr. G. J. LIENESCH
<i>New Zealand</i>	...	...	...	...	Mr. G. L. O'HALLORAN
<i>Norway</i>	...	...	...	...	Mr. GUNNAR JAHN
<i>Panama</i>	...	...	...	...	Mr. R. R. ALEMAN
<i>South Africa...</i>	...	...	...	...	Dr. J. M. MARCHAND
<i>Sweden</i>	...	...	...	...	Mr. N. ÅGREN
<i>U.S.S.R.</i>	...	...	...	...	Capt. A. N. SOLYANIK
<i>United Kingdom</i>	...	...	...	...	Mr. R. G. R. WALL (Chairman) Mr. J. GRAHAM
<i>U.S.A.</i>	...	...	...	...	Dr. REMINGTON KELLOGG

R. S. WIMPENNY,
Secretary.

Office of the Commission,
Whitehall Place,
London S.W.1.

International Whaling Commission

1. Meetings. This Report covers the Tenth Meeting of the Commission, held from 23rd to 27th June, 1958, under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. J. Lienesch, and also the meeting of the Commission's Scientific Sub-Committee held in London in March, 1959, Dr. N. A. Mackintosh being in the Chair. At the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands, the Tenth Meeting was held at The Hague, and the Commission were welcomed by the Netherlands Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

As accounts of these meetings are attached as Appendices III and IV, reference to their transactions will be restricted to where it is necessary to relate them to general and continuing developments during the year.

2. Catch Limitation. The blue whale unit limit on baleen whales taken by factory ships in the Antarctic reverted to 15,000 before the Commission Meeting in 1958, having been at 14,500 during the 1957/58 season. In the course of the meeting, accepting the majority advice of the Scientific Committee that the fin whale stock was declining, it was decided to retain the 14,500 limit for another year. The decision to keep the limit at 14,500 meant changes in the Schedule, however, and the Netherlands Government, confirming an objection made by their Commissioner at the meeting, subsequently objected and were followed by the other four Governments with whaling fleets in the Antarctic. The changes thereafter ceased to be binding on these Governments, and the effective limit for the 1958/59 season became 15,000 blue whale units.

3. The 1958/59 Catch. The same 20 pelagic expeditions operated in the Antarctic during 1958/59 as in the 1957/58 season, and employed 235 catchers. The number of catchers employed by all except the Soviet expedition was limited by voluntary agreement between the whaling companies. The Norwegian land station at Husvik Harbour, South Georgia, which was closed in 1957/58, resumed operations in 1958/59.

In the 1958/59 Antarctic season the number of blue whale units taken reached 15,301 (of which 15,220 units were processed), or 301 more than the maximum catch permitted. This figure, made up of 1,191 blue whales, 25,837 fin whales, 2,394 humpbacks and 1,402 sei whales, compared with 1,684 blue whales, 25,222 fin whales, 396 humpbacks and 2,385 sei whales in the preceding season. The catching season was brought to a close on 16th March, 1959, as in the two preceding years, and therefore again lasted for 69 days.

The total output of oil for the pelagic season amounted to 2,052,010 barrels, at 6 barrels to the ton. If the catch of the Antarctic land stations is included the total yield was 2,154,696 barrels inclusive of sperm oil as compared with 2,318,479 barrels in the previous season.

The number of blue whales taken showed a decrease of some 500 from that in the previous season, and the percentage of blue whales in the combined catch of blue and fin was 4.4, compared with an average of 6.4 in the four preceding seasons. The catch of humpbacks increased by about 2,000 to 2,394, the main catch being in Areas IV and V.

The average catch per catcher's day's work was 0.94 blue whale units compared with 0.90 in the previous season and about 0.92 from 1946/47 to 1957/58. The average size of blue whales taken rose by 1.2 feet to 78.3 feet, and that of fin whales increased by 0.1 feet to 66.3 feet. The average for humpbacks fell, however, from about 41.5 to 40 feet. The percentage of immature blue whales fell to 33.2, the lowest since 1950/51, but that for fin whales was again about 30 per cent.

The catch in Area II amounted to 2,200 blue whale units compared with 3,000 to 5,000 in other post-war seasons. There was little change in Area III (5,100 units) but in Area IV the catch was 4,700 units compared with catches of between 225 and 2,700 in the seven preceding seasons. The catch of 1,800 units in Area V was also relatively large, and the lower catch in the former Sanctuary area thus resulted in a higher catch in Areas IV and V.

Outside the Antarctic one American Company commenced from the coast of California in 1958, and two Japanese companies commenced operating from Okinawa Island. A New Zealand Company ceased to operate. In all 52 land stations and 3 pelagic factories were at work in 1958.

The catch outside the Antarctic has increased steadily in post-war years; some 24,000 whales were taken in 1958 compared with 6,000 in 1946. Since 1949 the increase has been largely due to the higher catch of sperm whales, some 8,000 of which were taken in the North Pacific in 1958. The annual catch of baleen whales has ranged between 7,000 and 9,000 since 1949. Production of whale oil amounted to about 315,000 barrels in 1958 (about the same as in 1957), but production of sperm oil increased by some 30,000 barrels to about 402,000 barrels.

4. Antarctic Whaling Season. At the Commission meeting the Scientific Committee's recommendation that 7th January should continue to be the opening day for the Antarctic whaling season was agreed. This question was looked at again by the Scientific Sub-Committee at the meeting in March, 1959. Under present conditions no change was called for, but a quota system (see paragraph 11 page 5) might involve spreading the catch in time. In such circumstances the Sub-Committee thought that, while the opening date for blue whales should not be advanced, more time might be allowed for the taking of other species, but not all of it before 7th January.

5. The State of the Antarctic Stocks. At its March meeting the majority of the Scientific Sub-Committee maintained the view that there were signs of a declining population and that the balance of evidence indicated an excessive catch. They regretted that in the 1958/59 season the total limit had been raised to 15,000 blue whale units. This view was reached in the absence of any knowledge of the Antarctic catch in the 1958/59 season, and without reports on the Australian and New Zealand catches in 1958.

6. The Blue Whale. At their meeting in 1954 the Commission agreed that the taking of blue whales in the North Atlantic should be prohibited for five years. Iceland felt unable to accept this regulation, and Denmark expressed readiness to accept it only if Iceland would do so. At the last meeting of the Commission regret was expressed that these two countries could not yet agree to take part in this prohibition. It was pointed out at the meeting of the Scientific Sub-Committee in March that the catch of blue whales has continued to fall and that this evidence would be consistent with a further decline in the stock. The Sub-Committee were in favour of total protection for the blue whale in the North Atlantic for another five years from 1960. The Commission had deferred its decision on this matter at the Tenth Meeting.

7. Humpbacks. On the question of the Antarctic catch of humpback whales the Scientific Sub-Committee considered that 1,250 was about the right annual catch and at the Commission's meeting the Scientific Committee agreed with this opinion by a majority. Proposals to extend the period of the present four day humpback season were defeated

when considered by the Commission, and an alternative proposal that the annual catch of humpback whales should be fixed at 1,250 was withdrawn.

Proposals that the prohibition on the taking of humpback whales in Area II (as slightly re-defined) and in the North Atlantic should continue for a further five years were accepted by the Commission, and the consequent amendments were made to paragraphs 6(1) and (2) of the Schedule.

At the subsequent meeting of the Scientific Sub-Committee the feeling was that if limitation by days was maintained there might be no harm in advancing the date of the period. The matter, however, deserved further consideration.

The catch of this species for the 1958/59 season was 2,394 or nearly 2,000 more than in the previous year.

8. Sperm Whales. Information received at the last meeting of the Scientific Sub-Committee about catches in the North Pacific in 1958 confirmed the view that, in spite of substantially increased catches in this area, there is no evidence that this stock is depleted and that, provided the minimum size regulation is strictly observed we may look forward to a continuance of this satisfactory state of affairs.

9. The "Sanctuary" Area. At the meeting of the Commission no decision was taken as to whether the "Sanctuary" area should be left open for the season 1959/60, but at its March meeting the Scientific Sub-Committee was prepared to recommend this.

10. Whale Marking. The recovery of 68 whale marks was reported for the year prior to the meeting of the Commission, two of them from whales that had been marked 23 years before. At the time of the meeting of the Scientific Sub-Committee in March, 1959, it was considered that probably well over 100 had been recovered since the last meeting of the Commission. The Sub-Committee recommended that the Commission should continue to make some contribution to whale marking. In connection with whale marking generally a number of different proposals were considered by the Commission, but it was decided not to make any sweeping sweeping changes in the existing arrangements which, in general, were felt to work satisfactorily. A document summarising various proposals designed to improve the collection of marks in factories and to ensure that full and accurate data were sent with the marks was subsequently sent out to Contracting Governments.

