

# International Commission on Whaling

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

## EIGHTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

(covering the eighth fiscal year 1st June, 1956 to  
31st May, 1957)

*(As approved by the Commission following its ninth meeting, in London, June,  
1957, and authorised to be printed)*

LONDON

Issued from the Office of the Commission  
1957



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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. ALISTAIR FRASER
<i>Denmark</i>	..	..	..	..	Mr. P. F. ERICHSEN
<i>France</i>	..	..	..	..	Mr. P. GRIBELIN
<i>Iceland</i>	..	..	..	..	His Excellency A. KL. JONSSON
<i>Japan</i>	..	..	..	..	Mr. Y. NARA
<i>Mexico</i>	..	..	..	..	His Excellency G. L. de NEGRI
<i>Netherlands</i>	..	..	..	..	Dr. G. J. LIENESCH ( <i>Chairman</i> )
<i>New Zealand</i>	..	..	..	..	Mr. F. H. CORNER
<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 ( <i>Vice-Chairman</i> )
<i>U.S.A.</i>	..	..	..	..	Dr. REMINGTON KELLOGG

A. T. A. DOBSON,  
*Secretary*

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

# International Whaling Commission

1. The Commission has pleasure in presenting its Eighth Annual Report covering the fiscal year 1 June, 1956, to 31 May, 1957.

2. Hitherto the Commission has contented itself with setting out in each of its Reports the essential happenings in the year under review, and these have centred largely around the proceedings of the Annual Meeting which has latterly been held soon after the opening of the Commission's fiscal year. Each Report has in addition contained the essential catch figures.

3. The Commission is conscious that, especially since it was decided to include the Chairman's Report of the Annual Meeting as an appendix to the Annual Report, much duplicated information has been included. To avoid repetition, and in order to make the Annual Report more informative, it has therefore been decided to make some changes in its form and content and to give on this occasion, as an introduction to this and future annual reports, a brief account of the way in which the regulation of whaling came about, the broad objectives of the International Whaling Convention of 1946 and the present regulations governing whaling.

4. From 1927 onwards various attempts were made to control the enormous expansion of the whaling industry, which was constituting a real menace to the maintenance of the whale stocks. The first effective instrument of regulation was the International Convention which was negotiated and signed by nine countries in London in 1937. They were Argentina, Australia, Germany, Irish Free State, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

5. This agreement had two noteworthy features. The one was that for the first time some of the countries with shore-based whaling industries joined with the countries operating the Antarctic fleets. This was consequently the first really comprehensive international agreement for the conservation of the whale stocks. The other was that the restrictions to be applied were agreed for the immediately following season and were to be renegotiated each year. Although more drastic measures (e.g. restriction of areas of operation) were applied for the 1937/38 season than at any earlier time, no fewer than 46,000 whales were taken in the Antarctic that season, and the amount of whale oil produced was 560,000 tons, which was very little less than the peak figure of 1930/31.

6. The 1937 Convention was continued through the 1938/39 and the 1939/40 seasons. Then war spread to almost all the whaling countries, the floating factories were confined to port, sunk or turned to other uses, and the Antarctic whale stocks were left to recuperate. Eleven expeditions operated in 1940/41, and in the next four seasons no more than two expeditions in all visited the Antarctic.

7. As the war drew to a close, the Allied countries resumed their consultations under the Convention of 1937. A new form of regulation was first introduced for the 1945/46 season, when it was agreed that the Antarctic season should end as soon as all the operating fleets had together taken 16,000 blue whale units. (A blue whale unit was defined as equalling one blue whale, or two fin whales, or 2½ humpback whales or six sei whales: these proportions being based upon the normal oil content of the different species.) This figure of maximum catch was substantially below the levels of catch in the peak years of the 1930s, but even so was not reached in the 1945/46 season or the following one. The main reason for this was that so many of the pre-war floating factories had been lost.

8. The member governments now decided that a reappraisal of the whole situation was required and that a new and more abiding agreement would be preferable to the 1937 Convention. An International Conference was accordingly convened at Washington in 1946 and a new Convention was signed there on 2 December of that year. After being ratified by the requisite number of signatory governments, the new Convention came into operation in the late summer of 1948, and it is under this instrument that whaling is now regulated internationally and the present International Whaling Commission operates.

9. The text of the Convention of 1946 was printed as an appendix to the first report of the International Whaling Commission published in 1950. The purposes of the Convention were clearly set out in a preamble which is worthy of being reproduced here:

"Recognising the interest of the nations of the world in safeguarding for future generations the great natural resources represented by the whale stocks;

Considering that the history of whaling has been overfishing of one area after another and of one species of whale after another to such a degree that it is essential to protect all species of whales from further overfishing;

Recognising that the whale stocks are susceptible of natural increases if whaling is properly regulated, and that increases in the size of whale stocks will permit increases in the number of whales which may be captured without endangering these natural resources;

Recognising that it is in the common interest to achieve the optimum level of whale stocks as rapidly as possible without causing widespread economic and nutritional distress;

Recognising that in the course of achieving these objectives, whaling operations should be confined to those species best able to sustain exploitation in order to give an interval for recovery to certain species of whales now depleted in numbers; . . . . ."

The preamble ended by stating that the signatory governments had therefore decided "to conclude a Convention to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry."

10. The Convention comprises a number of Articles which set out in general terms the kind of conservation or regulatory measures which may be applied and the means through which they may be given executive effect and enforced, together with a schedule to the Convention which embodied the actual regulations within the limits of the Convention which were to have effect at the outset. The Convention provides that the regulations with respect to the conservation and the utilisation of the whale resources may include determinations on the species which should be given protection; the seasons of the year in which whaling may be carried on; the areas in which whales may be hunted or protected; the maximum numbers of whales that may be taken in any period; the methods of whaling which may be adopted; and the types and specifications of gear and equipment which may be used. There is also provision concerning the prosecution of biological research and the collection of full statistical information about the catches taken.

11. The Convention established the present International Whaling Commission comprising representatives of all the contracting governments. The Commission is the executive instrument for the application of the Convention and within certain limits has power to amend the schedule attached to the Convention which contains the current rules and regulations governing all whaling operations. The Commission is consequently able to keep the whole whaling situation under review from year to year and to impose by agreement such additional regulations as may appear to be required. Such regulations come

into force automatically after a certain period which the Convention prescribes for the lodging of objections by contracting governments.

12. There are specific requirements in the Convention that any amendments of the schedule which the Commission may make "shall be such as are necessary to carry out the objectives and purposes of this Convention and to provide for the conservation, development, and optimum utilisation of the whale resources" and "shall be based on scientific findings" and "shall take into consideration the interests of the consumers of whale products and the whaling industry." The Commission is precluded by the same Article of the Convention from amending the schedule so as to involve restrictions on the number or nationality of the factory ships or land stations, and the allocation of specific quotas to any factory ship or land station is also debarred. There is, then, this very clear distinction made: that the Commission shall be concerned with the conservation of the whale resources and not with the economic regulation of whaling. Since the Convention took effect the owners of the Antarctic fleets of various countries have themselves concluded agreements for the limitation of whale-catchers operating in particular seasons in the Antarctic, but all such agreements are outside the Commission's mandate.

13. The Convention was signed in 1946 by the representatives of 15 governments, which included all the countries operating pelagic whaling fleets in the Antarctic and most other countries engaged in whaling operations in various parts of the world. Three signatory governments have not subsequently ratified the Convention and adhered to it, while five other governments have since acceded, so that the total number of contracting governments is now 17, as follows:-

Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Sweden, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

The countries engaged in whaling which are not members at the present time are Argentina, Chile, Peru, Portugal and Spain. The governments of Chile and Peru, in conjunction with the government of Ecuador, have more recently joined together in a Permanent Commission which regulates the whaling operations of these three countries in the waters off the west coast of South America where their shore-based stations operate.

14. The Commission held its first meeting in May/June, 1949, and is now required to meet annually at its headquarters in London for at least two years out of every three. In the course of its meetings the Commission has made many alterations and additions to the rules and regulations contained in the schedule attached to the Convention. The most important of these is still the blue whale unit limit, which has already been referred to, on the catch of baleen whales by floating factories in the Antarctic. This has been reduced at intervals and for the 1956/57 season stood at 14,500 units, a reduction of approximately 10 per cent from the figure of 16,000 units which initially applied in the 1945/46 season. The whaling season for baleen whales from factory ships in the Antarctic begins on 7th January and catch totals are cabled weekly (daily as the catch limit is approached) by each factory ship to the Committee of International Whaling Statistics in Sandefjord, Norway. This body, whose services are given without expense to other contracting governments through the kindness of the Norwegian Government, assesses the date when the pre-arranged catch limit will be reached and fixes the closing date for the season accordingly. The season in any event ends on 7 April whether or not the catch limit has been reached, but in recent years the catch limit has been reached some weeks before that date.

