

# International Commission on Whaling

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

## NINTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

(covering the ninth fiscal year 1st June, 1957 to  
31st May, 1958)

*(As approved by the Commission at its tenth meeting at The Hague, June,  
1958, and authorised to be printed)*

LONDON

Issued from the Office of the Commission  
1958

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased by 1.5 million (1990–1999) and is projected to increase by a further 1.5 million by 2010 (Office of National Statistics 2000).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the health care needs of older people. The Department of Health (1999) has set out a vision for the future of health care for older people, and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) (2000) has produced guidance on the management of common conditions in older people. The Department of Health (1999) also states that the health care system should be able to meet the needs of older people in a way that is cost-effective, and that the health care system should be able to meet the needs of older people in a way that is sustainable. The Department of Health (1999) also states that the health care system should be able to meet the needs of older people in a way that is equitable.

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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
<i>Denmark</i>	...	...	...	...	Mr. J. NØRGAARD
<i>France</i>	...	...	...	...	Mr. P. GRIBELIN
<i>Iceland</i>	...	...	...	...	His Excellency, A. KL. JONSSON
<i>Japan</i>	...	...	...	...	Mr. I. FUJITA
<i>Mexico</i>	...	...	...	...	(Not yet appointed)
<i>Netherlands</i>	...	...	...	...	Dr. G. J. LIENESCH (Chairman) Mr. H. S. DROST
<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. U. ENEGREN
<i>U.S.S.R.</i>	...	...	...	...	Capt. A. N. SOLYANIK
<i>United Kingdom</i>	...	...	...	...	Mr. R. G. R. WALL (Vice-Chairman)
<i>U.S.A.</i>	...	...	...	...	Dr. REMINGTON KELLOGG

A. T. A. DOBSON,  
Secretary.

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

# International Whaling Commission

1. The Commission has pleasure in presenting its Ninth Annual Report covering the fiscal year 1st June, 1957, to 31st May, 1958.

2. In its Eighth Report, the Commission broke new ground in that a considerable portion of that report was devoted to a description "of the way in which the regulation of whaling came about and the broad objectives of the International Whaling Convention of 1946." The present report therefore deals mainly with the measures and regulations which have been considered by the Commission in the year under review, and also with the results of whaling operations by land stations in 1957 and by pelagic fleets in the 1957/58 Antarctic season.

3. The Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr. Lienesch (Netherlands), held its Ninth Meeting in London on 24th June, 1957, and following days. Dr. Mackintosh was elected Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Mr. Wall Chairman of the Technical Committee and Mr. Jahn Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee. The Agenda for the meeting is at Appendix II to this Report, and the Chairman's Report is at Appendix III.

4. The Commission noted at its Ninth Meeting that the Governments of Brazil, Denmark, France, Mexico, the Netherlands, Panama, and the United States of America had yet to ratify the Protocol for the amendment of the Convention. No decisive action could therefore be taken on the Norwegian proposal for placing "Observers" on factory ships and certain other matters.

5. The Commission had before them the views of the Scientific Sub-Committee on the condition of the Antarctic stocks. The Sub-Committee were of the unanimous view that if the calculations of the stock of fin whales upon which their discussions centred were substantially correct, then that stock was in process of being seriously depleted. Although the representative of the Netherlands had taken the view that those calculations did not provide sufficient evidence to justify any recommendation to the Commission in regard to total catch, the members representing France, Japan, Norway, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom were of the opinion that although there was no conclusive proof of a heavy decline in the stock of fin whales, the balance of evidence justified a warning that the number of whales taken annually in the Antarctic was dangerously high.

6. Bearing in mind these views, and also the need to maintain the catch limit at a level which would allow the Antarctic whaling fleets to continue to operate, the Commission decided that the blue whale unit limit, which would otherwise have increased to 15,000 units for the 1957/58 season, should be limited to 14,500 units as in 1956/57; and although unanimous approval of this step was not forthcoming at the meeting, no formal objection to the consequent amendments to the Schedule to the Convention was made within the ninety-day period following the meeting during which objections could be lodged by Contracting Governments. The lower limit therefore applied during the 1957/58 Antarctic season.

7. The Scientific Sub-Committee had also favoured a Norwegian proposal to extend the period of the four-day Antarctic season for the taking of hump-back whales, which they considered would give some relief to the stock of fin whales. This proposal aroused considerable discussion at the Ninth Meeting, both within the Committees and in Plenary Session, but a motion to lengthen the season from four to six days was finally defeated. A consequential motion giving complete protection to humpbacks in Area III was therefore withdrawn.

8. On the question of the taking of whales for scientific purposes as allowed by Article VIII of the Convention, the Commission accepted the view of the Scientific Sub-Committee (which was endorsed by the Scientific Committee) and recommended that the taking of whales for scientific purposes should be confined by Contracting Governments to the period of the whaling season unless the reasons for permitting their capture at other times were of the utmost cogency.

9. It was decided by the Commission that the former Antarctic sanctuary for baleen whales should remain open during the 1958/59 season.

10. During the course of the Ninth Meeting the income and expenditure account for the year 1956/57 was approved and this document has already appeared as Appendix V to the Commission's Eighth Report. It was also agreed that the contribution from each Contracting Government should be increased from £150 to £200 for the 1957/58 year. The income and expenditure account for the year 1957/58 was not of course approved until the Commission's Tenth Meeting, and will be found at Appendix V in the present report. The income from the increased contribution amounted to £3,149 and the expenditure to £2,998, leaving a balance amounting to £871 to be carried forward.

11. The results of whaling operations during the year under review were not available until the Commission held its Tenth Meeting in the Netherlands in June, 1958, and the Commission were then again indebted to Mr. Vangstein of the Committee of International Whaling Statistics for supplying comprehensive statistical material and for giving an oral report which is summarised in the following paragraphs. The available statistics did not include those relating to one Chilean company (from which no information had been received), nor details of the sizes of whales taken by six other companies.

12. Twenty pelagic expeditions, comprising nine Norwegian, six Japanese, three British, one Dutch and one Russian, operated in the Antarctic in the 1957/58 season. The floating factory *Abraham Larsen*, which had previously been operated by a South African company, sailed under the Japanese flag as the *Nisshin Maru No. 2*. The number of catchers (237) was restricted by a voluntary agreement between the majority of whaling companies, and most factory ships employed twelve catchers each. The Soviet Union fleet however employed 25, including training vessels, the largest number ever employed by any floating factory in the Antarctic.

13. The total output of oil from the pelagic season amounted to 2,146,850 barrels, at six barrels to the ton. If the catch of the Antarctic land stations is included the total yield was 2,318,479 barrels inclusive of sperm oil, a slight increase on the previous season's total (2,246,922 barrels). This total includes 3,319 barrels produced by floating factories on their way to the Antarctic.

14. The Antarctic pelagic catch reached 14,850 blue whale units, 350 more than the prescribed maximum catch. 1,684 blue whales were taken (about 180 more than in the previous season), 25,222 fin whales and 396 humpbacks. Catch results varied considerably for factory ships with about the same capacity, and ranged from about 500 blue whale units to a figure of 1,600 for the Soviet fleet.

15. The catching season lasted 69 days, the same period as in 1956/57, and the average catch per catcher's day's work was 0.90 blue whale units against an average of 0.92 for all previous seasons since 1946/47. It would appear however that the somewhat low figure for the 1957/58 season was partly due to the incomplete utilization of some catchers. The average length of blue whales taken was 77.1 feet, about the same as in the previous season, but the

average length of fin whales decreased by about 6 inches, and the proportion of immature fin whales increased from 25 per cent to 30 per cent.

16. The catch was somewhat more evenly distributed than in 1956/57, but nevertheless about one-third of the total was taken between 10° West and 20° East. In 1956/57 the largest catch was made in Area II (0°-60° West), mainly between 0° and 20° West. In 1957/58, however, the catch in that Area was reduced by about 3,000 units whilst a roughly corresponding increase took place in Area III (0°-70° East), mainly between 0° and 20° East.

17. There was less catching activity in the former Sanctuary Area (70° West - 160° West), and about 2,000 fewer blue whale units were taken there than in the 1956/57 season. The opening of the sanctuary has had the effect of reducing the pelagic catch in the remainder of the Antarctic to between 9,000 and 11,000 blue whale units a season in each of the last three years.