11. National Quotas—Antarctic Pelagic Whaling. During the course of the Tenth Meeting a statement was made by the United Kingdom Commissioner, which, in the light of subsequent events, may have an important bearing on the future regulation of whaling. The United Kingdom Commissioner drew attention to the position resulting from the decline which, in the majority opinion, was taking place in the stock of fin whales at the same time as the number of factory ships operating in the Antarctic was increasing. His delegation believed that the adequate limitation of catching material was necessary if the catch ceiling was to be further restricted and that the previous level of restrictions would be jeopardised if additional expeditions were sent to the Antarctic. Unless steps were taken to resolve the consequent difficulties he believed that the Commission would make little further progress with its work.

The United Kingdom delegation therefore wished to suggest that the Antarctic whaling countries should consult together to find a solution to the economic problem, perhaps by an agreement to share the permitted catch between them. Under the terms of the Convention any such arrangement would have to be

made and operated outside the Commission, unless the Commission should recommend the amendment of the Convention to widen its scope. The United Kingdom would feel serious concern over the future of the Convention and its application to Antarctic whaling if some kind of economic agreement could not be reached. They hoped that the Commission would look objectively and sympathetically on any measures which might be taken.

A conference of the Antarctic pelagic whaling countries was subsequently held in London in November, 1958, and as a result recommendations were made to the Governments concerned. The text of these recommendations has been communicated to the Commission, which was, of course, not involved in the Conference. The recommendations are shown in Appendix V to this report, and suggest that over a seven-year period the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics should add not more than three new factory ships to their existing fleet operating in the Antarctic. None of the five countries concerned would transfer a factory ship to another country which was party of the Convention without also transferring a part of its quota, nor unless the purchaser's country agreed to accept the obligations in the agreement or guarantee that the factory ship would not be used in the Antarctic during the term of the agreement. If a factory ship under any other flag should commence Antarctic pelagic whaling, except as a result of the purchase of a fleet from a party to the agreement, the agreement would become null and void. It was also recommended that 20 per cent of the permitted Antarctic pelagic catch should be allocated to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and that discussion on the allocation of the remaining 80 per cent between Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom should be concluded with a view to agreement between the five nations being reached by 1st June, 1959. A meeting for this purpose was held in Tokyo in May, 1959, but no agreement was reached. It was decided to meet again in London on 18th June, 1959.

12. Withdrawal of Norway, the Netherlands and Japan. On 29th and 31st December, 1958, respectively, Norway and the Netherlands gave notice of their withdrawal from the Convention to take effect from 30th June, 1959, and were followed in this respect by Japan on 6th February, 1959. The notices of withdrawal made it clear that, if a satisfactory solution of the problems giving rise to the notices were found before that date, they would be cancelled. The text of the three notices of withdrawal is given in Appendix VI to this report.

13. Protocol for Amendment of Convention. When the Commission met it was reported that the Protocol for the amendment of the Convention, which provided that the regulations applying to whale catchers shall apply also to helicopters and other aircraft, and also makes it possible for the Commission to amend the Schedule to the Convention insofar as methods of inspection are concerned, had not been ratified by Brazil, Mexico or Panama. It was not, therefore, possible for decisive action to be taken in connection with certain items which had been placed provisionally on the Agenda; these items included the Norwegian proposal for the appointment by the Commission of observers on factory ships in the Antarctic. Since the Tenth Meeting, however, all these countries have ratified the Protocol which entered into force on 4th May, 1959.

14. Scientific Sub-Committee. Date of Meeting. The date of the meeting of the Scientific Sub-Committee is due for detailed examination at the next meeting of the Commission. The present arrangement for holding the meeting in March is the cause of difficulties, because, as in 1959,

it may be held before the catch statistics are available. There is also the problem of the distance that has to be travelled and the expense involved for this one occasion by certain delegations.

15. Humane Killing of Whales. Consideration was given at the Commission meeting to representations from the World Federation for the Protection of Animals with regard to the humane killing of whales. Some whaling companies were known to have spent large sums experimenting with the electric harpoon, but their experiments had not shown conclusively that this was a more humane method of killing whales than the explosive head which is normally used. The Commission noted that experiments of various kinds were still proceeding. They fully accepted the spirit of the resolution adopted at the Geneva Conference on the Law of the Sea in 1958, which called upon States to prescribe, by all means available to them, those methods for the capture and killing of marine life, particularly of whales and seals, which would spare them suffering to the greatest extent possible.

16. Finance. As regards the Commission's finances, the income and expenditure account for the 1957/58 year has already appeared as Appendix V to the Ninth Report. The corresponding account for the year 1958/59 will not, of course, be available for consideration and approval until the Eleventh Meeting, but this provisional account is shown as Appendix VII to the present Report. It will be seen that the cost of the Commission for the year in question was £2,767 4s. 0d., slightly less than for the previous year (£2,998 10s. 4d.). This was due to the fact that some of the cost of the Annual Meeting at The Hague in 1958 was generously contributed by the Government of the Netherlands, who placed spacious apartments in the Parliament Building at the Commission's disposal.

17. Infractions. Details of the infractions which have been reported in respect of the 1958/59 season (Antarctic whaling) and the 1958 season (outside the Antarctic) have been summarised as Appendix VIII to this Report, which should be regarded as an addition to the summary in Appendix VI of the Eighth Report.

18. Permits to Take Whales for Scientific Purposes. The Commission received information during the year that permits to take whales for scientific purposes had been granted by the Netherlands (nine baleen whales outside the official period of the whaling season), Australia (six adult female sperm whales and six juvenile sperm whales) and the United States (to engage in the scientific study of whales during February and March, 1959—later extended to April, 1959—and in so doing to kill and utilise no more than four whales all of species protected by the Convention). The Commission were also informed of the results of previous scientific experiments conducted under permits granted by the Netherlands and the United States.

19. Officers. Mr. R. G. R. Wall (United Kingdom) was elected Chairman and Mr. G. R. Clark (Canada) Vice-Chairman at the Tenth meeting of the Commission. The outgoing Chairman was warmly thanked for his services. The Commission agreed to a proposal by the Japanese Commissioner that the membership of the Finance and Administration Committee should be increased from three to five. This and the other two Committees were constituted as shown in the Chairman's Report.

At the conclusion of the Tenth Meeting the Chairman paid a special tribute to the retiring Secretary (Mr. A. T. A. Dobson, C.B., C.V.O., C.B.E.), who in due course handed over his duties to his successor (Mr. R. S. Wimpenny, O.B.E., M.Sc.) on 1st May, 1959.

APPENDIX I

*List of Commissioners and Experts, etc., attending the
Tenth Meeting at The Hague, 1958*

Chairman: G. J. Lienesch (Netherlands)

	<i>Commissioners</i>	<i>Experts and Advisers</i>
AUSTRALIA	C. G. Setter	R. Crichton-Brown, S. M. Reilly
BRAZIL	not represented	
CANADA	G. R. Clark	
DENMARK	J. Hertoft	
FRANCE	P. Gribelin	P. Budker
ICELAND	E. Benedikz	
JAPAN	I. Fujita	His Excellency Mr. S. Tsuruoka (Representative of the Japanese Government) T. Yoshioka, H. Omura, S. Ohkuchi, I. Saito, Y. Takahashi
MEXICO	not represented	
NETHERLANDS	H. S. DROST	E. J. Slijper, E. F. Drion, F. J. van der Dussen, A. W. Vinke, L. de Waal, H. M. J. Hulselmans, W. H. E. van Dijk, P. A. de Boer, P. de Vries, H. H. Garrelds, P. Korringa, W. L. van Utrecht
NEW ZEALAND	F. H. Corner	
NORWAY	G. Jahn	J. T. Ruud, A. Jonsgard, E. Moe, I. Rindal, M. Ostby, E. Vangstein, E. Haugen, O. F. Bettum
PANAMA	not represented	
S. AFRICA	J. H. Brand	G. C. Scully, R. Trouton
SWEDEN	N. Agren	R. Belding
U.S.S.R.	A. Solyanik	V. Bodrov, D. Kolesnik, V. Arseniev, A. Polyakov
UNITED KINGDOM	R. G. R. Wall	N. A. Mackintosh, T. S. Leach, R. M. Laws, T. F. S. Hetherington, H. W. Hollyer
U.S.A.	A. R. Kellogg	S. Blow, H. J. Gardner

Observers

Italy	G. B. Bruniera
Portugal	C. M. Ary dos Santos
International Association of Whaling Companies...	N. R. Bugge
F.A.O.	D. B. Finn
I.C.E.S. Represented by...	G. J. Lienesch

International Whaling Commission

A. T. A. Dosbon (*Secretary*), assisted by:
R. G. Butterworth, A. H. Stoppleenburg,
C. Sartori, assisted by the Palantype
Company and staff of the Netherlands
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food.

APPENDIX II

10th April, 1958

CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL COMMISSIONERS

FINAL AGENDA: TENTH MEETING, 1958

Sir,

I beg to enclose herewith, in duplicate, a copy of the *Final Agenda* for the Tenth Meeting of the Commission to be held on 23rd June, 1958 and following days at The Hague. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and will be held in the *Grafelijke Zalen*, adjacent to the *Ridderzaal*, which is situated on the *Binnenhof* in the centre of the city.