15. The schedule also prescribes seasonal limitations for the protection of particular species of whales in the Antarctic. The season for blue whales does not begin until 1 February; that for humpbacks is more limited and this species may only be taken on the first four days of February. Contracting governments must also determine seasons, not exceeding eight months for sperm whales and six months for minke whales (the latter being a small baleen whale), during which factory ships and the whale-catchers attached to them may hunt these species. Factory ships which have been used to treat baleen whales during an Antarctic season may not be used for that purpose in other waters within a year of the termination of that Antarctic season.

16. The operations of land stations are also governed by seasonal limitations imposed in the schedule amounting, as with factory ships, to an open season of eight months for sperm whales and of six months for baleen whales. The season for land stations taking baleen (excluding minke) whales must cover the same period for all land stations under the jurisdiction of a single Contracting Government unless a station is separated by more than 1,000 miles from the nearest station taking the same type of whale and under the jurisdiction of the same contracting government. A similar rule regulates the fixing of seasons for land stations taking sperm whales, with the added proviso that the eight months' season for sperm whales must cover the period of the six months' season for baleen (excluding minke) whales. A separate six months' open season may be declared for land stations taking minke whales, but the 1,000 miles regulation still applies unless the stations concerned are located in areas having clearly distinguishable oceanographic conditions. Even so, the period covered by the open seasons for the taking of minke whales authorised by a single contracting government may not exceed nine months in any period of twelve.

17. Sanctuary areas have been determined for some species of whale, and indeed a large area of the Antarctic was preserved until the 1955/56 season as a sanctuary for all baleen whales against the operations of catchers attached to factory ships. This sanctuary was then opened for a period of three seasons. There is a further area of the Antarctic in which the taking of humpbacks is forbidden. The taking of both blue and humpback whales is prohibited in the North Atlantic; and whale-catchers attached to factory ships are forbidden from taking baleen whales over other large areas which include the breeding-grounds.

18. The killing of right or grey whales is totally prohibited by the schedule to the Convention unless their meat is to be used exclusively for local consumption by aborigines. It is in all circumstances forbidden to take female whales which are accompanied by calves or suckling whales. Protection is also given by minimum size-limits, details of which are shown in a footnote to Appendix VI to this Report.

19. The Schedule also imposes regulations to ensure the full treatment and utilisation of whale carcasses and with particular exceptions forbids a delay of more than thirty-three hours between the killing of a whale and the time when it is hauled aboard a factory ship for treatment.

20. An important regulation in the Schedule imposes upon contracting governments having jurisdiction over factory ships or land stations the obligation to appoint and pay inspectors. At least two inspectors must be appointed to each factory ship for the purpose of maintaining a 24-hour inspection, and adequate arrangements must also be made at land stations. A further measure of control is the provision that the remuneration of gunners and crew on land stations and factory ships as well as whale-catchers shall depend to a considerable extent upon factors such as the species, size and yield of whales taken,

and not merely upon their number. No remuneration may be paid to the gunners or crew of whale-catchers for taking lactating or milk-filled whales.

21. The Eighth Meeting of the Commission was held in London in July, 1956, and the chairman's report of that meeting, which gives a concise account of what the Commission discussed and decided, can be studied at Appendix III to this Report. At the Ninth Meeting, also held in London, figures for catches during the 1956/57 season (pelagic whaling in the Antarctic) and the 1956 season (land stations), which periods are covered by this Report, were supplied by the Committee of International Whaling Statistics.

22. In the 1956/57 season twenty pelagic expeditions operated in the Antarctic. They were *Pelagos*, *Kosmos III*, *Kosmos IV*, *Thorshovdi*, *Norhval*, *Sir James Clark Ross*, *Suderoy*, *Thorshammer*, *Thorshavet* (Norway), *Southern Harvester*, *Southern Venturer*, *Balaena* (U.K.), *Abraham Larsen* (South Africa) *Willem Barendsz* (Netherlands), *Slava* (U.S.S.R.), *Tona Maru*, *Nisshin Maru*, *Kinjo Maru*, *Matsushima Maru*, *Kyokuyo Maru No. 2* (Japan). The *Matsushima Maru* is an additional Japanese vessel which had not previously operated in the Antarctic, and the *Kyokuyo Maru No. 2* is the former *Olympic Challenger* (Panama). Accordingly the Japanese expeditions increased from three to five, while the Norwegian (9), U.K. (3), Dutch (1), South African (1) and U.S.S.R. (1) expeditions remained unchanged in number. The *Abraham Larsen* will operate on Japanese account in the 1957/58 season. As a result of agreement between whaling companies the number of catchers operating was reduced by thirty-two from the previous season's total to 225, and the number of catchers per expedition fell from an average of 13.5 in 1956/57 to 11.3.

23. The Whaling season lasted 69 days (ending on 16 March, 1957), eleven days longer than in the previous season, which was the shortest in the history of Antarctic whaling. The main cause of the longer season seems to have been the poor hunting conditions towards the end of the season rather than the reduction in catching power; whereas the average daily catch up to 1 March was 238 blue whale units, it fell after that date to 128 blue whale units. At the earlier rate the season would have been shortened by eight days.

24. Fourteen thousand seven hundred and forty-five blue whale units, or 245 more than the prescribed maximum catch, were taken, but the total catch over the last ten seasons has nevertheless fallen 376 units below the permitted total. About 5,800 blue whale units, or some 40 per cent of the total catch, were taken in the newly opened sanctuary, and over 8,800 units were taken in the other Areas where the post-war catch had previously amounted to some 15-16,000 units and the pre-war catch to 20-30,000 units.

25. In Areas IV and V only some 350 units were taken in all during the 1956/57 season compared with between 3,400 and 3,700 in preceding seasons. The catch in Area III was about 2,200 units as against 3-8,000 units in other post-war seasons. On the other hand, about 6,300 units were taken in Area II, compared with 3,000-4,700 in other post-war seasons (and up to 8,000 units pre-war). The main effect of the opening of the former sanctuary has therefore been a reduced taxation in Areas III-V. One explanation of the high catch in Area II is that unusually good weather made it possible to operate in waters which are normally difficult. About 50 per cent of the catch in this Area was taken between 50-60° South Latitude as against some 15-30 per cent North of 60° in other post-war seasons.

26. The catch of blue whales again declined and amounted to 5.5 per cent of the aggregate blue and fin whale catch, compared with 6 per cent in 1955/56. The average size of blue whales was 0.3 feet lower than in the preceding season. On the other hand, the average size of fin whales rose by 0.4 feet, and the

average size of those taken in the heavily taxed Areas II and III was actually higher than in the former sanctuary.

27. The oil yield per blue whale unit rose from 121.6 to 128.6 barrels (varying between 111 and 153 barrels for individual factory ships) and the total output from the season's pelagic catch amounted to 2,097,911 barrels. If the catch of land stations in the Antarctic is included, namely 147,524 barrels, the total Antarctic yield of oil becomes 2,245,435 barrels, inclusive of 218,537 barrels of sperm oil. This output for the 1956/57 Antarctic season represents a decrease of 61,734 barrels on the previous year and at 6 barrels to the ton represents 374,000 tons.

28. Outside the Antarctic fifty land stations, three factory ships and 141 catcher boats operated in 1956—three land stations and seven catchers more than in 1955. The total catch in 1956 was 19,581 baleen and sperm whales, an increase of about 2,000 on 1955, arising mainly from an expansion in the Japanese coastal catch of sperm whales and in the catch from the Bering Sea. The output in 1956 was 605,189 barrels (at 6 barrels to the ton, 101,000 tons) as compared with 520,090 barrels in 1955.

29. A summary table giving fuller details of the catch and oil production both in the Antarctic and elsewhere from 1949/50 onwards is attached as Appendix VII.

30. Amongst the matters discussed at the Ninth Meeting of the Commission was that of the infractions of the Convention which had been reported. A summary of these infractions for the years 1949/50 to 1956/57 will be found in Appendix VI.