18. Outside the Antarctic three companies, operating off Cape Province, Okinawa Island and Peru, began whaling in 1957, while one Norwegian and one Peruvian company did not resume operations. Forty-eight land stations and three pelagic expeditions were engaged in whaling outside the Antarctic and in addition five pelagic expeditions took 126 sperm whales on their way to and from the Antarctic. The total catch amounted to about 22,600 whales, of which 14,400 were sperm whales and 8,200 baleen whales. The number of sperm whales taken outside the Antarctic has increased heavily in recent years (from about 4,900 in 1949), whilst the number of baleen whales has remained fairly constant. Total production outside the Antarctic amounted to some 310,000 barrels of whale oil and 370,000 barrels of sperm oil, which is equivalent to about one-third of the Antarctic production.

19. The Scientific Sub-Committee met in March, 1958, under the chairmanship of Dr. Mackintosh. The Sub-Committee considered evidence concerning the condition of the Antarctic stocks, and it remained the view of most members that the stock of fin whales in the Antarctic appeared to be declining. The Sub-Committee wished the opening of the Antarctic season, which it had been proposed should be brought forward to an earlier date, to remain unchanged, and suggested that as the stock in the former sanctuary area had shown signs of being affected rather quickly since its opening, the question of closing the area again should be considered further when more evidence became available. The continued catching of blue whales in the North Atlantic was regretted. On the question of an increase in the catch of humpback whales in the Antarctic, the Sub-Committee were inclined to the view that a catch of about 1,250 humpbacks might be about the right number to take annually, although some members did not feel able to commit themselves to a particular figure. The Report of the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, a copy of which is at Appendix IV, was not of course considered until the Tenth Meeting of the Commission in June, 1958, which is outside the period covered by this Report.

20. During the year under review the Netherlands Government notified the Commission that a permit had been granted for taking two fin whale calves with accompanying mothers and two one-year-old fin whales of a length of approximately 35 to 40 feet during the period of the Antarctic whaling season. Information was also received from the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that permission had been given to the *Slava* whaling fleet to hunt, for scientific purposes in the Antarctic in 1957/58, eight whalebone whales, comprising four fin whales, two blue whales and two humpback whales. As the information received did not specify the time when the whales should be taken, the attention of the Soviet Government was called, at the suggestion of the Norwegian Commissioner, to the Commission's recommendation (Para-

graph 12(c) of Appendix III of the Chairman's Report of the Ninth Meeting) that no permits should be issued for the taking of whales for scientific purposes outside the whaling season, unless the reasons for so doing were of the utmost cogency. The Soviet Union explained in reply that the whales in question were required for biological and technical research and to supply a number of universities and museums with skeletons. As the number of these whales was small and the taking of them could involve technical difficulties, the exact period when they should be taken was not fixed.

21. During the season under review, no reports were received from Contracting Governments in respect of permits issued for scientific purposes at earlier dates.

22. It is pertinent to note, although the information was not available until the Tenth Meeting, 1958, that a further 850 whales had been marked during the year under review in the Antarctic and in Australian and New Zealand waters. Sixty-eight marked whales had been recaptured, two of which had been marked 23 years previously.

23. The Commission at their Tenth Meeting had before them details of the infractions which had been reported during the year under review. The data for 1957/58, which should be regarded as an addition to the summary constituting Appendix VI of the Eighth Report, were as shown in the table on the next page (p.7).

24. The usual appendices are added to this Report, as shown on the inside cover.

# SUMMARY OF INFRACTIONS

YEAR	Antarctic Season (Including South Georgia)							YEAR	Outside Antarctic				
	Whales taken	Undersized whales		Lactating whales	Whales lost	Whales remaining in sea over 33 hours	YEAR		Whales taken	Undersized whales		Lactating whales	Whales lost
		No.	%							No.	%		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	
1957/58	1,689	70	4.14	14	1	BLUE WHALES 2	1957/58	163	3	1.84	—	1	
1957/58	27,570	385	1.41	47	169	FIN WHALES 119	1957/58	3,622	36	0.99	12	12	
1957/58	3,699	4	0.11	3	16	OTHER BALEEN 18	1957/58	3,894	17	0.44	2	5	
1957/58	6,629	5	0.08	1	16	SPERM 19	1957/58	8,678	33	0.38	—	28	

## APPENDIX I

### *List of Commissioners and Experts, etc., attending the Ninth Meeting in London, 1957*

AUSTRALIA	...	...	F. F. Anderson, R. Crichton-Brown
BRAZIL	...	...	J. S. Gonçalves, R. S. Menezes
CANADA	...	...	H. Leslie Brown ( <i>Observer</i> ), H. G. Garland
DENMARK	...	...	J. Hertoft
FRANCE	...	...	P. Gribelin, P. Budker
ICELAND	...	...	Kristinn Gudmundsson, Eiríkur Benedíksz
JAPAN	...	...	I. Fujita, H. Okuhara, H. Omura, S. Ohkuchi, K. Mikanagi
MEXICO	...	...	G. L. de Negri
NETHERLANDS	...	...	G. J. Lienesch ( <i>Chairman</i> ), H. S. Drost, E. J. Slijper, E. F. Drion, L. de Waal, F. J. van der Dussen, H. M. J. Hulselmans, P. de Vries
NEW ZEALAND	...	...	F. H. Corner, H. H. Francis
NORWAY	...	...	Gunnar Jahn, Johan T. Ruud, Erik Moe, Inge Rindal, Einer Vangstein, O. F. Bettum, Einar Haugen
PANAMA	...	...	Not represented
SOUTH AFRICA	...	...	E. D. Andrews, W. D. Dale
SWEDEN	...	...	U. Enegren
UNITED KINGDOM	...	...	R. G. R. Wall, N. A. Mackintosh, C. F. Huntley, T. S. Leach, A. Savage, A. Leonard, R. Clarke, R. M. Laws, S. G. Brown, H. W. Hollyer, D. Carmichael, W. Sinclair
U.S.A.	...	...	A. Remington Kellogg, John E. Mellor, D. T. Adams
U.S.S.R.	...	...	A. N. Solyanik, M. M. Slepstov, E. N. Nasinovskij, Mrs. L. G. Nazarova

#### *Observers*

Argentina	...	A. Oliva Day, F. A. Yanzi
Italy	...	Giuseppe Lo Faro
Portugal	...	João Carlos de Sá Nogueira
F.A.O.	...	D. B. Finn
I.C.E.S.	...	Represented by G. J. Lienesch

#### *International Whaling Commission*

A. T. A. Dobson (*Secretary*), assisted by:—  
R. H. Stone, R. G. Butterworth, J. F. Turner, and  
the Palantype Company

## APPENDIX II

16th April, 1957

### CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL COMMISSIONERS AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS NINTH MEETING, 1957: FINAL AGENDA

The Secretary begs to enclose herewith, in duplicate, a copy of the *Final Agenda* for the ninth meeting to be held on 24th June, 1957, and following days, at 10 Carlton House Terrace, London S.W.1 (as in the case of last year). The meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

This Agenda has been prepared on the basis of the Draft already sent to you and in the light of the various comments received thereon, and of the Report of the Scientific Sub-Committee which is attached to the Agenda.

The Agenda follows, in the main, the form adopted in previous years, and it will be seen that certain Documents are referred to. As is normally the case, however, all these documents cannot be made available at the time of sending out this Agenda. For example, Documents I (a) and (b), and IV cannot be completed before the termination of the Commission's financial year which ends on 31st May, 1957, while Document III depends upon a large number of returns all of which have not yet been received. These documents will follow as soon as possible.

At the time of writing, no information has been received as to the ratification of the Protocol which is referred to in Item 6. Nevertheless, it has been deemed desirable to assume that the Protocol will have been ratified by the appropriate date, and a possible amendment to the Schedule has been included in Item 18 on that assumption, so that decisive action may be taken, if possible, with regard to *Observers*.