This Agenda has been drawn up in the light of the various comments which have been received to the draft agenda circulated with my letter of 21st January, 1958.

As indicated in that letter, it will be proposed that the election of the new Chairman (and Vice-Chairman) under Item 3, be postponed until the end of the meeting.

As usual, it is not possible to complete, before the close of the Financial Year (31st May, 1958) the Financial Documents (I(A) and (B)) referred to under Item 8, nor can Document III (Infractions) mentioned under Item 13 be completed until a later date. These documents will, therefore, follow when available.

On the other hand, the Report of the Scientific Sub-Committee (Document II) is now ready and is enclosed. This Report (Item 10) which falls to be considered by the full Scientific Committee should be studied, because it raises a number of important questions, some of which might lead to amendments of the Schedule. In addition, a draft of the Ninth Annual Report (Document IV), is also enclosed (Item 21). It will be seen that this cannot be completed until the figures relating to the year's catch are made available at the Annual Meeting.

As regards Item 9, at the time of despatching this final Agenda, the Protocol for the amendment of the Whaling Convention of 1946 (enclosed with the Agenda) has not been ratified by all the Governments concerned, and until that ratification has been completed, the tentative amendments included under Item 22(a), (b) and (c) cannot be dealt with.

With regard to the amendments generally, as set out in Item 22, you are requested to note as follows:—

The tentative amendment as to "Observers" (22a) has been included at the request of the Norwegian Commissioner. No amendment has been suggested in respect of helicopters (22b), but the amendment as regards "Refrigerated Ships" (22c) has been included at the request of the U.K.

As regards amendment (22e), it is the intention of the Commission that this matter shall be raised at each Annual Meeting.

Amendments 22f, g and h have been inserted at the request of the Norwegian Commissioner, and 22i at the request of the Japanese and Norwegian Commissioners. Amendment 22j has been added in case the Commission desire to consider the observations of the Scientific Sub-Committee on the subject of the blue whale unit limit.

It will be seen that Item 24 deals with Whale Marking and the recovery of marks. In this connection attention is directed to the appropriate paragraphs on this subject in the Report of the Scientific Sub-Committee. It is understood that the Netherlands Commissioner will be making some proposals on this item, more particularly with regard to the recovery of marks and the procedure as regards rewards.

A copy of the Agenda and this covering letter, which should be read with and as part of the Agenda, is being sent to each Contracting Government and further copies may be obtained on application to me.

In the meantime I should be glad to be informed as soon as possible the names of all those who will be present at the Tenth Meeting on behalf of your Government.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Secretary to the Commission.

FINAL AGENDA FOR THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING

TO BE HELD AT THE HAGUE ON 23rd JUNE, 1958

1. Welcome on behalf of the Netherlands Government by His Excellency, the Minister of Agriculture.

2. Roll Call of those present.

3. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for a period of three years, the period of office of the existing Chairman and Vice-Chairman having expired.

4. Announcement as to arrangements for the meeting.

5. Formal approval of the Agenda, as set out below.

6. Amendment of Rules of Procedure as follows:—

Rule XVIII. Committees: line seven, for "*three*" read "*five*" (to be moved by Japan).

7. Appointments to Committees. The Commission will be polled, in pursuance of Rule XVIII of the Rules of Procedure, as to whether any additional countries desire representation. The Chairman will appoint the Finance and Administration Committee.

8. Finance. Approval of last year's income and expenditure, estimate of current year's income and expenditure (including amount of contribution), marking of whales, staff matters, correspondence, etc. (*Tenth Meeting. Documents I(a) and (b).*)

9. Report as to ratification of the Protocol for the Amendment of the International Whaling Convention 1946. (Copy of Protocol attached.)

10. Report by the Scientific Sub-Committee (Convenor.—Dr. N. A. Mackintosh) set up at the ninth meeting in London, 1957. (*Tenth Meeting. Document II.*)

11. (a) Blue whales in the North Atlantic. Report as to Iceland. (See also Item 22d.) (b) Whaling in the North Pacific. Question as to further research.

12. Review of the 1957/58 season's catch. (Statistics will be circulated later by the Committee of International Whaling Statistics.)

13. Infractions. (The usual document (*Tenth Meeting. Document III*) will be circulated later.)

14. The question of advancing the opening of the balcen whale season in the waters south of 40° South Latitude (see also Item 22i), raised by Japan and Norway.

15. Opening of the Sanctuary (see also Item 22e).

16. Discussion of the blue whale unit limit (see also Item 22j).

17. General position as regards implementing legislation and its necessary enforcement.

18. Report by the Technical Committee.
19. Report by the Scientific Committee.
20. Report by the Finance and Administration Committee.
21. Ninth Annual Report. Draft for approval. (*Tenth Meeting. Document IV.*)
22. Possible amendments to the Schedule.

- (a) "Observers." At the end of paragraph 1(a) of the Schedule insert the following:—

Without prejudice to the foregoing, to each factory ship operating in the Antarctic, the Commission shall appoint an observer who shall be of a nationality different from those of the governments which are parties to the International Whaling Convention. Observers shall be paid by the Commission. Each Contracting Government shall in accordance with the number of factory ships operating in the Antarctic Pelagic Whaling under their jurisdiction, pay to the Commission in advance a calculated sum to cover the expenses concerning the observers on board their ships. Each observer shall be given the opportunity to follow the operations of the catchers attached to his factory ship and the operations of his factory ship according to instructions given by the Commission. The observer shall have no disciplinary powers, but shall have the status of a senior officer on board and shall be entitled to the subsistence and accommodation accorded to such officer.

There shall be made freely and immediately available to each observer for his examination all reports required to be made and all records required to be kept in accordance with clauses 8c and 13 of the Schedule to the International Whaling Convention. He shall be given all facilities of access required for the performance of his duties.

An observer shall have the right to address inquiries to the inspectors and to masters of any of the vessels forming part of the whaling expedition to which he is attached, but he shall have no powers to interfere in any way with the activities of the inspectors, the masters or of any other member of the crews of the expedition.

Where an observer has reason to believe that a serious infraction of the Convention has taken place he shall immediately send a summary report by radio to the Commission and shall inform the senior inspector to that effect.

After the conclusion of the whaling operations for the season, each observer shall at the first opportunity send directly to the Commission a full report on the extent to which the whaling operations have or have not conformed with the regulations established under the International Whaling Convention.

Whatever information an observer obtains while carrying out his duties shall be revealed only to the Commission. The Commission shall call the attention of the government concerned to any serious infraction reported by an observer on a pelagic expedition under its jurisdiction, and shall convey the explanations which it is given to the other governments parties to the Whaling Convention. This proposal shall operate as from the beginning of the season 7th January (1959).

- (b) "Helicopters"

- (c) "Refrigerated Ships"

In paragraph 1(a) after the words "factory ship" in line one, insert

“(other than ships which have been used during the season solely for freezing or salting the meat and entrails of whales intended for human food or feeding animals)”.

(d) *Article 4*

Continuation of this paragraph for another 5 years from 24th February, 1960. (See Report of Scientific Sub-Committee. Paragraph 10.)

(e) *Article 5* which is now inoperative until 8th November, 1959, shall remain inoperative until 8th November, 1960, when it will automatically become operative again.

(f) *Paragraph 6(1)*. At end of paragraph, omit the words “of five years” and insert the words “ending on 8th November, 1964”. (proposed by Norway.)

(g) *Paragraph 6(2)*. At end of paragraph, omit words “of five years” and insert the words “ending on 8th November, 1964”. (Proposed by Norway.)

(h) *Paragraph 6(3)*. In last line, omit the “1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th February in any year” and insert “1st to 8th February inclusive in any year”. (Proposed by Norway.)

Alternatively Norway will propose that Paragraph 6(3) be omitted and in its place the following substituted: “The season is open for humpback whaling from 1st February and the catch limited to 1,250 humpbacks. Notification of the catch is to be given at the end of every day's catch to the Committee of International Whaling Statistics, Sandefjord and the Committee shall determine on the basis of the data provided, the date on which the maximum catch of humpback whales shall be deemed to have been reached and shall notify the master of each factory ship and each Contracting Government not less than 4 days in advance of that date. The killing or attempting to kill humpback whales by whale catchers attached to factory ships shall be illegal in any waters south of 40° South Latitude after midnight (24 hours) of the date so determined.”

(i) *Paragraph 7(a)*, third line, for “7 January” substitute “(—) January”. (Proposed by Japan and Norway.)

(j) *Paragraph 8(a)*, fourth line, for 1957/58 substitute (1958/59).
Paragraph 8(c), seventh line, for 1957/58 substitute (1958/59).

23. Miscellaneous Correspondence (if any) to be reported.

24. Whale marking. Arrangements for recovery of marks.

25. Availability of Commission Documents.

26. Any other business.

27. Date of next meeting (to be held in London in 1959).

28. Arrangements for Press Release.

Note:—Items 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22 and 24 might be referred in the first instance to the appropriate Committee or Committees for consideration.