31. Under Article VIII of the International Whaling Convention of 1946 it is open to any contracting government to grant any of its nationals a special permit to take whales for purposes of scientific research, subject to such restrictions as the contracting government may think fit. During the year under review the Commission learnt that the United Kingdom Government had issued a licence to one of their whaling companies authorising them to take 12 baleen whales prior to the opening of the season on 7 January, 1957, for the purpose of testing an electric harpoon. The issue of this permit was notified to all Commissioners on 23 November, 1956, but an objection was received from the Norwegian Government that the taking of whales for the purpose mentioned was outside the ambit of Article VIII. The United Kingdom Government decided to suspend the operation of the permit and gave notice of their intention to raise the question of the application of Article VIII at the Ninth Meeting of the Commission. The Netherlands Government issued a permit in November, 1956, for the taking of one lactating fin whale with calf and three undersized fin whales. In December, 1956, the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics issued a permit for the taking of ten baleen whales (excluding right whales).

32. During the year under review the Commission also received a report from the United Kingdom with regard to the six humpback whales authorised to be taken from the factory ship *Balaena* during the 1954 season. This report was circulated to all concerned on 20 February, 1957. A report was also received from the Japanese Government in March, 1957, dealing with two right whales for which a permit had been issued. Information on the results of research thereon was circulated to all concerned on 2 April, 1957.

33. In conclusion attention is drawn to the list of Appendices which appears on page I. These are self-explanatory. The Scientific Sub-Committee's Report which forms Appendix IV was considered at the Ninth Meeting of the Commission held in June, 1957, and will in due course be dealt with in the Report of that meeting. Appendix V shows the Commission's Income and Expenditure for the year under review.

## APPENDIX I

### *List of Commissioners and Experts, etc., attending the Eighth Meeting in London, 1956*

AUSTRALIA	..	..	F. F. Anderson, R. G. Chittleborough, R. Crichton-Brown
BRAZIL	..	..	not represented
CANADA	..	..	Alistair Fraser
DENMARK	..	..	P. F. Erichsen
FRANCE	..	..	P. Gribelin, P. Budker
ICELAND	..	..	Agnar Kí. Jonsson, Eiríkur Benedíkz
JAPAN	..	..	Y. Nara, H. Omura, S. Kida, S. Ohkuchi, M. Takashima, A. Kodaki
MEXICO	..	..	G. L. de Negri
NETHERLANDS	..	..	G. J. Lienesch ( <i>Chairman</i> ), H. S. Drost, E. Slijper, L. de Waal, F. J. Van de Dussen, Tj. Bakker, E. F. Drion, T. Vinke
NEW ZEALAND	..	..	F. H. Corner
NORWAY	..	..	G. Jahn, J. Ruud, E. Vangstein, E. Moe, F. T. Skartum, F. Seyersted, H. Ostby, F. Bettum, K. Thommessen, E. Haugen
PANAMA	..	..	R. Aleman
SOUTH AFRICA	..	..	J. M. Marchand, R. L. Goulding
SWEDEN	..	..	U. Enegren
UNITED KINGDOM	..	..	R. G. R. Wall ( <i>Vice Chairman</i> ), T. F. S. Hetherington, N. A. Mackintosh, T. S. Leach, A. Savage, R. H. Clarke, R. M. Laws, S. G. Brown, R. de B. Trouton, S. W. James, D. Carmichael
U.S.A.	..	..	A. Remington Kellogg, D. T. Adams, J. E. Mellor, F. E. Taylor
U.S.S.R.	..	..	A. N. Solyanik, V. A. Tverianovich, E. N. Nassinovsky, A. N. Koulikov, M. M. Sleptsov, Mrs. L. G. Nazarova

#### *Observers*

Portugal	..	..	João Ramalho Rosa
Italy	..	..	G. P. Cuneo
F.A.O.	..	..	D. B. Finn
I.C.E.S.	..	..	G. J. Lienesch
I.A.W.C.	..	..	N. R. Bugge

#### *International Whaling Commission*

A. T. A. Dobson (*Secretary*) assisted by  
G. P. Jupe, R. G. Butterworth, J. F. Turner,  
Miss N. Y. Matthew and The Palantype Company.

## APPENDIX II

### International Whaling Commission

*Agenda for the Eighth Annual Meeting to begin at 10 a.m. on 16th July, 1956, 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, 1955, to 31st May, 1956, and the estimated cost for the year 1st June, 1956, to 31st May, 1957. (*Eighth 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 1956/57.
6. Possible alteration of the date of the Annual Meeting, at present held in the latter half of July. April (second half) or September (second half) may be suggested.
7. Report as to the Protocol prepared and circulated by the Depository Government for the amendment of the International Whaling Convention, 1946. (See also Item 20).
8. Discussion as to the Norwegian "Observer" proposal (See also Item 20).
9. Report by the special Scientific Sub-Committee (convened by Dr. Mackintosh), and set up at the Moscow meeting. (*Eighth Meeting. Document II.*)  
*Note:* This might be referred to the Scientific Committee for consideration.
10. Protection of blue whale stocks in the North Pacific Ocean (See also Item 20).  
*Note:* This might be referred to the Scientific Committee for consideration.
11. The question of advancing the opening of the Baleen Whale season in any waters South of 40° South Latitude (See also Item 20).  
*Note:* This might be referred to the Scientific and Technical Committees for consideration.
12. Review of the 1955/56 season's catch. (Statistics will be supplied later by the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics).
13. Blue whale unit limit for 1956/57 and thereafter. (See also Item 20).  
*Note:* This might be referred to the Scientific and Technical Committees.
14. Infractions. (The usual table will be circulated later. *Eighth Meeting. Document III*, which might be referred to the Technical Committee for examination and report).

15. Correspondence between Norwegian and Panamanian Governments already circulated.

16. Prohibition of the taking of blue whales in the North Atlantic. (Report on the position as regards the objections lodged by Iceland and Denmark).

17. Report by the Finance and Administration Committee.

18. Report by the Scientific Committee.

19. Report by the Technical Committee.

20. Possible amendments to the Schedule:-

(a) "*Observers*"

At end of Paragraph I(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 the status of a senior officer on board and shall be accommodated accordingly."

(b) "*Refrigerated Ships*"

A note on this subject was circulated at the Seventh (Moscow) Meeting (Document II).

(c) "*Helicopters*"

*Note:* As regards (a) (b) (c) above, no amendments can be moved unless the Protocol (amendment of the Convention, Item 7 above) is in force.

(d) "*Blue whale unit limit*" (See covering letter).

(e) Amendment for the protection of Blue Whale stocks in the North Pacific Ocean (See item 10).

(f) Paragraph 7(a) third line for 7th read [1st] (See Item 11).

*Note:* It is assumed that all these possible amendments will be referred, where necessary, to the Scientific and/or Technical Committees.

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

22. Consideration of draft submitted by the United Nations International Law Commission of Provisional Articles concerning the Regime of the High Seas (General Assembly. Official Records. Tenth Session. Supplement No. 9 (A/2934).

23. Any other business.

24. Date of next meeting.

25. Arrangements for Press release.

1st May, 1956.

Ref: No. A.P. VIII,

*Circular to all Commissioners and Contracting Governments.  
Final Agenda. Eighth Meeting.*

Sir,

I beg to enclose herewith, for your use, the Final Agenda for the *Eighth Meeting* of the Commission, to be held at No. 10 Carlton House Terrace, London S.W.1 on Monday, 16th July, 1956 (and following days) at 10 a.m.

The Agenda follows the usual form and is intended to be accompanied by certain documents, of which only one (Document II. Report of the Scientific Sub-Committee) is available at the moment. The remainder will follow as and when they can be completed at the end of the Commission's Financial year. A number of additional items which have been suggested as the result of the circulation of the draft agenda, are included.

It is desirable, however, that I should call your attention in particular to Item 20 which deals with possible amendments to the Schedule. These require 60 days' notice, but, as indicated in the note after (c) Helicopters, the amendments mentioned under (a) (b) (c) cannot be dealt with *at all* unless and until the Protocol referred to in Item 7 of the Agenda is in force. The amendments have however been included as a precaution.

With regard to amendment (d) *Blue Whale Unit Limit*, it is perhaps desirable to explain that the 15500 blue whale unit limit has been reduced to 15000 in respect of season 1955/56 and to 14500 units thereafter, but seven countries objected to the further reduction to 14500 units and are not therefore bound by this figure, which however is binding on the 10 non-objecting countries. It happens however that the seven objecting countries, as things stand, are not in fact bound by any limit at all after 1955/56, and it is essential that this anomalous position should be put right without delay.