In the case of Refrigerated Ships, it will be understood that no amendment can be made as regards the requirement of Inspectors on this class of vessel unless the Protocol already referred to is ratified. But in case ratification is received in time, it is desirable to provide for an amendment of Paragraph I(a) of the Schedule to this end. The Commission may therefore wish to consider some such an amendment as is tentatively inserted under 18(c)(i). The Japanese Commissioner desired that the paragraph at 18(c)(ii) of the Agenda should be included. The Commission's legal adviser considered however that such an amendment required a *new Protocol* different from that for which ratification is awaited, and the Japanese Commissioner was so informed. The United Kingdom Commissioner has in this connection proposed a limited amendment to paragraph II of the Schedule, on the lines of the note on "Refrigerated Ships" which the Secretary circulated on 31st January, 1957, and this has been included at 18(c)(iii) of the Agenda. If, however, the Commission consider that further limited amendments of this nature should be made to other paragraphs of the Schedule under the powers at present granted to the Commission by Article V.I. of the Convention, the Japanese proposal, which provides for a new definition of the term "factory ship" wherever it appears in the Schedule, may perhaps be regarded as sufficient notice of the amendment under the 60-day rule.

The Report of the Scientific Sub-Committee (Document II) is referred to in Item 8 and contains a number of recommendations which affect other items of the Agenda, the necessary cross references being given.

As regards the Financial Regulations referred to under Item 21 (Document V), it will be recalled that some years ago the Canadian Commissioner raised the question of the desirability of the Commission having *Financial Regulations*,

as in the case of other international bodies. Although such regulations were then drafted, it was not found necessary to submit them to the Commission because, at that time, the finances of the Commission were looked after by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the accounts were in fact audited by the Auditor General of H.M. Government. Since then, however, certain recommendations have emerged from Parliament which have somewhat altered the position. The Ministry are prepared to continue to act, but only as *agents* for the Commission, which in fact relieves it (the Ministry) of any possibility in future of becoming responsible for making up the funds of the Commission should they become inadequate. The procedure, however, remains the same, and this is set out in the regulations proposed. It is essential, however, that in future the Commission should arm themselves with sufficient balance at the end of the year to enable it to carry on into the following year until the new contributions come in. A note on this subject formed the subject of the Secretary's circular Ref. No. F.S. dated 14th December, 1956.

The amendments to the Rules of Procedure in Item 22, follow the note which accompanied by the Secretary's circular of 28th November, 1956, and are intended to define beyond doubt what sixty days' notice means. No comments on this note were received.

As regards Item 23, it is intended that the word "discussion" should cover any of the several matters which it is known Commissioners may wish to raise on this subject. For example it is known that the Japanese Commissioner wishes to raise the question of the rendition of reports on the results of the issue of these licences. This matter is also dealt with in the Scientific Subcommittee's Report (Document II).

Further copies of the Agenda and this covering letter may be had on application. This covering letter should be read with and be regarded as an integral part of the Agenda.

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*Enclosures*

Agenda  
Documents II and V

23rd April, 1957

CIRCULAR TO ALL COMMISSIONERS AND  
CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
AGENDA: NINTH MEETING

The Secretary begs to send you a copy of the following message despatched to all Commissioners on 19th April, 1957, by telegram to those overseas.

*Please add to Agenda circulated 16th April following item. Extension of season for killing humpback whales south of 40° South Latitude.*  
DOBSON. WHALING COMMISSION.

In a letter dated 19th February, 1957, the Norwegian Commissioner requested that the following item might be placed on the Agenda: "Extension of the season for killing humpback whales in the waters south of 40° South Latitude. The duration of the season is to be decided after having received the Report of the Scientific Committee. See Article 6(3) of the Schedule."

The question of humpback whales duly came before the Scientific Subcommittee and was dealt with in Section 5 of their Report (Document II). It was assumed that their recommendation, which appears under Item 18(f) of the Agenda, adequately covered the point raised in the Norwegian Commissioner's letter above mentioned. From a telegram, however, received from the Norwegian Commissioner on 18th April, 1957, he does not appear to be

satisfied that this is the case, hence the Secretary's telegram of 19th April quoted above, which seemed to be necessary in view of the 60 days' notice rule.

Since preparing the above, the Norwegian Commissioner has requested that his proposal be put on the Agenda in the following terms:—

“Extension of the season for killing humpback whales in the waters south of 40° South Latitude. The duration of the season is to be decided after having received the report of the Scientific Committee. See Article 6 (3) of the Schedule.”

Messages have accordingly been sent to all Commissioners overseas by telegram today.

AGENDA FOR THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING TO BEGIN AT  
10 A.M. ON 24TH JUNE, 1957, AT  
No. 10 CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE, LONDON S.W.1

1. Welcome by a representative of the Government of the United Kingdom.
2. Opening remarks by the Chairman and outline of arrangements for the meeting.
3. Formal approval of the Agenda as set out below.
4. (a) Appointment to Committees. The Commission will be polled in pursuance of Rule XVIII of the Rules of Procedure as to whether any alterations or additions to the Scientific and Technical Committees are desired.  
(b) The Chairman will indicate the members to constitute the Finance and Administration Committee for the year.
5. Finance. Provisional statement showing the cost of the Commission during the year 1st June, 1956, to 31st May, 1957, and the estimated cost for year 1st June, 1957, to 31st May, 1958. (*Ninth Meeting. Documents I (a) and I (b).*)

*Note*—These documents might be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee for consideration, and for recommendations as to the contribution to be requested from Contracting Governments for the year 1957/58.

6. Report as to the Protocol prepared and circulated by the Depository Government for the amendment of the International Whaling Convention, 1946. (See also Item 18.)

7. Discussion as to the Norwegian “Observer” proposal. (See also Item 18.)

8. Report by the special Scientific Sub-Committee (convened by Dr. Mackintosh, as arranged at the eighth meeting). (*Ninth Meeting. Document II.*)

*Note*—This Report contains a number of recommendations which will appear later and might be referred to the Scientific and Technical Committees for consideration.

9. Review of the 1956/57 season's catch. (Statistics will be supplied later by the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics.)

10. Infractions. (Infraction statements will be circulated later. These will constitute *Ninth Meeting, Document III*, and might be referred to the Technical Committee for examination and report.)

11. Prohibition of the taking of blue whales in the North Atlantic. Position as regards the objections lodged by Iceland and Denmark. (See Section 6 of Document II.)

12. Blue Whale catch in the North Pacific. (See Section 7 of Document II.)
13. Discussion on Blue Whale Unit limit for next season. (See Section 8 of Document II.) See also Item 18 (g).
14. The question of advancing the opening of the baleen whale season in any waters south of 40° south latitude.
15. Report by the Finance and Administration Committee.
16. Report by the Scientific Committee.
17. Report by the Technical Committee.
18. Possible amendments to the Schedule:—

(a) "*Observers*"

At 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 not be of the same nationality as the ship in which he is to serve. Observers shall be paid by the Commission and the expenses involved shall be refunded by the Contracting Governments in accordance with the number of factory ships operating in Antarctic Pelagic Whaling under their jurisdiction. 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, and shall make a report to the Commission at the end of each season. 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. This proposal shall operate as from the beginning of the season 7th January, 1958."

(b) "*Helicopters*"

*Note*—As regards (a) and (b) above, no amendments can be moved unless the Protocol (amendment of the Convention, Item 6 above) is in force.

(c) "*Refrigerated Ships*"

(i) In paragraph 1 (a) after the words "factory ship" in line one, insert "other than ships which come under the definition of factory ships solely because they engage in freezing, salting or otherwise treating whale meat."

(ii) *Japanese Proposal*. Introduce the following paragraph into the Schedule:—

"Nothing in this Schedule relating to factory ships shall be deemed to apply to a ship which is used solely for the purposes of such processing as refrigeration or salting."

(iii) *United Kingdom Proposal*. At the end of Paragraph 11 of the Schedule add the following sentence:—

"Provided that this paragraph shall not apply to a ship which has been used during the season solely for freezing, salting or otherwise treating the meat of whales, or of parts of whales, intended for human food or feeding animals."

(d) In Paragraph (5) of the Schedule, words in square brackets:—

Omit the words "after which it will automatically become operative again (8th November, 1958)" and substitute the words "and as the result of the ninth meeting in London, was rendered inoperative for a

further three years from 8th November, 1958, after which it will automatically become operative again (8th November, 1961).]"