APPENDIX III

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF TENTH MEETING AT THE HAGUE

1. At the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands the Commission held its Tenth Meeting at The Hague.

2. The first plenary session opened on Monday, 23rd June, 1958 when the

Commissioners and their advisers were welcomed by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Mr. Vondeling) who spoke of the aims and objects of the Commission and stressed the need for the closest co-operation between all those concerned and the adjustment of opposing opinions. The Minister's speech was fully recorded.

3. The meeting stood in silence as a tribute to the late Dr. A. Kodaki, for many years the Japanese Commissioner.

4. The Commissioners were present from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Union of South Africa, U.S.S.R., United Kingdom and the United States of America, and were in many cases accompanied by experts. Brazil, Mexico and Panama were not represented.

5. Representatives were also present, as observers, from Italy and Portugal and from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Association of Whaling Companies and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

6. At the outset of the First Plenary Session, the Commission approved its agenda, with one modification. It was decided to postpone the election of the new chairman (and vice-chairman) until the end of the agenda, as it was deemed more convenient that the present holders should continue until the conclusion of the meeting.

7. The Commission then considered a proposal by the Japanese Commissioner that the membership of the Finance and Administration Committee should be increased from 3 to 5. This was agreed.

8. In compliance with the Rules of Procedure, the Commission was polled as to the membership of the Scientific and Technical Committees.

The Scientific Committee was constituted as follows:—

Australia (Mr. Setter), Canada (Mr. Clark), France (Dr. Budker), Japan (Dr. Omura), Netherlands (Prof. Slijper), New Zealand (Mr. Corner), Norway (Prof. Ruud), Sweden (Mr. Agren or Mr. Belgind), U.S.S.R. (Mr. Bodrov), U.K. (Dr. Mackintosh), U.S.A. (Dr. Kellogg), accompanied by experts. Dr. Mackintosh (U.K.) was subsequently elected Chairman.

9. The Technical Committee was constituted as follows:—

Australia (Mr. Crichton-Brown), Canada (Mr. Clark), France (Mr. Gribelin), Japan (Mr. Fujita), Netherlands (Mr. Drost), New Zealand (Mr. Corner), Norway (Mr. Jahn), South Africa (Mr. Brand), Sweden (Mr. Agren or Mr. Belding), U.S.S.R. (Capt. Solyanik), U.K. (Mr. Wall), U.S.A. (Mr. Blow), accompanied by experts. Mr. Wall (U.K.) was subsequently elected Chairman.

10. The Chairman nominated the following to be members of the Finance and Administration Committee:—

Mr. Jahn (Norway), Mr. Fujita (Japan), Mr. Clark (Canada), Dr. Kellogg (U.S.A.), and Mr. Hertoft (Denmark). Mr. Jahn was subsequently elected Chairman.

11. It was again reported to the Commission that the Protocol for the amendment of the International Whaling Convention 1946 dated 2nd December, 1956 had not been ratified by all concerned, no ratifications having been received from Brazil, Mexico and Panama. This made it impossible for the Commission to deal with certain amendments of the Schedule, and in particular the Norwegian proposal for the appointment by the Commission of an "Observer" on each factory ship. Prior to the conclusion of the conference, the Commission discussed whether any useful action could be taken in the meantime to break the present deadlock. Various suggestions were put forward and the Commission

decided that Commissioners should bring the matter to the notice of their Governments to see whether they could take any useful action to persuade the three non-ratifying countries to end the impasse.

12. Most of the items on the approved Agenda were referred to one or other of the three Committees.

13. As the result of the Report of the Finance and Administration Committee, the following decisions were reached.

(a) The expenditure and income account for the year 1957/58 was approved (Document I(A) Revised), the expenditure amounting to £2,958 10s. 4d. and the carry forward to £871 10s. 2d. It was noted that Panama's contribution of £200 was again outstanding.

(b) The Budget for 1958/59 (Document I(B) Revised) was also approved, the expenditure being estimated at £2,950 which included a sum of £500 for whale marking.

On the assumption that all contributions were paid, it was estimated that the carry forward (£1,321 10s. 2d.) would be somewhat larger than that in the previous year, owing to some extent to the generosity of the Netherlands Government in meeting some of the costs of the Annual Meeting.

(c) The Commission learned of the Secretary's resignation, but took note of his willingness to remain, if so desired, until 1st May, 1959, by which date it was hoped that his successor would be available.

(d) The Commission decided to offer appointment, as successor to the present Secretary, to Mr. R. S. Wimpenny, O.B.E., M.Sc., Director of Fisheries Research in England and Wales, and it was hoped that he would assume office, on his retirement from his present post, as from 1st May, 1959. The appointment was to be generally on the same terms as in the case of the present Secretary. The remuneration was to be £550 p.a., with an additional allowance of £100 for travelling expenses in connection with the day-to-day work of the Commission. Mr. Wimpenny lives at some distance from London.

(e) The Commission recognised that the fixing of the travelling expenses of their staff was the Commission's responsibility and no one else's. As regards the present meeting held abroad, the Commission fixed the subsistence rate at £5 per night.

(f) The next meeting of the Commission was fixed for 22nd June, 1959 and following days in London.

14. At the first Plenary Meeting, the Commission heard from Mr. Vangstein, the Director of the Committee for International Whaling Statistics, a review of the catch for the season 1957/58 (pelagic whaling) and for the season 1957 (land stations), the figures having already been circulated in great detail to all present at the meeting. Mr. Vangstein's review is fully recorded in the verbatim report of the Plenary Meetings, but the following figures may be quoted:—

20 factory ships with 237 catchers were engaged in the Antarctic season and the total catch by floating factories in the Antarctic amounted to 2,146,850 barrels inclusive of sperm oil, there being 6 barrels to the ton. If the catch of land stations is included, the total is raised to 2,318,479 barrels inclusive of sperm oil.

15. As a good many matters under consideration by the Commission concerned both the Scientific Committee and the Technical Committee, contact between the two Committees was maintained. The Report of both Committees were received and approved. The following conclusions emerged.

16. The Commission endorsed the view expressed by the Scientific Committee that there should be no alteration in the present opening date in the Antarctic Whaling season (7th January).

17. The Commission also endorsed the Committee's view that there was no evidence at present of any decline in the stock of sperm whales with which the North Pacific is mainly concerned, but agreed that the strict observance of the minimum length for this species is important.

18. As regards blue whales in the North Atlantic catching of which is now prohibited (except in the case of two objecting countries, Denmark and Iceland) until 24th February, 1960, the Committee were in favour of an extension of the prohibition for another five years, but the Commission finally decided to defer consideration of this proposal. The representative of Iceland had already made it clear that Iceland were unable to withdraw their original objection.

19. As regards what is known as the Sanctuary Area, the Scientific Committee were somewhat apprehensive about the condition of the stock in this area, but they preferred to wait until next year's meeting before recommending that the Sanctuary should remain open for the season 1959/60. From a purely biological point of view, the Committee felt that no step should be taken now to keep the Sanctuary open in 1959/60. The Technical Committee merely stated that representatives from some countries thought that there was much to be said, from the industrial point of view, for letting the industry know in good time ahead whether any change as regards the Sanctuary Area was to be made. When the matter came before the Commission, a poll was taken as to whether the Sanctuary Area should remain open for another year from 8th November, 1959, or whether it should be closed again after that date. Six voted in favour, six against, with two abstentions. The proposal that the Sanctuary should remain open for another year was not therefore carried.

20. The question of the Antarctic Catch of humpback whales was again the subject of considerable discussion on the basis of two alternative suggestions put forward by Norway. At present the catching of humpbacks is permitted in the Antarctic during the first four days of February. The original design in fixing these four days had been to keep the total catch at about 1,250 humpbacks, and by a majority the Scientific Committee thought that this target was about right subject to an annual review, but the Scientific Committee were not in a position to suggest how this figure should be attained. The Japanese representative wanted the four day period in February to be advanced to the period 20th-23rd January, but this was rejected by the Technical Committee by a majority of 4 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions, Sweden and New Zealand being absent. When the matter came before the Commission, the proposal was withdrawn.

The Norwegian Representative had proposed that the Antarctic humpback season should be extended from 4 to 8 days, to which an amendment was moved by the United Kingdom that the 4 days should be extended from 4 to 6 days in the year 1958/59. This was defeated in Committee by 5 votes to 4, Sweden and New Zealand being absent.

When the matter came before the Commission in plenary session, an increase from 4 to 6 days (instead of to 8 days) in respect of 1958/59 was again moved by Norway, and seconded by the United Kingdom, but on a poll being taken was rejected by 7 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions. The period for taking humpbacks therefore remains at 4 days, 1st to 4th February both inclusive.

At the same session, an alternative proposal by Norway that the number of humpbacks should be fixed at 1,250 was withdrawn.