This could be done by omitting any reference to 14500 units and leaving the 15000 limit to operate for the future. In that event the amendment would be as follows (*see yellow reprint of Schedule*):—

8(a) in the fourth line after "units" put full stop and omit the remaining words.

8(c) which is consequential, omit the words "in the season 1955/56 and 13,000 thereafter".

The amendments would therefore read as follows:—

8(a) The number of baleen whales taken during the open season caught in any waters south of 40° South Latitude by whale catchers attached to factory ships under the jurisdiction of the Contracting Governments shall not exceed [fifteen thousand] blue whale units.

8(c) Provided that when the number of blue whale units is deemed by the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics to have reached [13,500] notification shall be given as aforesaid at the end of each day of data on the number of blue whale units taken.

It will be noticed that square brackets have been placed round certain figures to enable the Commission to adjust the limit as they think fit. In this connection reference is directed to Document II (Report of the Scientific Sub-Committee, last two paragraphs on page 4) in which the recommendations of the Sub-Committee will be found.

With regard to *Item 15*, the correspondence between the Norwegian Government and that of Panama has already been circulated, but copies will be available at the meeting if required.

Attention is also directed to *Item 22* which has been inserted at the request of the Norwegian Government. Copies of the document (with which many Commissioners are already familiar) will be obtained as soon as possible.

It is particularly requested that Commissioners will bring their Agendas and supporting documents with them to the Meeting, and in the meantime will notify me how many further copies of the agenda etc. will be required by them for their accompanying experts.

This covering letter should be regarded as part of the Agenda and read in conjunction with it. The letter and agenda have been sent to all the experts and advisers whose names have already been notified to me by Commissioners.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. A. DOBSON,

Secretary to the Commission.

7th May, 1956.

Ref: No. A.P. VIII

*Circular to all Commissioners and Contracting Governments.  
Final Agenda. Eighth Meeting.*

The Secretary begs to refer to his circular of 1st May, 1956 on the above subject and to inform you that late on 30th April, 1956, he received a cable from the Norwegian Commissioner in the following terms:-

"The Norwegian Commissioner requests that the open season for humpback whaling is placed on the Agenda as a subject for discussion. Letter follows."

The letter referred to was received late on 3rd May, 1956 and read as follows:

"The background of this request is that Norwegian Whaling Companies have the impression that the stock of humpback whales has increased and think that if this is the case it might be wise to lengthen the open season for the catch of humpback whales by one or two days. The idea is that if the Whaling Companies are allowed to shoot more humpback whales this will lessen the stress on the fin whale stock, as no one here will go up with the total catch, calculated in blue whale units."

It seems clear that what the Norwegian Commissioner has in mind is an increase in the number of days (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th February) on which under Article 6(3) of the Schedule, it is permissible in certain waters to take humpback whales in any year.

It is accordingly proposed that the item "Open season for humpback whaling" shall be included in the agenda at some appropriate point, but it will also be necessary as a precaution, to include a new paragraph (g) in item 20 of the Agenda, in some such terms as the following:

*Paragraph 6(3). For "1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th February in any year" read [ ]*.

This circular should be read with and as part of the agenda already sent to you with the Secretary's circular of 1st May, 1956.

## APPENDIX III

### INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING: LONDON

1. The Commission held its Eighth Annual Meeting in London (10 Carlton House Terrace).

2. The First Plenary Session began on Monday, 16th July, 1956 at 10 a.m. when the Commissioners and their experts were welcomed by Mr. G. R. H. Nugent, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Mr. Nugent emphasized the importance of the task facing the Commission and spoke of the pride which they must feel at the progress which they had made to date. A full report of the Parliamentary Secretary's speech will be found in the verbatim report of the First Plenary Session (Eighth Meeting, Document XIII A).

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

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

5. At the outset of the First Plenary Session, the Commission approved, subject to what follows, the Agenda circulated on 1st May, 1956, but deleted the item circulated at the request of the Norwegian Commissioner with regard to the taking of humpback whales which formed the subject of a special circular dated 7th May, 1956. This item was deleted at the request of the Australian Commissioner on the grounds that the full sixty days' notice had not been given and that the Secretary had attempted an unauthorised interpretation of the Norwegian proposal. It was agreed, however, that any general discussion on humpbacks was not ruled out, provided no alteration of the schedule was involved.

6. It was also decided to delete Item 22 of the Agenda (Consideration of draft submitted by the United Nations International Law Commission), but on the proposal of the New Zealand Commissioner it was agreed that the correspondence which had reached the Commission should be circulated for information together with the relative reports (7th and 8th) to the extent to which they were available. Subsequently this matter was generally discussed by the Technical Committee and this is shown in paragraph 38 of the Technical Committee's Report (Document XI).

7. 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 (Dr. Chittleborough), France (Dr. Budker), Japan (Dr. Omura), Netherlands (Dr. Slijper), New Zealand (Mr. Corner), Norway (Dr. Ruud), South Africa (Dr. Marchand), U.S.S.R. (Mr. Tverianovich), U.S.A. (Dr. Kellogg), U.K. (Dr. Mackintosh), these members to be accompanied by experts. Dr. Mackintosh was elected Chairman.

8. The Technical Committee was constituted as follows:—

Australia (Mr. Anderson), Canada (Mr. Fraser), Japan (Mr. Nara), Netherlands (Mr. Drost), Norway (Mr. Jahn), Panama (Mr. Aleman), S. Africa (Col. Goulding), U.S.S.R. (Captain Solyanik), U.S.A. (Mr. Taylor), U.K. (Mr. Wall), these members to be accompanied by experts. Mr. Wall was elected Chairman.

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

Norway (Mr. Jahn), U.S.A. (Dr. Kellogg), Denmark (Mr. Erichsen). Mr. Jahn was elected Chairman.

10. It was reported to the Commission that no definitive conclusion had been reached in the matter of the Protocol for the amendment of the International Whaling Convention, the object of which was to enable the Commission, by amendments to the Schedule, (i) to deal with the proposal originally put forward by Norway for the appointment on each factory ship of an independent observer paid by the Commission, (ii) to deal with the problem of the "refrigerated" ship and (iii) to deal with the employment of helicopters in connection with whale hunting. No action could therefore be taken.

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

12. Arising out of the recommendations emanating from the Finance and Administration Committee:—

(a) The expenditure for the year 1955/56 as submitted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Document I(a)) was approved. The expenditure amounted to £3,195 19s. 10d. as compared with the estimate of £3,500, a reduction on certain items having been achieved. The carry forward amounted to £1,089 15s. 8d.

(b) The Budget for 1956/57 as set out in Document I(b) was approved, the estimated expenditure being £2,935 involving a carry forward of £704, a much smaller figure than before. The expenditure included an allocation of £500 for whale marking, etc., against £1,000 allocated in the previous year.

(c) The question of the date of the Annual Meeting, usually held in the second half of July, was referred to all three Committees. In the light of their recommendations, the Commission decided at their second plenary meeting (the discussion being fully recorded in the verbatim report of that meeting) that the meeting should be held in future in the last half of June, the meeting for 1957 being fixed to begin in London, 24th June, 1957.

13. At the first Plenary meeting the Commission heard from Mr. Vangstein a review of the catch for the season 1955/56 (pelagic whaling) and for the season 1955 (land stations), the figures having already been circulated to Commissioners. Mr. Vangstein's remarks are fully recorded in the verbatim report to which reference should be made.

19 factory ships with 257 catchers were engaged in the 1955/56 Antarctic season and the total catch by floating factories in the Antarctic amounted to 2,134,012 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 2,306,679 barrels inclusive of sperm oil.

14. A good many of the matters before the Commission concerned both the Technical and Scientific Committees so contact was maintained between the two Committees on these problems.

15. The Reports of both Committees were accepted by the Commission, the contents and conclusions being summarised as follows:-

(a) The Commission agreed with both the Technical and Scientific Committees that there were practical objections to attempting to provide for quotas for each species of baleen whales.

(b) As regards whale marking, some particulars were available as to the results of whale marking in the Antarctic season 1955/56. The total number of whales marked was calculated as 348. In the southern winter of 1955, 306 whales had been marked in the waters of Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, and other island regions. The Commission's thanks are due to the Whaling companies through whose help the Antarctic marking was made possible. The total number of marks recovered in the recent Antarctic season is, according to present information, 36. Among these, several were from 18 to 21 years old and some marks show movements of whales which are of special interest. In the North Pacific, the total recoveries up to date of Japanese marks amount to 72. Further information is expected later.