(e) Humpback Whales. Article 6 (2) as suggested by the Scientific Subcommittee (Section 5 of Document II) for "0° Longitude" substitute "70° E. Longitude." The five years expires on 8th November, 1959.

(f) At end of Article 6 (3), delete "on 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th February" and substitute "from 1st to 8th February (inclusive)." (See Section 5 of Document II.)

(g) Paragraph 8 (a) of the Schedule. Possible reduction of 15,000 blue whale unit limit. (See last lines of Section 8 of Document II.)  
This may mean consequential amendments in Paragraph 8 (c) of the Schedule.

19. Draft (to be circulated later) of *Eighth Annual Report* for approval. (*Ninth Meeting. Document IV.*)

20. Staff arrangements. Amount of contribution for 1957/58. Grants for whale marking, etc. (See Section 9 of Document II.)

21. Financial Regulations for approval. (*Ninth Meeting. Document V.*)

22. Rules of Procedure. Clarification of the term 60 days' notice.

Rule VIII (d). For "transmit" read "despatch."

Rule XII. For "circulated" read "despatched."

Rule XXII. Omit "but sixty days" to the end of the rule and substitute the words: "but notice of any proposed amendment shall be despatched to the Commissioners by the Secretary to the Commission not less than 60 days in advance of the meeting at which the matter is to be discussed."

*Note*—Items 20, 21 and 22 might be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.

23. Interpretation of Article VIII of the 1946 Convention. Discussion as to interpretation and submission of information on the results of Research. (See Section 10 of Document II.)

24. Any other business. (Letter from Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, etc.)

25. Date and place of next meeting. (It is understood that the Netherlands will invite the Commission to meet in Amsterdam in 1958.)

26. Arrangements for Press Release.

### APPENDIX III

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE NINTH MEETING

1. The Commission held its ninth meeting at 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, with Dr. G. J. Lienesch (Chairman) in the chair.

2. The First Plenary Session began on Monday, 24th June, 1957, at 10 a.m. when the Commissioners and their experts were welcomed by Mr. Joseph Godber, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the United Kingdom, whose remarks are fully recorded in the Verbatim Report of the First Plenary Session (Ninth Meeting, Document XIV A).

3. Commissioners, most of whom were accompanied by experts and advisers, were present from Australia, Brazil, Denmark, France, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Union of S. Africa, U.S.S.R.,

United Kingdom and the U.S.A. Panama was not represented and, in the absence of the Canadian Commissioner, Canada was represented by an Observer.

4. Observers were also present from Argentina, Italy and Portugal, and from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

5. At the outset of the First Plenary Session, the Commission approved the Agenda circulated on 16th April, 1957.

6. 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. Anderson), Brazil (Mr. Menezes), France (Dr. Budker), Japan (Dr. Omura), Netherlands (Dr. Slijper), New Zealand (Mr. Francis, Observer), Norway (Prof. Ruud), South Africa (Mr. Andrews), U.S.S.R. (Dr. Sleptsov), U.S.A. (Dr. Kellogg), U.K. (Dr. Mackintosh). Dr. Mackintosh was elected Chairman.

7. The Technical Committee was constituted as follows:—

Australia (Mr. Crichton Brown), Brazil (Mr. Gonçalves), Canada (Observer), Japan (Mr. Fujita), Netherlands (Mr. Drost), Norway (Mr. Jahn), Union of South Africa (Mr. Dale), U.S.S.R. (Capt. Solyanik), U.S.A. (Capt. Adams), U.K. (Mr. Wall). Mr. Wall was elected Chairman.

8. The Chairman nominated the following to serve on the Finance and Administration Committee:—

Mr. Jahn (Norway), Dr. Kellogg (U.S.A.) and Mr. Wall (U.K.). Mr. Jahn was elected Chairman.

9. It was reported that the Protocol for the amendment of the International Whaling Convention 1946 had not been fully ratified, so that no decisive action was possible in respect of the Norwegian proposal for placing "observers" on factory ships, or in respect of any action dealing with helicopters. Ratifications had so far been received by the Depository Government from nine Contracting Governments, namely Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, the Union of South Africa and the United Kingdom. The U.S.S.R. Commissioner reported that the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. had also ratified the Protocol.

10. The Commission deeply regretted to learn, from a statement made by the Icelandic Commissioner, that the Icelandic Government were still unable to withdraw their objection to the protection afforded for five years to blue whales in the North Atlantic in 1955, and decided to approach the Icelandic Government again. It was recalled that so long as the protection was not applicable to Iceland, Denmark also refused to be bound by it.

11. Most of the items on the agenda were referred to one or other of the three Committees. Arising out of the recommendations of the Finance and Administration Committee:—

(a) The expenditure for the year 1956/57 (Document I (A)) was approved with certain verbal revisions shown in Document I (A) (revise), but the Commission observed with concern that the Commission was operating on a very narrow margin, mainly owing to the non-payment of the Panamanian contributions for 1955/56 and 1956/57, £300 in all. The actual carry forward was only £220, but the National Institute of Oceanography had been willing to allow £280 of the grant for whale marking to stand over for the moment.

The Commission decided that Panama should be strongly pressed for their outstanding contributions, the absence of which was creating a serious difficulty.

The cost of the Commission for 1956/57 was £3,119.

(b) The budget for 1957/58 (Document I(B)) was approved with the revisions shown in Document I(B) Revise. The total expenditure is estimated at £3,400, an increase on the previous year, and it includes a sum of £500 for whale marking. The Commission approved the increase in the contribution from £150 to £200 for 1957/58.

(c) The Commission considered certain representations from Japan which were contained in the Japanese Commissioner's speech at the First Plenary Session. It was contended that there was no provision in the 1946 Convention which placed upon Contracting Governments any obligation to finance the Commission and it was submitted that this should be put right by a Protocol to achieve that end. The Commission accepted the recommendations of the Finance Committee that this procedure was not necessary in view of the fact that the Convention imposed upon the Contracting Governments the duty of setting up the Commission and of making Rules of Procedure, which was done at the Commission's first meeting, and these Rules provide for the payment of contributions by each Contracting Government. Moreover, the Contracting Governments had accepted this obligation without demur for eight years.

(d) The Commission accepted the draft Financial Regulations as recommended by the Finance and Administration Committee. These Regulations merely set out in writing the procedure which has hitherto been in force, *vis à vis* the English Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who now act as the Commission's agents. Under the Regulations the Commission stands in complete control of their funds which are credited to a special account. In deference to the representations by Japan, the Commission agreed to the contribution by each Contracting Government being payable in 60 days instead of 30 days and to any increase in the amount of the contribution being postponed if desired until the following 1st January, and the Financial Regulations were amended accordingly.

(e) The Japanese Commissioner also suggested that the Finance and Administration Committee should be enlarged. The Commission accepted the Committee's recommendation that the Rules of Procedure should be amended to allow the Committee to be increased from three to five. This cannot be done until the next meeting.

(f) The Commission learned that the Secretary felt unable to continue to act indefinitely, although he promised to see the next meeting through.

(g) The Commission accepted the invitation of the Dutch Government to meet next year in Holland, the date being fixed for Monday, 23 June, 1958.

12. At the first Plenary Session the Commission heard from Mr. Vangstein a review of the catch for 1956/57 (pelagic whaling) and for the season 1956 (Land Stations), the detailed figures having already been circulated.

13. Twenty factory ships with 225 catchers were engaged in the 1956/57 Antarctic season, fewer than last year, and the total catch by floating factories in the Antarctic amounted to 2,097,911 barrels inclusive of sperm oil, 6 barrels going to the ton. The catch of land stations brings the total up to 2,245,435 barrels inclusive of sperm oil. Outside the Antarctic, the output in 1956 was about 605,189 barrels, as compared with 520,090 barrels in 1955.

It transpired from the deliberations of the Scientific Committee that the greater part of the 1956/57 catch had been taken in Areas II and I and very small numbers in Areas IV and V. Almost all the humpbacks had been taken in Area I. The catch of sperm whales amounted to over 4,000, a little less than in the last two years. The average size of female blue whales was still declining as well as the percentage of blue whales in the catch of blue and fin whales combined.