21. The proposal to extend for another five years the protection of humpbacks in Area II and in the North Atlantic was accepted, but it was decided to

describe Area II as that between 0° Longitude and 60° West Longitude (instead of 70° Longitude as now provided). This involved amendments to the Schedule (see later).

22. The Scientific Committee discussed at great length the question as to the suitable blue whale unit limit which stands at 15,000 (but 14,500 in 1957/58). The Netherlands proposed that the limit should be raised to 16,000, excluding humpbacks, because in their view there was not sufficient evidence to justify a lower limit. Mr. Drost (in support of the case submitted to the Commission in writing) addressed the Commission at some length and was followed by a statement by Mr. Wall.

23. Finally the Commission decided by a majority to accept the Scientific Committee's view that the stock of whales is declining and that the present level of catching is too high. A motion to retain the 14,500 limit for another year (1958/59) was finally passed, with the Netherlands dissenting. This involved an amendment of the Schedule (see later).

24. The Technical Committee discussed the question of Implementing Legislation, and, on their recommendation, the Commission decided that Contracting Governments should be asked to transmit to the Secretary any laws and regulations supplementary to those summarised in the Commission's Third and Fourth Reports, in order that the position might be brought up-to-date and any additional information summarised at the next meeting.

25. The Commission considered certain representations from the World Federation for the Protection of Animals on the subject of the humane killing of whales. The Commission decided to inform the Federation that over a number of years the British and Norwegian Whaling Industries had spent large sums of money on research on the Development of new methods of killing by means of an electric harpoon, and in other directions. The experiments with the electric harpoon as a more humane method than the present explosive head had not shown this to be the case. The Commission did not accept the charge that the present method was inhumane. A high percentage of whales was killed instantly and improved catching techniques had very substantially shortened the sufferings of those not killed outright. The Commissioners were glad to note that various experiments were still proceeding, but they considered that the Federation's letters disclosed that statements had been made based on inadequate evidence and a lack of knowledge and were of a damaging nature.

The Commission fully accepted the spirit of the Resolution adopted at the Geneva Conference on the Law of the Sea and agreed that every effort should be made to avoid suffering.

26. The New Zealand Commissioner drew the attention of the Technical Committee to the possibility that Articles IX (3) and (4) were not being properly complied with. There seemed to be doubt as to precise intention of these provisions; whether they meant that a prosecution must be taken whenever an infraction occurred or merely that if a prosecution was instituted it must be taken by the appropriate government. The Commission decided that each Contracting Government should be invited to supply a statement of its policy under these provisions of the Convention.

It was also decided that Contracting Governments should in submitting details of infractions explain what action they had taken or why they had decided to take no action over and above the withholding of bonus payments.

27. The Commission took note of the work done by F.A.O. in devising a system of notation which can further the standardization of methods of statistical work on animal populations. The system consists essentially of the adoption of a variety of standard symbols to replace a variety of different symbols at

present in use. The Commission recommended that these symbols should be listed and sent to Commissioners for transmission to the Scientists concerned.

28. The Technical Committee considered correspondence with South Africa as to the interpretation of "meat" in Paragraph 9 of the Schedule. The South African Government view was that the provision was intended to assist those countries where meat, as meat, from land animals was in short supply, while the South African industry felt that the term "meat" did not exclude processed meat.

The Commission decided to support the view of the South African Government, but also decided that Contracting Governments should be asked to give consideration to the question of clarifying and if necessary revising Paragraph 9 of the Schedule, so that the question of its interpretation should be beyond doubt.

29. Both the Technical and Scientific Committees devoted considerable attention to the problem of whale marking, including the recovery of marks and the payment of rewards.

30. It was reported that 68 marks had been recovered and a further 850 whales had been marked in the Antarctic and in Australian and New Zealand waters. Two of the marked whales recovered, were shown to have been marked 23 years ago.

31. The Commission expressed their appreciation of the preparations made by the Netherland Authorities to enable the proper decisions to be reached on this somewhat involved subject. The Commission considered a large number of different proposals and came to the general conclusion that it would be unwise at this stage to upset the present arrangements which had been evolved over a period of 20 years, even though some marks were unavoidably overlooked in factory ships. A large number of points was suggested for the improvement of the present system, and the Commission decided that these should be summarized in a document to be sent to all concerned.

32. The Commission took note of the progress reports that had been provided by a number of countries and considered that they would be valuable to the various scientists engaged in whale research.

33. The Commission decided that a Scientific Sub-Committee, consisting of representatives of the same countries as before should again meet in the spring of 1959 under the chairmanship of Dr. Mackintosh (U.K.) who would fix the date.

34. In this connection the Australian Commission pleaded (mainly on the grounds of expense and the fact that the fullest statistical figures were not available in the Spring) for a shifting of the date of this Sub-Committee's meeting to the week preceding the Annual Meeting.

35. The question of the availability of Commission documents, which was raised at the 1958 meeting by the U.K. Commissioner was referred to the Finance and Administration Committee who recommended that the Verbatim Report should be regarded as confidential and so marked. They also considered that scientific papers submitted by Research workers for the benefit of the Commission should not be reproduced except with the Author's permission.

These recommendations provoked considerable discussion at a plenary session and the Commission finally decided by a majority of 10 votes to 3 (there being one abstention) that the verbatim reports of Commission Meetings should be regarded as papers for transmission to the Contracting Governments not for general public distribution and quotations should not be permitted in a public press or in trade journals from the verbatim reports. The Scientific Committee's

view that scientific papers submitted to the Commission should not be published without the Author's consent was accepted.

36. The list of infractions circulated to the Commission in Document III was examined in the first instance by a sub-committee set up by the Technical Committee, consisting of representatives of Australia, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, the U.K. and the U.S.S.R. Mr. Leach (U.K.) was elected Chairman.

The Sub-Committee's task was rendered more difficult by the failure of certain countries to render their returns in time to be incorporated in the document referred to, and the Sub-Committee desired that Contracting Governments should be approached, and also recommended that the time for receiving the returns should be earlier than 15th June.

37. The following facts emerged from the Sub-Committee's Report:—

(a) The number of under-sized whales taken by the U.S.S.R. was less in 1957/58 than in the previous season; this being attributable to the larger number of catchers affording the gunners a chance of selecting whales more carefully.

(b) The number of under-sized whales taken generally in the Antractic was about the same as in the previous season, but the position was considered as reasonably satisfactory.

(c) The proportion of lactating whales taken in the Antarctic was much lower than in the previous season.

(d) The number of lost whales seemed to show little significant change, most of the losses being due to poor visibility or bad weather. The Sub-Committee drew attention to the importance of adequate flagging.

(e) The Sub-Committee noted that apparently three humpback whales had been taken by the Faroe Islands in contravention of Paragraph 6(i) of the Schedule, but no contravention had been reported by Denmark who undertook to look into the matter.

(f) The Sub-Committee noted that the previous season's infractions committed by all whaling fleets had been made available on board all factory ships, as had been suggested at the 1957 meeting. The Commission adopted the Sub-Committee's report.

38. It has already been indicated that certain amendments to the Schedule were approved by the Commission and for convenience they are indicated hereunder and have been communicated to all Contracting Governments.

Paragraph 6(1)

At end omit the words "*of five years*" and substitute the words "*ending on 8th November, 1964.*"

Paragraph 6(2)

In line 2, for 70° read 60°. At end omit words "*of five years*" and substitute the words "*ending on 8th November, 1964.*"

Paragraph 8(a)

For 1957/58 in fourth line read 1958/59.

Paragraph 8(c)

For 1957/58 in penultimate line read 1958/59.

39. Before the conference closed, the Chairman paid a tribute to the retiring Secretary, and the Commission then proceeded to elect, as Chairman, Mr. R. G. R. Wall (U.K., the present Vice-Chairman), and Mr. G. R. Clark (Canada) as Vice-Chairman, each for a period of three years. A warm expression of appreciation for his services was extended to Mr. G. J. Lienesch (Netherlands) the retiring Chairman.

A. T. A. DOBSON

Secretary, 10th July, 1958.

G. J. LIENESCH

Chairman.

APPENDIX IV

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE, 1959

1. The Scientific Sub-Committee set up at the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Commission held in The Hague, met at 10 Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1, on Tuesday, 17th March, 1959, at 10 a.m. and continued their deliberations during the three following days.

2. There were present Dr. Mackintosh in the Chair, accompanied by Dr. Laws (U.K.), Dr. Budker (France), Dr. Omura and Mr. Ohkuchi (Japan), Prof. Dr. Slijper and Dr. Drion (Netherlands), Professor Dr. Ruud and Dr. Jonsgard (Norway), Dr. Zenkovich and Dr. Fedorov (U.S.S.R.). The Secretary of the Commission was in attendance accompanied by Mr. Wimpenny and Mr. Butterworth.