(c) Both Committees stressed the value of continued marking and mention was made of the former sanctuary area in the Antarctic and the desirability of marking calves. The U.S.S.R. representatives pressed for arrangements to be made for a marking vessel to be sent to the Antarctic with a view to a large number of whales being marked.

Both Committees pressed for the fullest marking operations in future. As already indicated in para. 12(b) above an allocation of £500 was made as a contribution towards marking next year.

The Commission endorsed the suggestion that the use of helicopters for marking, having been tested, might, with advantage, be put into practice.

(d) As regards the collection of wax plugs, both Committees recognised the scientific value of such a collection, but they felt that the practical experience of techniques in securing these plugs is limited. It appeared that the removal of these plugs tended to interfere with whaling operations when large numbers of whales were being caught in a comparatively short time. The Commission agreed that the collection of wax plugs should continue and that arrangements should be made to exchange information about techniques developed for collecting them. They also endorsed the Scientific Committee's suggestion that wax plugs, ovaries and baleen plates should, if possible, be collected when a mark is recovered from a whale.

(e) The U.S.S.R. in both Committees, expressed the view that the stock of grey whales in the North Pacific was increasing. At present, the capture of such whales is forbidden, but the U.S.S.R. wished to propose that they should be allowed to be taken in 1958 for the needs of the local population.

The Scientific Committee took the view that more information would be needed both on recent catches of grey whales for the use of aborigines and on the evidence for the supposed increase in the stock. The Commission agreed that this matter should be raised and discussed at the Ninth Meeting of the Commission.

(f) Regret was expressed that the prohibition to take blue whales in the North Pacific had not been upheld. A number of countries had registered their objection to the prohibition merely because certain initial objections had been made by Japan and the U.S.S.R.

In the view of Japan, the blue whales in the North Pacific had had a rest period of more than 15 years and it appeared that the stock had increased. Nevertheless the Japanese Government had taken steps in 1955 to limit the annual catch of blue whales to 70 only. They were also undertaking biological investigations into the conditions of blue whale stocks in the North Pacific. These had been started in 1952 and were still continuing, and the results will be published as available. If these results warranted the protection of blue whales by international regulations, the Japanese Government would be prepared to accept such regulations. On the Technical Committee, Canada supported the United States' view that there should be a thorough scientific investigation into the blue whale stocks in this area and that a decision should be postponed until 1957 when the results of such investigation might be available. The Scientific Committee felt that if prohibition of the blue whales in the North Pacific was impossible, the steps taken by Japan should be copied by other Governments. The Commission generally endorsed these views.

(g) The question of the advancing of the opening date for the baleen season in the Antarctic, which appeared on the Eighth Meeting Agenda at the request of Norway, was not proceeded with, as Norway withdrew its proposal.

(h) The question of the appointment of independent observers on factory ships to be paid for by the Commission, originally put forward by Norway which, for the reasons stated above, cannot become effective until the Protocol is signed, was discussed at length in the Technical Committee as shown in their Report.

(i) The Commission agreed that if the Scientific Sub-Committee was convened again, they should give further consideration to the question of extending the open season for humpback whaling.

(j) The Commission regretted that the Danish and Icelandic Governments were still unable to withdraw their objection to the prohibition of the taking of blue whales in the North Atlantic. At the First Plenary meeting the Danish representative said his Government were willing to withdraw their objection if Iceland did the same. It was obvious that the number of blue whales taken in this area is negligible. The Iceland Commissioner promised to bring the question again to the notice of his Government.

(k) The Commission decided that the Scientific Sub-Committee should be convened at the discretion of the Chairman of the Scientific Committee if he feels after appropriate consultation that it would be justified. In that event the Sub-Committee would as before consist of scientists drawn from the same countries as before.

(l) The Scientific Committee considered the Catch Statistics for 1955/56 and did not notice any significant change in the trends of the catches although they observed a slight increase in the proportion of immature whales, which they regarded as evidence of a change in the condition of the stock. The other observations of the Committee are fully set out in Paragraph 4 of their Report (Document X).

(m) As regards the distinction between lactating and milk-filled whales, the Scientific and Technical Committees' views will be found in their Reports.

It was agreed that no bonus should be paid to a gunner for a lactating whale.

(n) As regards Antarctic catch limits, the Scientific Committee endorsed the view of the Scientific Sub-Committee that the stock of fin whales was declining and called for substantial reductions (Dr. Slijper dissenting and the New Zealand Commissioner being absent), but did not indicate precisely the amount of the reduction. They unanimously considered that there should be no increase in the annual quota above 15,000 blue whale units (the New Zealand Commissioner being absent).

This matter is however dealt with fully later in this Report.

16. The Technical Committee set up a special Sub-Committee consisting of Mr. Leach, Mr. Moe, Capt. Solyanik, Dr. Kodaki, Mr. Drost and Mr. Crichton-Brown, to examine returns which had been received with regard to infractions. Mr. Leach was appointed Chairman.

(a) A return of infractions over a number of years showed that the percentage of undersized whales for the 1955/56 Antarctic season was lower than in previous years, but the number of lactating whales was higher than in the three preceding seasons.

(b) The number of whales lost in the 1955/56 season—238—was considerably less than in the previous season—338. This figure was, however, regarded as being still too high. One of the reasons put forward was that, with the shortening of the Antarctic whaling season, there was an inclination by companies to consider that time spent in searching for lost whales was unremunerative in comparison with the hunting of others.

(c) It was noted with some concern that 20 per cent of whales lost were from land stations in South Georgia, but it was understood that this might have been due to the distance to be covered in search of whales.

(d) The number of whales remaining in the sea for more than 33 hours during the 1955/56 Antarctic season—166—showed a slight increase over the preceding season. This was attributable to mechanical trouble experienced by one factory ship during bad weather in a period of heavy catching. It was noted that more than 50 whales in respect of which utilization was not complete were used as fenders.

17. The Infractions Sub-Committee also dealt with a number of other matters which are all set out in the Technical Committee's Report, Document XI, and among which may be mentioned in particular the experiments which have been conducted by the U.S.S.R. with fenders of porous rubber during the 1955/56 Antarctic Season.

The Commission accepted the recommendations emanating from this Sub-Committee which were as follows:—

(a) That to ensure uniformity in future summaries of infractions, all Contracting Governments should include buoy boats in the numbers of catchers shown on returns of infractions.

(b) That the information given on the summary of infractions should in future be amplified to show lactating whales, whales remaining in the sea for more than 33 hours and lost whales, as percentages of total catches. A column showing all the infractions as a percentage of the total catches should also be added to the summary.

(c) As it appeared that the undersized sperm whales taken by Norway and Panama in the 1955/56 Antarctic Season had in fact been taken on the way to the Antarctic, explanations of such infractions should in future be included in the summaries.

18. With regard to the question of "refrigerated" ships, the Commission noted that the Technical Committee considered the inclusion of these ships in the definition of factory ships, which the Commission had been advised was the case, was contrary to the spirit of the Convention, and decided to instruct the Secretary to seek legal advice as to whether this aspect of the matter necessitated an amendment of the Convention, or whether the matter could be dealt with merely by an amendment of the Schedule. When this opinion was available, the question of appropriate action could be considered at the Ninth Meeting.

19. As already indicated in paragraph 6 above, Item 22 of the Agenda which dealt with the Seventh report of the United Nations International Law Commission was deleted from the Agenda, but the question of the Eighth Report of the Law Commission was raised, and commented upon in the Report of the Technical Committee, under the item of other business.

20. Many of the deliberations of the Commission centred around the question of the fixing of the blue whale unit catch limit which it was essential to deal with as otherwise a number of countries for the coming season would not be governed by any limit at all. It was finally proposed that the matter should be dealt with by an amendment of the Schedule in the following terms:-

*Paragraph 8(a):*

Delete all words after "units" in the 4th line and substitute for them the following "in any one season, provided that in the season 1956/57 the number of baleen whales taken as aforesaid shall not exceed fourteen thousand five hundred blue whale units".

Paragraph 8(a) would then read as follows:

"(a) The number of baleen whales taken during the open season caught in waters south of 40° South Latitude by whale catchers attached to factory ships under the jurisdiction of the Contracting Governments shall not exceed fifteen thousand blue whale units *in any one season, provided that in the season 1956/57 the number of baleen whales taken as aforesaid shall not exceed fourteen thousand five hundred blue whale units.*"

The new words are in italics.

This amendment to paragraph 8(a) was moved in two parts: the first part dealing with the words "in any one season", the second part dealing with the addition of the proviso.