14. The conclusions and recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Committees, which maintained contact with each other in matters of common interest, were accepted or agreed by the Commission and may be summarised as follows:—

(a) As regards whaling in the North Pacific, the Commission agreed with both Committees' view that further research was needed before any recommendations could be made for the conservation of the North Pacific.

(b) The Commission agreed that every effort should be made to continue whale marking and that arrangements for recovering marks should be made as effective as possible. To this end, particular attention should be paid to marking young whales. All countries should arrange for rewards to be paid for the marks recovered, irrespective of the origin of the mark, and for the encouragement of a careful watch for marks to be kept. Arrangements should be made for recovered marks to be handed over to the country of origin, the reward to be paid by the finder to be subsequently repaid by the country of origin. The Commission felt it essential that full information about whale marks recovered should be forwarded to one central scientific body, namely the National Institute of Oceanography.

The Commission agreed that every effort should be made to stimulate the recovery of marks from carcasses brought into factory ships and land stations and that inspectors should be asked to encourage the search for marks both by consultation with whaling countries and by direct contact with the men working in factories.

The Commission accepted a recommendation that a coloured diagram and description of the various types of whale marks should be prepared and displayed prominently on all factory ships and shore stations and noted that the Dutch Delegation were ready to prepare such a coloured diagram.

(c) As regards the taking of whales for scientific purposes, as provided for under Article VIII of the 1946 Convention, the Commission felt that Contracting Governments should not issue permits for the taking of whales for scientific purposes outside the whaling season unless the reasons for doing so were of the utmost cogency.

They decided, too, that the Secretariat of the Commission should be designated as the body to which scientific reports should be sent under the provision of Article VIII paragraph (3) and the Contracting Governments should be asked to send subsequent reports on all whales taken by permit to the Secretary as soon as they are available.

It will be recalled that Article VIII (3) provides that Contracting Governments shall, so far as practicable, transmit to a designated body the information available to them with respect to whales and whaling, including the results of research pursuant to the taking of whales under special scientific permits.

(d) With regard to the problem of the refrigerated ships, it was impossible to deal with this matter effectively in the absence of the Protocol for the amendment of the 1946 Convention which had not been fully ratified, and

the Commission had therefore to rule out as *ultra vires* a proposal put forward by Japan. The Commission were prepared, however, to accept as *intra vires* a proposal to exempt "refrigerated ships" from the operation of paragraph 11 of the Schedule, and this is dealt with in a later paragraph of this report. The matter was fully discussed in the Report of the Technical Committee (Document XII).

(e) Two of the most important matters which exercised the Scientific and Technical Committees were the question of the possibility of increasing the number of days for humpback whaling in the Antarctic and the question of altering the blue whale unit limit. As regards humpback whales, a number of suggestions for increasing the humpback catch without allowing it to exceed a limit of 1,250 units were considered, but the Committee were not able to come to a conclusion and therefore it was left to the Commission in Plenary Session to take a decision.

The proposition was finally moved that the four days for the taking of humpbacks which is prescribed in paragraph 6(3) of the Schedule should be increased to six days, but this proposition was lost, 6 voting against, 5 in favour, with 2 abstentions and 4 not present. The rejection of this proposal also led to the further proposal that the area set out in paragraph 6(2) of the Schedule should be greatly enlarged, in fact by the inclusion of what is known as Area III, being withdrawn.

(f) With regard to the question of the blue whale unit limit, the Commission considered whether the existing limit should be altered. This stands at 15,000 blue whale units in any one season, but the number was reduced to 14,500 for the season 1956/57. When the proposal was put that 14,500 should remain the limit for another year, the motion was carried by 10 votes to 2, 4 not present and 1 abstention. This involved amendments of the Schedule, as will appear later.

(g) Two proposals reached the Commission as regards the Antarctic Sanctuary which, under paragraph 5 of the Schedule, was opened for 3 years ending on 8th November, 1958, while a third proposal had already been included in the Agenda. The Commission finally decided that the Sanctuary should be opened for another year from 8th November, 1958, and an appropriate amendment to the Schedule was passed by 11 votes, with 3 abstentions and 3 not present (see later). It was understood that this matter should be placed on the agenda for next year's meeting.

(h) The Commission accepted a recommendation put forward by the U.S.A. that the Schedule should be studied by Contracting Governments before the next meeting, to determine whether or not the provisions in the Convention and Schedule relating to whale catchers were appropriate for application to helicopters or other aircraft, and required amending. When the Protocol signed at Washington on 19th November, 1956, comes into force, the term whale catcher, wherever it occurs, will extend to helicopters and other aircraft.

(i) The Statement of infractions which constitute Document III was handled by a Sub-Committee of the Technical Committee, consisting of Mr. Leach (U.K.) Chairman, Mr. Crichton-Brown (Australia), Mr. Drost (Netherlands), Mr. Moe (Norway), Mr. Okuhara (Japan), and Capt. Solyanik (U.S.S.R.).

(i) The Commission noted that the percentage of undersized baleen whales taken in the Antarctic had dropped from 3.27 per cent in 1953/54 to 1.26 per cent in 1956/57, which amounted to nearly 400 undersized whales, still an appreciable figure. The percentage of undersized whales

caught by certain factory ships was very much higher than the average, in some cases amounting to 2 per cent of the total, an unsatisfactory figure unless related to bad weather or exceptional circumstances. The percentage of undersized whales in the case of some fleets showed a consistent decrease over the past five years. The Commission agreed that the summary of infractions might be more generally circulated to the captains of factory ships and inspectors, so that they might be aware of the comparative figures for other expeditions.

- (ii) The number of lost whales in 1956/57 was 237, slightly fewer than in the previous season. The Commission considered that the number was still high, and drew attention to the comparatively small numbers of whales lost by the Russian and Japanese expeditions.
- (iii) The percentage of infractions in respect of lactating whales showed no appreciable increase over the last 3 years, and the Commission felt that this might be regarded as satisfactory.
- (iv) The percentages of infractions from land stations as a whole was not high and the position seemed satisfactory.
- (v) The Commission accepted the recommendation that the summary of infractions showing the trend over the last five years (provided for the first time) should in future also include the lost and "over time" whales.
- (vi) The South African practice of fining gunners responsible for infractions, whether intentional or not, was noted, but the representatives of other countries thought that the loss of bonus was sufficient in unintentional offences, further punishments being inflicted only for serious offences.

(j) The Commission was glad to observe that progress reports on research had been supplied by Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and the U.K. which were read with interest. The Commission expressed the hope that more Governments would send in such reports next year, if possible in time for the meeting of the Scientific Sub-Committee.

(k) The Commission noted that observations on gray whales were in progress in the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R., and reports would be supplied later. I.A.O. were good enough to distribute copies of a Synopsis of Data on Whales, which had been prepared in the Fisheries Division.

(l) Frequent references in the Commission's papers to Areas I, II, etc., prompted the Scientific Committee to suggest that these areas might be regarded as being the following areas:—

Area I	...	...	120° W to 60° W
Area II	...	...	60° W to 0°
Area III	...	...	0° W to 70° E
Area IV	...	...	70° E to 130° E
Area V	...	...	130° E to 170° W
Area VI	...	...	170° W to 120° W

(m) The Commission gratefully received certain information, accompanied by drawings, supplied by the U.S.S.R. on the subject of rubber fenders, and these will be circulated in due course.

(n) The Commission endorsed the view of the Brazilian Commissioner that standards for the efficient processing of whale carcasses at land stations should be developed.

15. The Commission had certain correspondence before it as regards the humane killing of whales from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (United Kingdom), but were unable to come to any conclusion on

this subject in the absence of further information which had been promised by the Society. It was agreed, however, that the Society should be supplied with any information received by the Commission with regard to certain experiments with an electric harpoon.

16. The Commission decided to send an observer (Dr. Lienesch) to the next meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in Bergen (October, 1957), and to the F.A.O. Conference on Fishing Gear at Hamburg immediately thereafter (Dr. Budker). It was not considered necessary to be represented at the meeting to be convened in March, 1958, by the United Nations on the subject of the Law of the Sea.

17. The Commission decided on certain amendments to the Rules of Procedure, designed to clear up any ambiguity as to the expression "sixty days' notice", which appears on several occasions in the Rules.