3. The Chairman welcomed members of the Sub-Committee who had before them the following papers:—

- (1) On the Opening Date of Humpbacks in the Antarctic.
 - (2) Japanese Whaling in the North Pacific.
 - (3) Research on whales and whaling: Japan.
- (1), (2) and (3) were furnished by Japan.
- (4) Progress Report on Research (April, 1958 to March, 1959) furnished by the United Kingdom.
 - (5) Report on the Progress of Scientific Research made by the Netherlands Whale Research Group, furnished by the Netherlands.
 - (6) U.S.S.R. Whaling in the North Pacific.
 - (7) U.S.S.R. Whale Marking (1) Antarctic, (2) North Pacific.
 - (8) List of U.S.S.R. Publications 1958/59.
- (6), (7) and (8) were furnished by the U.S.S.R.

4. The Sub-Committee then approved its agenda and dealt with the various items as follows:—

(5) *Catch Statistics*

The Sub-Committee were in some difficulty on this occasion because, owing to the date of Easter and the need to prepare the final version of the Commission's Agenda, it was necessary to hold the meeting a week earlier. It happened that the Antarctic whaling season closed the day before the Sub-Committee met and they did not have any figures for the number and distribution of the catches of the separate species. Members had, however, given further consideration to the full statistics presented at the tenth meeting of the Commission in 1958, and in a discussion on the subject the following points were noted.

The percentage of blue whales in the combined catch of blue and fin has been rather stable in the past four years. This suggests that the decline of the blue whale stock may have been arrested for the time being, although there is no certainty about this.

The trend of the average length of blue whales over a period of years shows a tendency to fall. The lengths of fin whales as a whole seem fairly stable, though the lengths of males seem to fall a little. A tendency for the percentage of immature fin whales in the catch to increase is not re-assuring.

There is still no certain explanation of the large increase in the Antarctic catch of sei whales, but there is some reason to think that this can be attributed in part to sea temperatures above the average and to the value of the meat of the sei whales for human consumption.

(6) Condition of the Antarctic Stocks.

The Sub-Committee thought there may be more to say on this subject when further information is available on the catches in 1958/59, and on the catching programme for 1959/60. Meanwhile they had a general discussion and review of the subject.

They dealt first with blue whales. Although it is hoped that the decline of this species is arrested, the Sub-Committee would like to emphasise the greater economic importance of a blue whale compared with an individual of any other species. It would surely be to the long-term advantage of the industry if a large population of blue whales could be revived and maintained, but the majority of the Sub-Committee see no prospect of the Antarctic stock recovering under the present rate of exploitation. On the other hand, of course, if the catch of blue whales were reduced by a given number, the catch of fin whales (with a fixed limit in blue whale units) would increase by about double that number. The Sub-Committee think that the late opening date for the taking of blue whales has at least been effective up to a point, and they earnestly hope that this species will continue to receive no less protection in the Antarctic than it does now.

In regard to fin whales it was noted first that the Antarctic season closed on the same date as in the last two years but their interpretation of this fact is subject to inspection of such points as the ratio of species, the percentage immature, and the distribution of the catch.

Apart from this the discussion mainly centred around the scientific data and the reliability of estimates of such parameters as age distribution and catching effort on which previous calculations of the condition of the stock have relied.

The whole breeding cycle is becoming better known and increased attention is now being paid to studies of age distribution. Considerable collections of baleen, ovaries and ear plugs are being made from year to year. For statistical purposes this material needs to be taken from as many whales as possible and laborious work is involved in examining the material and tabulating and analysing the data. The results from the 1957/58 season are not fully analysed yet, and it is important that the work should proceed now more expeditiously.

Generally speaking recent analyses of the data tend to confirm the validity of the methods of age determination. Age recordings by the three different criteria are well but not completely correlated, but the discrepancies are attributed to individual variations among the whales. There seems, however, to be a sound basis for certain statistical treatments. For the accurate reading of absolute age, some direct confirmation, for example from marks recovered from whales marked at a known age (as has been done in Australian waters), would still be re-assuring.

It was recalled that calculations of the condition of the stock made by Professor Ruud, Professor Ottestad and their colleagues, had indicated a decline in the stock of fin whales which depended on the validity of certain estimated parameters. Calculations of mortality rates based on counts of corpora albicantia and on age determinations from baleen plates show close agreement, and if valid, imply an over-fishing of the stocks of fin whales. Apart from this, there is evidence of a progressive change in the catches towards younger animals being taken, and this is taken by the majority of the Sub-Committee to be a sign of a declining population. The Sub-Committee have no new recommendations to make, though the majority maintain the view they put forward last year, namely that the balance of evidence indicates an excessive catch, and record their regret that, in the last season, the total limit had in fact been raised from 14,500 to 15,000 units.

(7) The Antarctic Whaling Season

The Sub-Committee recommend no change in the opening dates of the baleen

season or for blue whales under the present conditions of whaling. If, however, a system of whaling by quotas should have the effect of spreading the catch in time, it may be that some advance in the opening date will be asked for. They recommend that in any case the opening date for blue whales should not be advanced (see paragraph 6). If extra time is needed for the catching of other species, they would prefer that such extra time should not all be put before 7th January.

(8) *Sei Whales*

In the absence of news about the catches in 1958/59 the Sub-Committee had no further observations to make on this species beyond what was noted from last year's statistics.

(9) *Sanctuary*

The Sub-Committee have not seen details of the distribution of the catches in 1958/59, including the number of whales taken in the sanctuary area, but they are prepared to recommend that the sanctuary be kept open in the season of 1959/60.

(10) *Whaling in the North Pacific*

The Sub-Committee received some further information about the catches in the North Pacific in 1958, and draw attention again to the large and increasing numbers of sperm whales taken in this region. There appears to be no evidence of depletion of the sperm whale stock at present and the Sub-Committee affirm again that the minimum length set for this species should be effective in preventing depletion. It is, of course, important that this minimum should be strictly adhered to. They observed that, in the provisional statistics for 1957, a very large number of sperm whales were recorded at just over the minimum length.

(11) *Blue Whales in the North Atlantic*

The Sub-Committee again noted with regret that blue whales are still allowed to be taken from Iceland and the Faroe Islands. In the past few years the catch has tended to diminish, and although this gives no conclusive evidence as to the condition of the stock, it would be consistent with a further decline of the stock. The protection of blue whales in this region, which was agreed upon in 1955, expires in February, 1960. The Sub-Committee recommend very strongly that this species should receive total protection in the North Atlantic for a period of five years from 1960.

(12) *Humpbacks*

When this item was dealt with, the Sub-Committee did not have the advantage of reports on the humpback whaling in Australia and New Zealand. They realise the difficulty of analysing last year's data in time for the preparation of a report, but hope such reports will be available in good time before the Commission's meeting. They gave consideration, however, to the question of the Antarctic catch of humpbacks, and understand that a considerably larger number may have been taken in February, 1959 in the four days allowed than in most previous seasons. Reports of numbers of humpbacks seen by Japanese catchers in Areas IV and V in the season of 1957/58 give some slight re-assurance as to the condition of the stock in that region, though a fuller analysis of the kind given in previous Australian and New Zealand reports would carry more weight. Otherwise there is no new evidence relative to the Antarctic catch of humpbacks, and this question was very fully discussed and reported upon in the Sub-Committee's report last year. It is again agreed that if the Commission can find a suitable method of limitation by numbers rather than by days, the figure of 1,250 (or an average of 1,250 achieved by adjustment year by year) is the best the Sub-Committee can propose.

Last year it was suggested that the opening date for humpbacks should be advanced, though this was not accepted by the Commission. If limitation by

days is retained, and if the opening date should be reconsidered, the Sub-Committee see no strong objection to taking humpbacks in January rather than in February, but suggest that this should be further discussed if necessary by the Scientific Committee.

The Sub-Committee desire to place on record again the views contained in their previous report, namely that the humpback stock in Groups II and III is still in a weak condition, and recommend that no increased catching in the Antarctic or tropical and temperate parts of the South Atlantic should be undertaken without careful consideration.

(13) *Whale Marking.*

At the request of the Commission the Secretary and the Chairman of the Scientific Committee prepared a circular with recommendations as to the use of posters and the scale and method of payment for recovered marks. It was prompted by the need to improve the efficiency of collecting and forwarding marks from whales in factories and was sent out in September, 1958. This was referred to at the meeting of the Sub-Committee, but little information was available as to whether whaling companies had undertaken to pay rewards and whether any rewards of £5 had been paid up to date. It appears, however, that pending further information, a reward of £1 is generally expected to be paid in respect of the season of 1958/59.

Full information about the progress of whale marking in the 1958/59 season will be available later. Meanwhile the Sub-Committee heard that a good number had been marked in the Antarctic by the Japanese and U.S.S.R. authorities, in the waters of Australia, New Zealand and some South West Pacific islands by the Australian and New Zealand Authorities, and in the North Pacific by the U.S.S.R. and Japanese authorities. The number of marks recovered since the last meeting of the Commission is probably well over 100.

The Sub-Committee recommend that the Commission should again make some contribution to the cost of whale marking.