When this amendment was voted upon, there was unanimity among those voting as regards the first part, but there was a dissentient to the acceptance of the second part, the Netherlands Commissioner taking the view that there was not sufficient evidence to show that, on the basis of the present calculations, the the proposed reduction is necessary.

This amendment automatically involved a consequential amendment in paragraph 8(c) as follows:-

*Paragraph 8(c):*

Delete the words "in the season 1955/56 and 13,000 thereafter" in the sixth and seventh lines.

Between "13,500" in the sixth line and "notification" in the seventh line insert the words "(but 13,000 in the season 1956/57)".

Paragraph 8(c) would then read as follows:

"Notification shall be given in accordance with the provisions of Article VII of the Convention, within two days after the end of each calendar week, of data on the number of blue whale units taken in any waters south of 40° South Latitude by all whale catchers attached to factory ships under the jurisdiction of each Contracting Government; provided that when the number of blue whale units is deemed by the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics to have reached 13,500 (but 13,000 in the season 1956/57) notification shall be given as aforesaid at the end of each day of data on the number of blue whale units taken."

21. The Commission considered the draft of the Seventh Annual Report (Agenda Item 21). The British Commissioner at the First Plenary raised the question as to whether this report might not with advantage be redrafted. The matter was referred to a small Sub-Committee consisting of Dr. Kellogg (Chairman), Mr. Wall and Mr. Corner, and the existing draft was gone through and considerably revised; it was subsequently accepted by the Commission subject to the usual editing. The Commission accepted also the Sub-Committee's recommendation that before the next meeting the Secretary should prepare a skeleton layout for a more informative report which would be considered by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Corner, and their recommendations circulated to all Commissioners so that, subject to any comments, the next report on the suggested lines could be drafted in time for the next meeting.

22. Before the meeting terminated on the 20th July, the Commission were favoured with a statement by Dr. Finn of F.A.O. which is fully recorded in the verbatim report, and the representative from I.C.E.S. also expressed his appreciation of having been invited to the Conference.

G. J. LIENESCH  
(Chairman)

A. T. A. DOBSON  
(Secretary)  
14th August, 1956.

#### APPENDIX IV

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

1. The Scientific Sub-Committee set up at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Commission held in London, met at 3 Whitehall Place, London S.W.1 on Tuesday, March 26th, 1957 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, accompanied by Mr. Ohkuchi (Japan); Prof. Slijper, Dr. Drion, and Mr. van Utrecht (Netherlands); Prof. Ruud (Norway). No representatives were present from the U.S.S.R. nor from Australia, but on behalf of the latter, a considerable memorandum on humpback whales was supplied for the information of the Sub-Committee. The Secretary of the Commission was in attendance.

3. The following papers were presented for the consideration of the Sub-Committee:-

(a) "An analysis of recent catches of Humpback Whales from the stocks in groups IV and V" (supplied by the Australian Government).

(b) A memorandum entitled "Is it desired and justified to extend the open season for Humpback Whaling in the Antarctic?", by A. Jønsgård, J. T. Ruud, and P. Øynes of the Norwegian State Institute for Whale Research.

(c) A provisional statement of the total catches of Baleen Whales in 1956/57, production of whale oil, and barrels of oil per Blue Whale Unit, in each area, supplied by the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics.

(d) Four memoranda supplied by the Japanese member entitled, respectively, "Japanese Whale Marking in the Antarctic 1956/57 (provisional)"; "Japanese Whale Marking in the North Pacific 1956"; "Report on the Right Whales caught specially for conducting scientific researches and studies under Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling"; and "Japanese Pelagic Whaling in the North Pacific".

(e) Two memoranda from the Netherlands representatives entitled, respectively, "Some remarks on our present knowledge of the stock of fin whales in the Antarctic", by E. F. Drion and E. J. Slijper of the Netherlands Whale Research Group at the University of Amsterdam; and "Report on the Progress of Scientific Research made by the Netherlands Whale Research Group".

4. The Sub-Committee's agenda, (Item 1), the contents of which will be evident from what follows was, at the outset approved by the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee then dealt with each item on the agenda.

5. *Item (2), Catching days for humpbacks in the Antarctic.* This matter was dealt with in the Norwegian memorandum already referred to above and Prof. Ruud said that while it could not necessarily be proved that the humpback stock had increased, it would appear nevertheless to have been relatively less heavily fished in Areas IV and V than the stocks of blue and fin whales. He felt therefore that there was justification for taking a larger quantity of humpback whales without damage to stocks and that this could be best achieved by increasing the number of days during which humpbacks can be taken and which are limited to four in paragraph 6(3) of the schedule attached to the International Whaling Convention of 1946.

The Australian memorandum dealt with humpbacks in Groups IV and V which include the West Australian region and Area IV in the Antarctic on the one hand and the East Australian and New Zealand waters, and Area V on the other. In Group IV there was evidence of some deterioration in the stock up to 1954 and the apparent recovery in 1955/56 seems partly due to a reduction of the quota and to selection in the catch. The signs of recovery in Area IV in the Antarctic are slighter but there seems no reason to doubt that they are real. The stock in Group V appears to have been in good condition, but perhaps beginning to deteriorate a little, possibly as a result of the catches of the "Olympic Challenger".

The Sub-Committee thought that the high percentage of males taken in Australian waters compared with the Antarctic was favourable to the stock, but they question whether selection of the larger whales would make much difference when there was a limit on the catch.

The Sub-Committee were disposed to accept Prof. Ruud's view that the Southern humpback stocks have been relatively less taxed than those of blue and fin whales, at least in Areas IV and V. Against any change in the number of catching days is the fact that the humpback is an easily depleted species and an increase in catching days might have unpredictable results, especially if many fac-

tories were working in Areas IV and V. On the other hand there is some evidence of a certain resilience in the populations of this species; that is to say that they have powers of recovery from heavy taxation if they are not too far reduced, and they seem to have done so to some extent in part of the Southern Hemisphere.

Purely on biological grounds the Sub-Committee recommend an increase in the Antarctic catch, and the strongest reason for this recommendation is that it would give some relief to the hunting of fin whales. The final view of the Sub-Committee was that the Antarctic catch of humpbacks might in fact be doubled, but they recognised that it was for the Commission, on the recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Committees, to decide what actual increase if any might be suggested in the number of days catching. They suggested, however, that, as a basis for discussion at the Annual Meeting, a tentative amendment to the schedule might be inserted in the agenda, providing for an increase of four days on the existing four days mentioned in paragraph 6(3) of the Schedule.

There is reason to think that the stock is in poorer condition in Areas II and III than farther East. The Sub-Committee consider that if there should be an extension of the open season for humpbacks in the Antarctic, with an increased number taken, it would be undesirable to increase the taxation of the population in Area III. They suggest therefore that the closure of Area III, as well as Area II, to humpback whaling might be considered.

6. *Item 3 of the Agenda* dealt with *Blue whales in the North Atlantic*. The position is that two years ago the Commission decided that the taking of blue whales in the North Atlantic should be prohibited for a period of 5 years, but this was unfortunately objected to by the Governments of Iceland and Denmark who catch very small numbers of blue whales in this area. The result is that this prohibition, although it lasts for five years up to the 24th February, 1960, is not binding on the two objecting Governments mentioned.

At the last meeting of the Commission in 1956, the Danish Government undertook to withdraw their objection if Iceland would do likewise, and the Icelandic Commissioner undertook to refer the matter back to his Government for consideration. The Secretary reported that he had reminded the Icelandic Minister in London of this undertaking some time ago, but so far he had received no definite indication as to the attitude of the Icelandic Government. It was hoped, however, to have some definite information before the next meeting of the Commission at the end of June, 1957.

The Sub-Committee again expressed their disappointment that the Icelandic Government have not accepted this rather small restriction on the catches. In this matter it would appear that they have not accepted scientific advice and so far as the Sub-Committee know have not disputed the soundness of that advice. The Sub-Committee expressed the hope that in time for the next meeting, the Icelandic Commissioner would intimate his Government's willingness to withdraw their objection.

7. *Item 4 of the Agenda, Whales in the North Pacific*, was brought up as a result of a discussion at the meeting in Moscow in 1955. The main question at issue then was whether the various species on the west and east sides of the North Pacific are the same or separate stocks. It was then noted that research was in progress on this and related matters. At the present meeting reference was made to the Japanese memoranda on whaling and whale marking in the North Pacific. There is no certainty yet whether the east and west stocks are the same, but whale marking is giving good results and can be expected to show interesting

information on the distribution and movements of whales in this region. It was further noted that Japan had adopted a voluntary restriction on pelagic whaling in the North Pacific of 800 blue whale units and a limit of 70 actual blue whales per year since 1955.