18. The Commission took note of a discussion which took place at the end of the last Plenary Session on the question of the distribution of the Commission's papers (e.g. the verbatim report) to a wide public including the Press. The British Commissioner undertook to place this matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

19. The Commission heard with interest the remarks of the U.S.A. Commissioner, which were fully recorded. Dr. Remington Kellogg has attended these meetings since they started, as well as various earlier international whaling conferences.

20. As usual, the Commission considered a draft of the Eighth Annual Report covering the year ended 31 May, 1957. This draft had been prepared on the general lines approved by the Commission in the light of the observations made by the British Commissioner at the previous meeting. A number of criticisms were again raised, and the Commission decided that approval of the draft could not be settled while the Commission was sitting and, after its consideration by a small group, the Secretary was instructed to circulate a fresh draft for approval by all Commissioners by correspondence.

21. As already indicated, the Commission made a number of amendments to the Schedule to the International Whaling Convention of 1946.

These were as follows:—

*Paragraph 5.* Omit words in square brackets at end and substitute the following:—

"This article, as a result of the seventh meeting in Moscow, was rendered inoperative for a period of three years from 8th November, 1955, and as a result of the ninth meeting in London was rendered inoperative for a further period from 8th November, 1958, after which it will automatically become operative again on 8th November, 1959."

*Paragraph 8(a)*

For "1956/57", in line 4, read "1957/58".

*Paragraph 8(c) Consequential*

In penultimate line for "1956/57", read "1957/58".

*Paragraph 11*

At end add the words:—

"provided that this paragraph shall not apply to a ship which has been used during the season solely for freezing or salting the meat and entrails of whales intended for human food or feeding animals."

These amendments will be circulated to all Contracting Governments in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the Convention.

22. The Commission approved the issue of a Press Release along the general lines adopted last year.

23. The Commission decided that the Scientific Sub-Committee should be convened again by Dr. Mackintosh, as before, to meet in March, 1958.

(Signed) G. J. LIENESCH  
(Chairman)

(Signed) A. T. A. DOBSON  
(Secretary)

July, 1957

#### APPENDIX IV

##### REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE 1958

(1) The Scientific Sub-Committee set up at the Ninth Annual Meeting held in London, met at 10 Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1, on Tuesday, March 25th, 1958, 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. Chittleborough (Australia), Dr. Budker (France), Dr. Omura and Mr. Ohkuchi (Japan), Dr. Drion and Mr. van Utrecht (Netherlands), Dr. Jonsgard (Norway), and Dr. Arsenyev and Mr. Bodrov, accompanied by Mr. Losobko, Interpreter (U.S.S.R.). The Secretary of the Commission was in attendance.

(3) The Chairman welcomed members of the Sub-Committee and all members expressed regret that Professor Ruud and Professor Slijper were unable to attend. The Secretary undertook to write a letter of sympathy from the Sub-Committee.

(4) The Sub-Committee had before it the following memoranda:—

- (1) Investigation on Whales in the North Pacific. (Furnished by Japan.)
- (2) Mortality Rates of Female fin whales in the Former Sanctuary in the Antarctic. (Furnished by Japan.)
- (3) Researches on Whales and Whaling in Japan, 1957-58. (Furnished by Japan.)
- (4) Japanese whale marking in the Antarctic 1957-58. Provisional (Furnished by Japan.)
- (5) Progress Report on Research—May 1957 to March 1958. (Furnished by the U.K.)
- (6) (a) Antarctic Catch of baleen whales 1957-58 season. (Furnished by the Committee for International Whaling Statistics.)  
(b) Comparative statement for 1956-57.
- (7) Report on the Progress of Scientific Research made by the Netherlands Whale Research Group 1957-58. (Furnished by the Netherlands.)

(8) Report on Humpback Whaling by Dr. Chittleborough. (Furnished by Australia.)

(9) Progress Report as regards Research in the U.S.S.R. including Whale Marking. (Furnished by the U.S.S.R.)

(10) Research Progress Report—June 1957 to March 1958. (Furnished by Norway.)

(5) The Sub-Committee then revised and approved its agenda and dealt with the various items on it in the following order.

(6) *Statistics of Catches and condition of Antarctic stocks*

On inspection of the preliminary figures for the Antarctic catch in 1957-58 the Sub-Committee noted the following points:

(a) Even a considerable redistribution of the catching and rather more catchers at work in this season did not enable the total limit to be reached any earlier. Whereas in 1956-57 most of the catching took place in Area II and the former sanctuary, in 1957-58 the largest catches were in Area III. Considerably fewer whales were taken in the sanctuary area (I and VI) and the catch in Area V was again very small.

(b) The catch of blue whales amounted to some 6 per cent of the combined catch of blue and fin whales.

(c) The total catch of humpbacks was 395, which was less than in any preceding season since the war.

(d) A much larger catch of sei Whales was taken, namely 2,385—about three times as many as last year and representing about 400 blue whale units. The increase was especially noticeable in Areas I, IV, V and VI. Sei whales are generally taken in warmer water. The explanation could be that some factories were working in lower latitudes or that the sea was unusually warm in high latitudes and brought the sei whales farther south. But it might be that this species was taken because other whales were more difficult to find. The Sub-Committee expresses no firm opinion on this, but reasons may become clearer as more detailed information is available. It would be interesting, for example, if information could be given on the catch of this species by separate factories and the approximate dates on which the majority were taken.

(e) No figures as to the Antarctic catch of sperm whales were available at the time of the Sub-Committee met.

The Sub-Committee next considered the general condition of the Antarctic stocks and noted that the percentage of blue whales in the catch had been fairly stable at about 6 per cent during the last three seasons. Whether the stock of this species is still declining, or is stabilised at the present low level, cannot be inferred from these figures alone, but it is felt that blue whales are still much in need of protection.

The discussion then turned on the stock of fin whales. For the whole stock in the Antarctic, there is little new evidence, but some data were produced by which the constitution of the stock in the former sanctuary in 1955-56 and 1956-57 could be compared. Dr. Laws had analysed the age distribution of the catch in these two seasons in Area I, and Dr. Omura in Area VI, both on the basis of counts of corpora albicantia of the ovaries. Both showed a similar contrast, the age distribution curves for the later season being very much steeper than those for the former season; that is to say, there were considerably fewer of the older whales in the catch. A discussion followed on whether the catch could be taken as a representative sample of the stock, the possible effects of selection, and the significance of the difference in the two years. It was agreed

that the comparison of only two consecutive seasons would not give conclusive evidence as to the general trend of the local stock, but it was thought by the majority of the Sub-Committee that the contrast between the apparent age distribution of the stock in the two seasons would be compatible with a rapid deterioration of the stock and with the possibility that the catch was a high proportion of the available number of whales.

Dr. Drion said that whaling in previously protected areas might be expected to produce an early change in the constitution of the stock, but he doubted whether such a large change as was taken to be indicated by the data could have resulted from one season's whaling, and therefore wondered whether the material was a representative sample of the stock. It was pointed out however that the data obtained independently from the two areas were surprisingly consistent and this suggested that the samples were reliable. Dr. Arsenyev said that data on age distribution obtained by the "Slava" had shown fluctuations from year to year, and the Sub-Committee agreed that for the former sanctuary, more light might be thrown on the problem when full data on the age distribution were available for the third season, i.e. 1957-58.

Reviewing the situation, the members representing Australia, France, Japan, Norway, the U.K. and the U.S.S.R. agreed that there was no reason to change the view which was expressed last year and before that; namely, that the balance of evidence indicates that the stock of fin whales is declining and that the present level of catching is too high. Indeed, the new information on the condition of the stock in the sanctuary so far as it went was additionally disturbing evidence. Dr. Drion however considered that the evidence previously put forward was insufficient for a recommendation to the Commission in regard to the total catch, and that the new figures from the Sanctuary area did not necessarily indicate a real decline in the local stock.

#### *(7) Opening Date of the Antarctic Season*

At present, the catching of fin whales and sei whales begins on January 7th, and of blue whales on February 1st, and the Sub-Committee was informed that there was a proposal on the Commission's agenda for an earlier opening date for the baleen whale season. The Sub-Committee recognises that the length of the season depends on the number of catchers, and if there were a big reduction in the total number of catchers, then more time would be needed to reach the total limit. However this may be, the Sub-Committee's view is quite clear that a late opening date is desirable, because late whaling results in the catching of fewer pregnant females and better production for any given number of whales taken. It may be added that whaling in the later part of the season is likely to take a higher proportion of sei whales, and therefore fewer of those whales which are considered to need protection. The Sub-Committee would therefore prefer no change in the opening date of the baleen season. If the Commission should decide to make it earlier, the Sub-Committee would hope that in any case the opening date for taking blue whales would not be changed.