(14) *Progress of Research*

Dr. Omura said that in addition to what was described in the Japanese Progress Report there was a new photographic method of studying age from baleen plates.

Dr. Mackintosh said the United Kingdom report did not necessarily cover all work on whales in the United Kingdom, but that which was relevant to the Commission's work.

In regard to the Netherlands Report, Prof. Slijper said that good material was accumulating from observations on whales from ships.

Dr. Zenkovich said he hoped a report on U.S.S.R. research would be ready for the Commission's meeting, and Prof. Ruud expected to have one also on Norwegian research.

(15) *Date of Future Meetings*

At the 10th Meeting of the Commission, the question of the most suitable time for the meeting of the Scientific Sub-Committee was raised on behalf of Australia, objections being advanced to the expense involved in attending a special meeting in the spring. It was then decided that the whole question of the time of Meetings of Committees should be discussed at the next Meeting of the Commission, and a suitable item has accordingly been included in the Agenda for the 11th Annual Meeting.

The Sub-Committee are not, of course, concerned with Committees other than the Scientific Sub-Committee and the pros and cons of the matter may be briefly summarised as follows. The holding of the Scientific Sub-Committee

Meeting in the early spring (March) has the advantage of enabling the Commission to be appraised of their findings at the time of the circulation of the Agenda, which has to go out sixty days before the meeting. On the other hand the earlier the Sub-Committee Meeting, the greater the difficulty of ensuring that the necessary catch figures and other papers are available for examination. At the same time there is the great expense involved in securing the attendance of all the scientists concerned at a special meeting and this cannot be overlooked. Furthermore there must always be a considerable amount of duplication if the full Scientific Committee has to examine the findings of the Sub-Committee. This they have to do in a very short time.

It would, of course, be possible to postpone the meeting of the Scientific Sub-Committee until just before the Annual Meeting and that would have the effect of rendering the Scientific Committee largely superfluous as the Sub-Committee's findings could come direct to the Commission at their plenary session.

The matter has to be considered from a great many points of view and is not free from difficulty, but on the whole the Sub-Committee are inclined to recommend that the Scientific Sub-Committee should in future meet at the beginning of the week preceding that in which the Annual Meeting is held, and should complete their report for presentation to the Commission direct. The Sub-Committee are fortified in this recommendation by the fact that the figures of catch statistics should be available and capable of adequate examination by the time the Sub-Committee met on this new date. Indeed if there should be a system of quotas which had the effect of prolonging the catching time, it may be impossible to have any information about the catch before the end of March or even later. It would be of great help if detailed statistics could be circulated well in advance of the June meeting.

The implication of this proposal should be made quite clear. It is, in effect, that the Scientific Committee and Sub-Committee, as at present constituted, should both disappear, and that there should be a meeting of a new Scientific Committee immediately before that of the Commission. It is regarded as important that the members should be exclusively scientists, i.e., that its membership should be similar to that of the present Sub-Committee. If this is not acceptable to the Commission then the Sub-Committee would prefer the present system with the usual Sub-Committee meeting in March.

One of the advantages of the Scientific Sub-Committee's Report being available for circulation with the Agenda lies in the fact that their findings usually involve a number of amendments of the Schedule, and sixty days' notice of these amendments is required. Even if the recommendations of the Scientific Sub-Committee are not available by the time the Agenda goes out, there is still no reason why the Schedule amendments should not be included in the Agenda so long as Commissioners are prepared to co-operate in the selection of the various items of the Agenda.

A member of the Sub-Committee raised the question of the short time which would be available for any further consideration between the date of the Committee and the date of the Commission meeting.

If the Sub-Committee meeting in March is abandoned it is felt that some contact may nevertheless be needed between scientists concerned during the period between the meetings of the Commission. It is felt that the Whaling Committee of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea would offer one way of meeting this need.

(16) *Retiring Secretary*

This meeting of the Sub-Committee was the last occasion on which Mr. Dob-

son, as Secretary, attended a gathering concerned with the Commission's work, and members of the Sub-Committee would like to put on record their great appreciation of the assistance and guidance he has invariably given to the Sub-Committee.

On behalf of the Sub-Committee
N. A. MACKINTOSH,
Chairman.

March, 1959.

APPENDIX V

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LONDON WHALING CONFERENCE OF NOVEMBER, 1958

The following is the text of the recommendations made to the Governments concerned following a meeting of representatives from Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the U.S.S.R. and the United Kingdom in London during November, 1958:—

Recommendations of the Five-Power Whaling Conference

Representatives of the Governments of the five nations engaged in Antarctic pelagic whaling, namely Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R., who have been meeting in London have agreed to recommend to their Governments an agreement among the five nations for the conduct of Antarctic pelagic whaling as follows:—

1. That in the interest of the rational conduct of the Antarctic pelagic whale fishery under the International Whaling Convention of 1946 a scheme shall be negotiated providing for the allocation of the annual total catch authorised under the Convention among the five nations now engaged in the fishery.

2. That the scheme shall cover the seven-year period beginning with the 1959/60 Antarctic pelagic whaling season.

3. That during this seven-year period the U.S.S.R. may add not more than three new factory ships to their existing fleet operating in the Antarctic; but that with this exception none of the five nations shall increase the number of its factory ships operating in the Antarctic during the seven-year period other than by purchase one from another of factory ships engaged at the time of purchase in Antarctic pelagic whaling.

4. That none of the factory ships belonging to the five countries shall be transferred to another country, being party to the Convention, unless a proportionate part of the quota of the vendor's country is transferred to the purchaser's country which shall agree to accept the obligations of this agreement, or unless the purchaser gives a satisfactory guarantee that the factory ship will not be used as such in Antarctic pelagic whaling during the seven-year period of this agreement.

5. That 20 per cent of the annual total catch authorised under the Convention shall be allocated to the U.S.S.R. and that the remaining 80 per cent of the authorised total catch shall be divided among the four other nations in a manner satisfactory to them.

6. That if a factory ship under any other flag should enter the Antarctic pelagic whale fishery (otherwise than as provided in clause 4) and the Government of the flag country is or becomes party to the International Whaling Convention, the agreement between the present five nations shall be null and void.

The discussions as to the allocation among Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom of the total share available to them are to be concluded with a view to the agreement among the five nations being finalised before 1st June, 1959.

TORU NAKAGAWA

For the Japanese Delegation

L. DE WAAL

For the Netherlands Delegation

GUSTAV SJAASTAD

For the Norwegian Delegation

A. ISHKOV

For the Delegation of the Union
of Soviet Socialist Republics

J. B. GODBER

For the Delegation of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland

LONDON, 27th November, 1958.

APPENDIX VI

NOTICES OF WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CONVENTION

1. NORWAY (29th December, 1958)

The Ambassador of Norway presents his compliments to the Honorable the Secretary of State and, acting upon instructions from his Government, has the honor to communicate the following to the Government of the United States as depositary Government for the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, signed in Washington on December 2, 1946:

In accordance with Article XI of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, the Government of Norway hereby gives notice of its withdrawal from the said Convention on June 30, 1959.

In this connection the Government of Norway wishes to make the following declaration:

Should the negotiations for an agreement between the five nations engaged in pelagic whaling in the Antarctic on the rational conduct of the whale fisheries have reached a satisfactory conclusion before that date, providing for the proportional allocation between them of the annual total catch under the Convention, the above notice of withdrawal will be cancelled.

Washington, D.C., December 29, 1958

2. THE NETHERLANDS (31st December, 1958)

The Netherlands Ambassador presents his compliments to the Honorable the Acting Secretary of State and has the honor to inform Mr. Herter that the Netherlands Government hereby gives notice of its withdrawal from the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling as from the 30th of June, 1959, in accordance with the provisions of Article XI of the Convention.

Upon instructions received, Dr. van Roijen may add that the Netherlands Government only reluctantly proceeds to the unilateral denunciation of a convention and that for this reason such a step is taken only in cases of extreme necessity. Consequently the Netherlands Government would leave nothing undone that could possibly contribute to a solution of the pending problems to

the satisfaction of all parties before its withdrawal from the Convention becomes effective. If such a solution could be reached before the 30th of June, 1959, the Netherlands Government would be glad to cancel the announced withdrawal and to observe its commitments under the Convention as before.

Washington, D.C., December 31, 1958

3. JAPAN (6th February, 1959)

The Ambassador of Japan presents his compliments to the Honorable the Secretary of State and has the honor to inform the Government of the United States as Depository Government for the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling signed at Washington on December 2, 1946, of the following:

In accordance with the provisions of Article XI of the Convention, the Government of Japan hereby gives notice of its withdrawal from the Convention to be effective on June 30th, 1959.

In this connection, the Government of Japan wishes to state that the above notice of withdrawal may be cancelled in the light of circumstances that may arise before June 30, 1959.