8. The Sub-Committee next dealt with *Agenda items 5 and 6--Antarctic whaling and condition of the stock and Matters arising from current research*, which were taken together.

Prof. Ruud referred to preliminary figures for the season of 1956/57. These exclude the catches of the Slava but show certain interesting points. First, the catches were very unevenly spread over the Antarctic, being concentrated in Areas I and II and especially in Area I. (Area I is taken here to be the area covered by the former sanctuary.) Secondly, the humpback catch has been relatively small and nearly all in Area I. The percentage of blue whales in the catch remains uncertain until the final figures are available.

A general discussion followed ranging over the methods of determining the ages of whales, the rates of recruitment and mortality, and inferences as to the condition of the stock of fin whales. Preliminary consideration was also given to the memorandum by Dr. Drion and Dr. Slijper.

The Sub-Committee then dealt with some results of recent research. They noted first that age determination from the ear plugs corroborated the method of age determination from the ovaries of fin whales and (with some qualifications) from the baleen plates.

Next there was some discussion on the validity of Mackintosh and Brown's calculations of the size of the stock. Dr. Mackintosh said that there had been some criticisms of the observations as samples of the real population. He thought however, that here we were on fairly safe ground and that the margin of error in the estimate lay rather in the number of whales seen within a mile of the ship. There was admittedly a margin of considerable error, but he thought it very difficult to allow for a stock much larger than had been estimated.

Next there was some discussion about the age of fin whales at sexual maturity, and some evidence was given both from the ear plugs and from recent Netherlands research on the baleen plates that 5 years was more likely than 4. There remains an element of uncertainty about this, but the figure seems to have little effect on calculations of mortality rates. Most of the Sub-Committee agreed that an older age at maturity would lead to an even steeper calculated decline of the stock than had been calculated last year by Ottestad and Laws. Recent work indicates that the age estimated by ear plugs gave mortality rates which are in line with the rates calculated from the baleen plates and ovaries. Some questions have been raised about the validity of sampling, and it can be said that precautions have been taken to avoid any selection of whales examined in the catch. There is, perhaps, less certainty that the catch is a fair sample of the population of adult whales, but age distribution from the plugs and ovaries gives a curve of exponential form which accords roughly with expectation, and again most of the Sub-Committee considered that this could hardly be expected if the catch were a biased sample of the adult stock.

The principal evidence for the decline of the stock which had been put forward was then reviewed.

In 1955 Prof. Ruud and his colleagues estimated that mortality rates (from age determination by the baleen plates) were in excess of the maximum which would allow the maintenance of a stable population. (See report of Scientific Sub-Committee 1955 paragraph 11.) Prof. Ottestad's calculations in 1956 were

based on estimated rates of recruitment and mortality and showed a progressive decline. Similar results were obtained also in 1956 by Laws, who based his age determinations on the ovaries. More recent analysis of the available data, including that from ear plugs, gives further support to the inference that there is a significant decline. (The method is briefly outlined in the Sub-Committee's report of the meeting in 1956 at the foot of page 3.) Some further evidence arises from a comparison of the catches in the former sanctuary and the older whaling grounds. From the ear plugs and ovaries of fin whales taken in the sanctuary in 1955/56 it is calculated that the total adult mortality of fin whales was at the rate of at least 10 per cent per annum, whereas in Areas II to IV, from which data were also available, the rate for the same year is 22 per cent. It is calculated from the ovaries that the adult mortality rate in Area II in 1926/31 was 10 per cent, as in the sanctuary. This suggests that the condition of the stock in the sanctuary now is in line with that of the stock in Area II some 30 years ago.

The stock in the sanctuary and elsewhere many years ago must be considered to have had an age distribution nearer to that of the natural stock and, even if these figures are not conclusive evidence that the stock has heavily declined in the old areas, it indicates a substantial change in the composition of the population which has been much hunted. The fact that a large proportion of the catching was in the former sanctuary in 1956/57 indicates that the industry expected to find that the stocks there were in a substantially better condition than on the older whaling grounds, which have been hunted for many years.

It was unanimously agreed that, if the calculations of the condition of the stock of fin whales are substantially correct, then that stock is in process of being seriously depleted.

The discussion then turned to the reliability of these calculations which had been criticised in the Netherlands' memorandum. The memorandum in turn was criticised in a number of details by members of the Sub-Committee. Prof. Slijper was prepared to admit that the stock in 1910 (i.e. at about the time whaling was established on a substantial scale in the Antarctic) could reasonably be regarded as a stable stock; but he could not agree that the ear plugs were a reliable basis for estimating the absolute age distribution of a population without some direct check.

Finally, the members representing France, Japan, Norway and the U.K. gave their opinion as follows: although there is not conclusive proof of a heavy decline of the stock of fin whales, they considered that the balance of evidence is sufficient to justify a warning again that the present number of whales taken annually in the Antarctic is dangerously high.

Prof. Slijper, representing the Netherlands, took the view, however, that the evidence was insufficient for any recommendation to the Commission in regard to the total catch. A point he specially made was that in order finally to confirm the methods of age determination which lie at the basis of calculations as to the condition of the stock, it would be necessary to mark a number of whales, small enough to be clearly of an early age, so that recoveries of marks from such whales and examination of the signs of age would provide a known time scale. It was pointed out by other members of the Sub-Committee that it had long been the policy to look for and mark any young whales, but only a small proportion of all marks fired are recovered, and only in a very small proportion of whales from which marks are recovered is it practicable to obtain the necessary specimens. Nevertheless the Sub-Committee hope that as many small whales as possible will be marked provided precautions are taken against any risk of injuring or killing them.

The Sub-Committee would point out that the reproductive capacity of whales is not like that of fish, which can recover after very severe reduction. In a population of mammals there is a direct relation between the number of adults and the number of recruits, so that in a diminishing stock of whales there is a corresponding reduction in recruitment. The opening of the sanctuary has given some respite to the stocks in the old whaling areas but calculations of the decline have taken this fact into account.

The Sub-Committee cannot say exactly what will be the effect of continuing the catches at the present level, but they reiterate their opinion, given in 1955 and 1956 (Dr. Slijper dissenting) that the overall limit now standing at 15,000 blue whale units should be further reduced. Without such a reduction it is contended that the decline of the fin whale stock must continue.

9. The Sub-Committee next dealt with item 7 *Whale Marking*.

Taking first the marking done in 1956/57 the Sub-Committee were informed that a limited number of whales had been marked by the Etern in the Drake Strait in November, and some had been marked by British catchers though particulars are not yet available. More detailed information was available on Japanese marking in the paper supplied by Dr. Omura. 172 whales were marked in the Pacific sector and it was agreed that this could be of much value since it is an area where relatively little marking has yet been done. So far 11 marks have been recovered from Japanese factories in 1956/57. They give some indication that the stock in the Eastern part of the former sanctuary is separate from that of the western part and that taken with other evidence there is some interchange of whales between Area V and the western part of the sanctuary.

The Sub-Committee were also informed that in recent seasons up to 1955/56, 688 whales had been marked in the Antarctic in the Scheme of co-operation, and 35 marks recovered.

The estimated number of whales marked in Australian and New Zealand waters in 1956 were 389 and 124 respectively.

Marking in the New Zealand region has been planned and supervised by Dr. Dawbin who has also organised a scheme for marking humpbacks and making observations on them in the various island groups in the South-West Pacific. He is now working in Australia, but is able to keep going the marking and other work in New Zealand and the Islands.

The Sub-Committee agreed that it is of great importance that everything possible should be done to maintain the work in this critical region and they would like to give Dr. Dawbin every encouragement. They understand that he has certain financial problems in this respect, and they would like to commend the value of his work to the New Zealand authorities.

The Sub-Committee accepted the view that, in the marking done in past years, indispensable information had been obtained on a number of aspects on the biology of the stock of whales, but it was necessary to consider what can be expected from future marking. The work might not go very far towards an estimate of the sizes of populations, but would certainly throw more light as time went on, on the ages attained by whales, their movements and migrations and various other points which could not be foreseen in detail. It was hoped that by means of marking a time scale could be established for various events in the life cycle. Results might come slowly but it seemed well worth while to continue.

The Sub-Committee agreed that everything should be done to keep the work going on the present lines, and they recommend that the Commission should give

it further financial support, especially by helping to meet the cost of whale marks. Up to now £1,000 had been allotted for this purpose in 1955 and £500 in 1956. The Sub-Committee hesitate to recommend any particular sum since this must depend on what the Commission can afford.