#### *(8) Sanctuary*

The Sub-Committee was reminded that the Sanctuary area in the Antarctic would automatically be closed in November 1959 unless positive action is taken to keep it open for a further year, and that it was desirable that the prospect of whaling in this region should be known, if possible, two years ahead. While not at this stage recommending that the former Sanctuary should be closed in 1959, the Sub-Committee felt a little disturbed by the new data, referred to above, which suggested that the stock in this region may be affected rather quickly. It was recalled that the original purpose of the Sanctuary was to safeguard a reserve supply of whales, but that it had been thought desirable to

open it to whaling and spread the hunting as widely as possible, so long as the limit to the total catch was not increased. Nevertheless, a sanctuary can be regarded as probably the last defence of the southern stock against disastrous depletion.

The full data on the age distribution of the catch in 1957-8 will not be ready in time for the meeting of the Commission, but the Sub-Committee would prefer to postpone a definite recommendation on the future of the Sanctuary until the Scientific Committee can consider the matter in June, in the light of any further news of the catches in the Areas I and VI.

*(9) Whaling in the North Pacific*

As regards whaling in general in the North Pacific region, the Sub-Committee noted that, although the catching material had not been increased very much in recent years, the total catch of all whales had more than doubled since 1950, the largest increase being in the Bering Sea. The total catch for the whole North Pacific in 1956 appears to have been about 10,000 whales, which is nearly one-third of the Antarctic catch, but in the North Pacific about 64 per cent of the total consists of sperm whales, and only about 36 per cent baleen whales.

The Sub-Committee was informed that whale marking is beginning to reveal interesting evidence on the distribution of whales and suggests, for example, that there is no complete separation of the stocks of humpbacks on the eastern and western sides of the North Pacific ocean. Japanese research is in progress on age determination, and Russian research especially on sperm whales. The U.S.S.R. hopes to have some results of research ready for June.

The Sub-Committee noted that the North Pacific whaling industry depends mainly on sperm whales. There seems at present no reason for supposing that this species is being depleted. It is important however that the minimum length should be strictly observed, and if any signs of depletion appear further measures should be considered. As regards blue whales, the Sub-Committee was informed that the Japanese Government limits the catch of this species in the Bering Sea to seventy in one season. It is understood that the U.S.S.R. sets out rather to catch sperm whales, and that at present it has not sufficient data to indicate the need for special protection of blue whales.

*(10) Blue Whales in the North Atlantic*

As before, the Sub-Committee notes with regret that the catching of blue whales continues in the waters of Iceland and the Faroe Islands. The Commission's original agreement to protect this species in the Northern Hemisphere was for a period of five years. In fact, the species has received only partial protection in the three years which have now elapsed and the Sub-Committee consider that even five years is not enough to give it a chance of any appreciable recovery. The five years will end in 1960, and the Sub-Committee now offers the opinion that an extension for a further five years and with complete protection, is desirable.

During the discussion on whaling in the North Atlantic, the Sub-Committee was informed that fin whales are becoming scarcer off the coast of Norway and it was noted that the catches have declined in recent years, also in the Faroe Islands.

*(11) Humpback Whales*

Dr. Chittleborough introduced the memorandum on Australian Catches of Humpback Whales, 1957. The principal points made in it are:—

(a) That the stock in East Australian waters appears to be in a relatively healthy condition.

(b) That there are some further signs of deterioration of the stock in the West Australian region.

(c) Some interesting studies of growth rates have emerged in the course of the work on the Australian stocks.

The Sub-Committee had a brief discussion on the contents of the Memorandum and thanked Dr. Chittleborough for the clear analysis and statement of the position which it sets forth. It was noted that the total catch in Western Australia amounted to 1,120 and in Eastern Australia and Norfolk Island to 841. Subject to further study of the Memorandum (which was received only a short time before the meeting), the Sub-Committee felt inclined to accept the evidence as to the condition of the Eastern and Western stocks.

The Sub-Committee then turned to the catching of humpbacks in the Antarctic. The Sub-Committee was informed that the Norwegian Government is proposing an amendment to the schedule to allow for:—

(a) increasing the catching days from four to eight, or

(b) limiting the catch to 1,250 with February 1st as the opening date.

A detailed discussion on this question showed that it is a problem of some complexity. The following points emerged:—

From the biological point of view, the situation is much the same as it was last year, except that there is some new evidence of a deterioration of the Group IV stock (Western Australia and Area IV), and arguments for and against a change are much the same as before. The Sub-Committee asks that the following points should be taken into consideration:—

1. Humpbacks seem to be relatively less taxed than blue and fin whales, and an increased catch would afford some slight relief to the two latter species.
2. The humpback stock is believed to have a certain resilience and seems able to recover its numbers to some extent after a rest of a few years if it has not been reduced too far, but it may be permanently depleted or reduced for many years if taxed beyond a certain point.
3. On the other hand humpbacks can be caught very easily, and a local population can be reduced very rapidly.
4. Doubling the catching days might far more than double the catch.
5. In *Area II* ( $0^{\circ}$  to  $60^{\circ}$  or  $70^{\circ}$  West) the protection of humpbacks should be maintained, (this is relevant to the proposal on the Commission's agenda concerning paragraph 6(2) of the Schedule.)
6. In *Area III* ( $0^{\circ}$  to  $70^{\circ}$  East) the stock is probably not in a very healthy condition.
7. The Sub-Committee takes the view that the whole humpback stock of Groups II and III is still in a weak condition and it is hoped that no increased catching either in the Antarctic or tropical and temperate parts of the South Atlantic will be undertaken without careful consideration.
8. In *Area IV* ( $70^{\circ}$  East to  $130^{\circ}$  East) there are larger numbers of humpbacks, but there is evidence that they are declining.
9. In *Area V* ( $130^{\circ}$  East to  $170^{\circ}$  West) the stock has been relatively in good condition up to the present.
10. In *Area VI* ( $170^{\circ}$  West to  $120^{\circ}$  West—mainly the western part of the former Sanctuary) not very much is known of the stock. It may be that this is part of the same stock as in Area V.
11. In *Area I* ( $120^{\circ}$  West to  $60^{\circ}$  West—mainly the eastern part of the former Sanctuary) there is a stock of humpbacks which has been scarcely tapped, but there are some grounds for thinking that it is a small stock.

In all circumstances, the Sub-Committee is inclined to think that a catch of about 1,250 humpbacks in the whole Antarctic might be about the right number. The Sub-Committee realises that it may be difficult to regulate the catch so

that it reaches this figure and no more each year, but on a proposal by Dr. Drion it is suggested that if, for example, it is exceeded in any one year, it should be correspondingly reduced in the next year so that the average catch is kept to 1,250.

1,250 is to some extent an arbitrary figure. It is recommended that this or any figure aimed at should be reviewed from year to year in the light of any evidence on the condition of the stock.

Not all members of the Sub-Committee were prepared to commit themselves to support the particular figure of 1,250.

Finally, the Sub-Committee referred to the catching of humpbacks in the North Atlantic. This species was formerly relatively common in the North Atlantic, but because it has become very scarce, the Commission agreed to protect it for five years until 1959. Again the Sub-Committee considers that a heavily reduced stock has little chance of substantial recovery within five years and would like to see the period extended for a further five years.

#### (12) *Whale Marking*

The Sub-Committee was informed of recent progress in the marking of whales. It is understood that some 300 whales were marked in 1957 in the waters of Australia, New Zealand and the South-East Pacific Islands, and news of five marks recovered in Australia was received. In the North Pacific Ocean approximately 200 whales have been marked and at least 30 marks have been recovered. In the Antarctic Season of 1957-58, it appears that over 500 whales have been marked, and 30 marks are understood to have been recovered so far, though there will be more to come. It was agreed that this information showed satisfactory progress.