Embassy of Japan, Washington, February 6, 1959

APPENDIX VII

PROVISIONAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY, 1959

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Secretary's fees	550	0	0	Contributions for 1958/59 from 17 Con-	3,400	0
Administrative, clerical and typing staff provided by the				tracting Governments at £200 each ..	50	0
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food and overhead				Less written off from Denmark 1957/58 ..		
expenses of the Ministry	1,000	0	0		3,350	0
Travelling and subsistence	149	15	5			
Rent of Secretary's Office	150	0	0			
Stationery, printing and postage	349	16	4			
Cost of Annual Meeting and contingencies	67	12	3			
Whale marking and other Scientific work	500	0	0			
Balance, being excess of income over expenditure, trans-						
ferred to Balance Sheet	582	16	0			
	£3,350	0	0			
						£3,350 0 0

PROVISIONAL BALANCE SHEET, 31ST MAY, 1959

	LIABILITIES			ASSETS		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food	27	6	6	Cash at Paymaster General	2,070	19 8
Ministry of Works	2	19	4	Less Payable Orders outstanding 31st May, 1959	544	18 0
Government Hospitality Fund	51	11	4			
Secretary	37	6	4	Outstanding contribution—Panama	200	0 0
Her Majesty's Stationery Office and other Stationery				Less Previous overpayment	2	12 0
Suppliers	100	0	0			
Income and Expenditure Account:						
Balance 1st June, 1958	921	10	2			
Add Balance transferred 31st May, 1959	582	16	0			
	1,504	6	2			
	£1,723	9	8			
						£1,723 9 8

Secretary,
International Whaling Commission.

APPENDIX VIII

SUMMARY OF INFRACTIONS

(The following details of infractions reported for the 1958/59 season (Antarctic) and 1958 season (Outside the Antarctic) should be regarded as an addition to the summary constituting Appendix VI to the Commission's Eighth Report.)

YEAR	Antarctic Season (Including South Georgia)						YEAR	Outside Antarctic				
	Whales taken	Undersized whales		Lactating whales	Whales lost	Whales remaining in sea over 33 hours		Whales taken	Undersized whales		Lactating whales	Whales lost
		No.	%						No.	%		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
1958/59	1,192	40	3·36	11	4	BLUE WHALES —	1958	133	2	1·50	—	—
1958/59	27,070	412	1·52	68	160	FIN WHALES 55	1958	3,711	53	1·43	11	6
1958/59	4,465	32	0·72	13	12	OTHER BALEEN 3	WHALES 1958	4,684	16	0·34	4	4
1958/59	5,608	2	0·04	—	8	SPERM 16	WHALES 1958	9,455	87	0·92	1	59.

APPENDIX IX

List of Reports received by the Commission during the year ended 31st May, 1959 (arranged under countries or organisations alphabetically with date of receipt in brackets).

China

Science Abstracts of China: Biology. The Institute of Scientific Information of Academia Sinica, Peking. (24th December, 1958)

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

The State of Food and Agriculture, 1958. (6th October, 1958)

Current Bibliography for Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries. Rome, January 1959. (14th April, 1959)

The Potential Contribution of Atomic Energy to Development in Agriculture and Related Industries F.A.O. (24th November, 1958)

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

Rapport de la quarante-sixieme reunion statutaire du Conseil. Copenhagen. (20th November, 1958)

Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council

Proceedings (6th Session, Sections I to III) I.P.F.C. Secretariat, F.A.O. Regional Office for Asia and the Far East, Bangkok. (2nd October, 1958)

International Commission for the North-West Atlantic Fisheries

Sampling Year Book. Vol. I for the years 1955 and 1956. Issued from the Commission Headquarters, Halifax, N.S., Canada. (12th August, 1958)

Japan

The Scientific Reports of the Whales Research Institute. The Whales Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan. September, 1958. (5th December, 1958)

Netherlands

Microscopic Structure of the Lungs of the Bottlenose Whale. Reprinted from Nature, Vol. 182, p. 479 only. August 16th, 1958. Printed in Great Britain by Fisher Knight & Co. Ltd., St. Albans. (24th September, 1958)

Beraad over Walvissen by Prof. Dr. E. J. Slijper, Zoölogische Laboratorium, Plantage Doklaan 44, Amsterdam-Z. (24th September, 1958)

De Adenwhaling van de Walvisachtigen, by Prof. Dr. E. J. Slijper. Zoölogische Laboratorium der Univasiteit van Amsterdam. (24th September, 1958)

Tien Jaar Walvisonderzoek, by Prof. Dr. E. J. Slijper. Zoölogische Laboratorium der Univasiteit van Amsterdam. (24th September, 1958)

De Microscopische Bouw van de Milt van Walvissen, by H. H. L. Zwillenberg. Reprinted from the Netherlands Tijdschrift voor Geneeskunde. Jaargang 102 Nos. 3-18, January 1958. (24th September, 1958)

On the Vascular System of Cetacea (XVth International Congress of Zoology, Sect. III, paper 38), by Prof. Dr. E. J. Slijper. Zoölogische Laboratorium, University of Amsterdam. (24th September, 1958)

Die Mikroskopische Anatomie der Milz der Furchenwale, by Helga H. L. Zwillenburg. Zoölogische Laboratorium der Universiteit, Amsterdam. (24th September, 1958)

Het Warenemen van Walvissen, by Prof. Dr. E. J. Slijper and W. L. van Utrecht, Zoölogische Laboratorium der Universiteit, Amsterdam. (24th September, 1958)

New Zealand

New Zealand catches of Humpback whales in recent years, by W. H. Dawbin. (Provisional—not for publication.) New Zealand Marine Department. (23rd June, 1958)

Norway

Finmarksfangsters: Histoire (Vol. I), 1864-1905, by Aene Odd Johnson, Oslo. H. Ashebourg & Co. (W. Nygaard). (7th April, 1959)

United Kingdom

Discovery Reports, Vol. XXIX, pp. 229-244. The Reliability of Deep-Sea Reversing Thermometers. National Institute of Oceanography. (17th June, 1958)

Annual Report of the National Oceanographic Council, 1957/58. Cambridge University Press. (13th January, 1959)

Discovery Reports, Vol. XXIX, pp. 281-308. The Foetal growth rates of whales with special reference to the Fin whales *Balaenoptera Physalus* Linn, by R. M. Laws. National Institute of Oceanography. Cambridge University Press, 1959. (31st March, 1959)

Discovery Reports. Distribution and Life History of *Euphausia Tricantha*. Holt and Tattersall, by A. de C. Baker. National Institute of Oceanography. Cambridge University Press, 1959. (26th April, 1959)

U.S.S.R.

Biology and Industry of Sea Mammals. Edited by Zenkovich, Candidate of biological Sciences, Moscow, 1958. (16th March, 1959)

TABLE SHOWING OIL PRODUCTION ETC. 1949/50—1958/59

Year (1)	ANTARCTIC PELAGIC WHALING						Land Stations South Georgia	Outside the Antarctic	TOTAL
	Baleen season	No. of floating factories	No. of catchers	No. of humpbacks taken (3)	No. of blue whale units (4)	Oil production in barrels (2)			
1949/50	22 Dec. 49– 15 Mar. 50	18	216	2,117	16,062	2,019,368	147,121	381,741	2,548,230
1950/51	22 Dec. 50– 9 Mar. 51	19	239	1,630	16,416	2,152,498	151,192	654,182	2,957,872
1951/52	2 Jan. 52– 5 Mar. 52	20	268	1,546	16,008	2,334,805	144,375	429,670	2,908,850
1952/53	2 Jan. 53– 16 Mar. 53	16	230	945	14,867	1,998,094	120,003	426,663	2,544,760
1953/54	2 Jan. 54– 18 Mar. 54	17	206	594	15,456	2,100,884	184,836	576,688	2,862,408
1954/55	7 Jan. 55– 19 Mar. 55	19	233	493	15,324	2,061,789	180,766	522,090	2,764,645
1955/56	7 Jan. 56– 4 Mar. 56	19	257	1,432	14,874	2,134,808	172,363	605,189	2,912,360
1956/57	7 Jan. 57– 16 Mar. 57	20	225	679	14,745	2,098,854	148,068	678,977	2,925,899
1957/58	7 Jan. 58– 16 Mar. 58	20	237	396	14,850	2,146,206	171,432	717,456	3,035,094
1958/59	7 Jan. 59– 16 Mar. 59	20	235	2,394	15,220	2,052,010	102,686	—	—

1. The years indicated in this column cover not only the Antarctic Season, but also the catches outside the Antarctic in the second of the two years.

2. Barrel—170 kg. (Barrel=abt. $\frac{1}{2}$ long ton=1,016 kg.).

3. The limit on the number of humpbacks taken was 1,250 during the seasons 1949/50, 1950/51, 1951/52, 1952/53, and thereafter the catch was confined to certain days.

4. The number of blue whale units was 16,000 until 1952/53 when it was reduced to 15,500 and then to 15,000 in 1955/56 and 14,500 in 1956/57. In 1957/58 the limit governing the Antarctic pelagic whaling countries was 15,000 units. The limit was again at this level in 1958/59.