It is hoped that further marking on a similar scale will be carried out in the regions of Australia and New Zealand in 1958, and in the Antarctic in 1958-59.

The Sub-Committee was informed that Dr. Clarke would shortly be working in South America for a time on behalf of F.A.O., and had arranged to take marking equipment in the hope of having facilities for marking whales off the west coast of South America.

#### (13) *Recovery of Whale Marks*

The Sub-Committee welcomes the steps taken by the Netherlands authorities to design an improved poster and to draft information for circulation to whaling factories. In view of the probability that a considerable number of marks are still missed, the Sub-Committee agrees that steps to improve the search for them are very helpful.

As to the route by which marks are returned (generally through the N.I.O.), the Sub-Committee would urge that no rigid procedure should be laid down. It is agreed that it would be an advantage if all Inspectors are fully briefed on the recovery of whale marks and asked to do anything which they can in the factories to stimulate the search for them. The Sub-Committee is strongly of the opinion, however, that any established practice which is now working well should not be disturbed—for example, in factories in which the men are accustomed to return marks through the secretary of the factory. In such circumstances, however, it would be helpful if the Inspector also could check the data recorded for the mark. The Sub-Committee felt that whatever Inspectors are instructed to do does not come within the Sub-Committee's purview.

#### (14) *Rewards for Marks*

As to the payment of rewards for recovered marks, it has been the normal practice in past years to wait until the mark has been received with the data before the reward is paid, for premature payment can sometimes open the door to errors or abuses. Nevertheless it is recognised that payment on the spot has certain definite advantages, but again it is thought that no rigid practice should

be laid down. Should the Commission decide that it has money available for the payment of rewards, the Sub-Committee think it important that rewards should not be paid direct by the Commission to the finders, for this might lead to much additional clerical work and the risk of confusion and mistakes. It has been the usual practice hitherto for rewards to be paid by the N.I.O. or the Government on whose behalf the mark was fired, the point being that the scientific authority which receives and checks the mark and data certifies that the reward can be paid. Should the Commission desire to bear the cost of the rewards, it would therefore be best if it did so by refunding rather than by paying direct.

(15) *Expenses of Whale Marking*

It would be much appreciated if the Commission can find further funds to defray part of the costs of whale marking.

(16) *Progress of Research*

The Sub-Committee took note of progress reports from the Netherlands, Norway, Japan, United Kingdom and U.S.S.R. These are included in the documents referred to in paragraph 4 above. Some of the material in these reports had already been referred to under previous items, but the Sub-Committee noted the following with interest.

*Netherlands:* The scheme for observations from ships (similar to that operated by the N.I.O.) has resulted in a large body of data which has been provisionally examined for the North Atlantic region. There are indications that baleen whales are more plentiful on the west side, but sperm whales seem commoner on the east side.

*Norway:* Research is mainly the continuation of work described in previous reports, but some new results of interest may accrue from data on sperm whales in the waters of Peru and on the behaviour of sperm whales in the Antarctic.

*Japan:* Several points dealt with in Japanese papers on research are mentioned under previous items. To some extent the work has been concentrated on age determination and on sperm whales. There is more evidence of some separation of the stocks in Antarctic Areas I and VI.

*U.S.S.R.:* The report describes routine work in progress which is largely based on age determination, sex ratios, etc., for information on the condition of the stock. It was noted that the report shows an interesting list of publications.

*U.K.:* Apart from whale marking, the work has been largely concerned with the age and life-cycle of whales, and distribution based on numerous observations from ships. Analysis of observations from the Atlantic ocean shows that the distribution of whales there has some similarity to that in the Indian ocean. New papers on the ear-plugs and the ovaries are likely to be published soon.

(17) *Mathematical Notation*

The Sub-Committee was informed of correspondence between the Secretary and F.A.O. on mathematical notation which it was proposed to use in fisheries research and which may be applicable also to studies of statistics of whale populations. Among the objects of the scheme are consistency in practice, so as to avoid confusion, and the use of symbols which can be typed without difficulty. The Sub-Committee agreed that there are advantages in standardising practice if a new method is convenient to the work, but this is largely a matter for those who work on population problems of whales. The Sub-Committee need only draw attention to the existence of the new proposals in case any research worker likes to look further into them.

Signed on behalf of the Sub-Committee,

N. A. MACKINTOSH (*Chairman*).

28th March, 1958.

	£	s.	d.
1. Secretary's fees . . . . .	550	0	0
2. Administrative, clerical and typing staff provided by the United Kingdom Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and overhead expenses . . . . .	1,000	0	0
3. Travelling and subsistence . . . . .	36	17	4
4. Secretary's office rent . . . . .	150	0	0
5. Stationery, printing and postage . . . . .	242	3	10
6. Cost of Annual Meeting and contingencies . . . . .	519	9	2
7. Whale marking and other scientific work . . . . .	500	0	0
<b>Balance</b> . . . . .	<u>2,998</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>
	871	10	2
<b>Total £3,870</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	

  

	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward (£5,000. 6 plus £300 received from Panama, in respect of 1955/56 and 1956/57 less £280 obligation for whale marking)	520	0	6
Contributions from 16 Contracting Governments of £200 each (Denmark £150) * less £200 from Panama and 16/- from Mexico	3,149	4	0
Australia			
Netherlands			
Brazil			
New Zealand			
Canada			
Norway			
Union of South Africa			
Sweden			
Iceland			
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics			
United Kingdom			
Japan			
Mexico			
United States of America			
Claims on Panama (£200) and Mexico (16/-)*†	200	16	0
<b>Total £3,870</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	

\*The Commission decided to write off £50 in the case of Denmark.

†Subsequently paid.

## APPENDIX VI

*List of reports received by the Commission during the year ended 31st May, 1958  
(arranged under countries or organisations alphabetically  
with date of receipt in brackets)*

### Brazil

Whaling in Brazil. Typed article by R. S. de Menezes, Fishery Adviser, Government of the State of Bahia, Brazil. (12th March, 1958)

### Canada

The Commercial Fisheries of Canada (prepared by the Department of Fisheries of Canada and the Fisheries Research Board). (18th April, 1958)

### Food and Agricultural Organisation

The State of Food and Agriculture. 1957. (19th September, 1957)

Fisheries Organisations and the Regulation of Fish Prices in Sweden. (23rd September, 1957)

Millions still go hungry. Rome 1957. (2nd December, 1957)

Yearbook of Fishery Statistics 1955/56. Vol. VI. (21st December, 1957)

Purposes and methods in Fishery Statistics. (26th March, 1958)

### Japan

The Scientific Reports of the Whales Research Institute. No. 12. Whales Research Institute. Tokyo, Japan. (7th October, 1957)

Meteorological Data of the Antarctic Ocean Vol. I. Statistical data observed on board the Japanese whaling ships for 10 years commencing in 1946. The Japan Meteorological Agency. (31st December, 1957)

Mortality Rates of Female Fin Whales in the former Sanctuary in the Antarctic. Whales Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan. (25th March, 1958)

Japanese whale marking in the Antarctic 1957/58. (25th March, 1958)

Investigations on Whales in N.Z. North Pacific. (25th March, 1958)

### Netherlands

Jaarverslag. 1956. Published by Landbouw Economisch Instituut. The Hague. (12th July, 1957)

Die Mikroskopische Anatomie du Milz der Furchenwale, by Helga H. L. Zwillenburg. (17th March, 1958)

### United Kingdom

La Baleinière des Açores, by Robert Clarke (National Institute of Oceanography). Extracted from the Revue *Neptunici*. No. 46, 1957. (26th August, 1957)

Marking Whales from a Helicopter, by Robert Clarke. (National Institute of Oceanography) Reprinted Norwegian Whaling Gazette, 1956. No. 6, pp. 311-318. (26th August, 1957)

Whales observed in the Indian Ocean. Notes on their distribution, by S. G. Brown, B.Sc. (National Institute of Oceanography). Reprinted from the Marine Observer. Vol. XXXII. No. 177, pp. 157-165. 197. (30th August, 1957)

TABLE SHOWING OIL PRODUCTION ETC. 1949/50 — 1957/58

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)	Oil production in barrels			
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	2,146,850	171,629	—	—	

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.  $\frac{1}{4}$  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 and 1957/58.