It is not suggested that any funds available for research should necessarily be supplied solely for whale marks, but this seems the best purpose for which they could be used at present.

Finally the Sub-Committee would like to express again their great appreciation of the generous help given by the whaling companies in the marking of whales.

10. With regard to *item 8 of the Agenda, Whales taken for Scientific Purposes*, the Sub-Committee had before them a Norwegian memorandum on the subject.

It will be recalled that Article VIII of the International Convention 1946 reads as follows:-

1. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Convention any Contracting Government may grant to any of its nationals a special permit authorising that national to kill, take, and treat whales for purposes of scientific research subject to such restrictions as to number and subject to such other conditions as the Contracting Government thinks fit, and the killing, taking, and treating of whales in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall be exempt from the operation of this Convention. Each Contracting Government shall report at once to the Commission all such authorisations which it has granted. Each Contracting Government may at any time revoke any such special permit which it has granted.

2. Any whales taken under these special permits shall so far as practicable be processed and the proceeds shall be dealt with in accordance with directions issued by the Government by which the permit was granted.

3. Each Contracting Government shall transmit to such body as may be designated by the Commission, in so far as practicable, and at intervals of not more than one year, scientific information available to that Government with respect to whales and whaling, including the results of research conducted pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article and to Article IV.

4. Recognising that continuous collection and analysis of biological data in connection with the operations of factory ships and land stations are indispensable to sound and constructive management of the whale fisheries, the Contracting Governments will take all practicable measures to obtain such data.

This article follows very largely Article X of the International Agreement for the Regulation of Whaling, which was drawn up in London on 8th June, 1937.

Since the operation of Article VIII of the Convention of 1946 under which the International Whaling Commission was constituted, there have been some 16 permits issued up to and including the present season and except in one case these permits have been in respect of small numbers of whales not exceeding twelve. The total number of whales effected by these permits numbered 150. Information with regard to the permits issued during the current year will be reported in the Eighth Annual Report of the Commission which will be submitted for approval at the forthcoming meeting in London. It will be observed that under Article VIII (3) each Government is required to report on the scientific results arising out of the permits which it has issued and the Sub-Committee

were informed that comparatively few such reports have in fact reached the Commission to date, although Governments concerned have always been reminded when notifying the Commission of permits issued of the obligation in this respect.

The permits issued to date have often been in respect of the taking of whales outside the open season for whaling, and the Norwegian memorandum recommended that, as it should be possible for the scientific institutions concerned to procure all the material they require in the course of the open season without going outside it, the Commission should advise Contracting Governments to restrict the future issue of permits granted pursuant to Article VIII to the period of the regular open season. The Sub-Committee are disposed to accept the Norwegian view and are prepared to recommend that the Commission should advise Contracting Governments accordingly. In this connection, however, the question was raised as to whether any whales taken in the open season by virtue of a permit issued for that purpose should be regarded as being included in the blue whale unit limit, which is at present 15,000 and the Sub-Committee are prepared to recommend that this stipulation should also be the subject of a recommendation by the Commission to the Contracting Governments. This should not cause difficulty if the Commission as the Sub-Committee recommend are also prepared to recommend that Contracting Governments should confine any permits they may issue to as few whales as possible.

The Norwegian memorandum also recommended that the Commission should stress the obligation referred to above in paragraph 3 of Article VIII, namely that the results of any research undertaken as the result of the issue of a permit should if possible be included in the Annual Report which each Contracting Government is now asked to supply, giving details of the scientific research conducted by that Government. As indicated above, at the present moment a large number of permits has been issued but the results have not, as required by Article VIII, reached the Commission. These recommendations should not interfere with the objects sought to be achieved by the issue of permits and they would of course not involve any alteration of Article VIII of the Convention, which could only be achieved by the issue of a Protocol.

#### 11. The Sub-Committee finally dealt with *Item 9, Other business.*

As regards other research, Prof. Slijper spoke of the work in the Netherlands. He and Dr. Mackintosh agreed that schemes for observing whales from merchant and other ships were giving good results.

Prof. Slijper thanked those who had helped to secure blubber measurements and said he would be grateful for further co-operation. Work on mammary glands was in progress, and he would be glad of co-operation also in the collection of material. Histological work is also being carried out. It was suggested that progress reports on research might in future with advantage be submitted in time for consideration by the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee also had before them Dr. Omura's report on two Right Whales, taken under permit, which describes a number of interesting anatomical and other features and gives new information on food and body weights and measurements.

Signed on behalf of the Sub-Committee  
N. A. MACKINTOSH (*Chairman*)

29th March, 1957

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE—YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY, 1957  
(as approved by the Commission at its Ninth Meeting)

APPENDIX V

	£	s.	d.
1. Secretary's fees .. .. .	550	0	0
2. Administrative, clerical and typing staff provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and overhead expenses of the Ministry .. .. .	1,000	0	0
3. Travelling and subsistence .. .. .	37	4	7
4. Secretary's office rent .. .. .	150	0	0
5. Stationery, printing and postage .. .. .	336	17	6
6. Cost of Annual Meeting and contingencies .. .. .	545	13	1
7. Whale marking and other Scientific work .. .. .	220	0	0
	280	0	0
	£3,119	15	2
TOTAL .. .. .	£520	0	6
Balance .. .. .			
	£3,639	15	8
	£3,639	15	8
Claims on Panama In Bank or Cash .. .. .	300	0	0
	500	0	6
	£800	0	6
	£800	0	6

## Summary of Infractions of the International Whaling Convention, 1946

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)
BLUE WHALES												
1949/50	6,182	226	3.66	17	(No data)	19	1949	101	1	0.99		
1950/51	7,018	252	3.58	18	(No data)	20	1950	78	7	8.97	1	
1951/52	5,130	214	4.17	7	7	17	1951	124	6	4.81	1	
1952/53	3,870	137	3.54	12	17	21	1952	76	5	6.58	1	
1953/54	2,697	105	3.89	14	9	52	1953	163	4	2.45	1	
1954/55	2,176	79	3.63	6	7	3	1954	220	2	0.91		
1955/56	1,614	76	4.71	5	—	8	1955	159	5	3.14		
1956/57	1,512	73	4.85	9	—	—	1956	155	2	1.29		
FIN WHALES												
1949/50	20,040	94	0.47	24	(No data)	63	1949	1,640	10	0.61	3	
1950/51	19,456	106	0.54	34	(No data)	66	1950	2,241	18	0.80	1	
1951/52	22,527	475	2.11	33	(No data)	141	1951	2,513	55	2.19	12	
1952/53	22,867	600	2.62	27	131	140	1952	1,401	46	3.11	13	
1953/54	27,659	867	3.13	58	247	218	1953	2,159	47	1.99	12	
1954/55	28,624	392	1.37	46	182	235	1954	2,212	57	1.94	2	
1955/56	27,958	378	1.35	67	255	200	1955	3,056	25	0.82	6	4
1956/57	27,642	313	1.13	82	216	111	1956	3,007	25	0.83	4	7
OTHER BALEN WHALES												
1949/50	3,427	87	2.54	20	(No data)	36	1949	1,765	46	2.61	1	
1950/51	2,525	57	2.26	19	(No data)	5	1950	1,742	30	1.70	15	
1951/52	2,095	50	2.39	3	(Data)	14	1951	4,356	52	1.19	13	
1952/53	1,581	23	1.45	4	14	3	1952	1,646	31	0.66	14	
1953/54	1,634	8	0.49	1	24	11	1953	3,674	31	0.90	14	
1954/55	1,064	8	0.75	—	1	—	1954	3,682	39	1.06	6	1
1955/56	1,992	19	0.95	9	8	6	1955	3,380	16	0.48	4	1
1956/57	2,445	12	0.49	2	11	8	1956	3,763	22	0.58	5	1
SPERM WHALES												
1949/50	2,727	—	—	—	(No data)	(No data)	1949	1,672	11	0.67	1	
1950/51	4,968	—	—	—	(No data)	(No data)	1950	2,074	26	1.25		
1951/52	5,485	—	—	—	8	22	1951	2,864	182	13.34	25	
1952/53	2,132	—	—	—	13	13	1952	1,941	21	1.08	2	
1953/54	2,879	—	—	—	13	8	1953	4,513	57	1.26		
1954/55	5,790	1	0.02	—	30	17	1954	4,657	50	1.07		5
1955/56	6,974	24	0.34	—	34	18	1955	5,989	38	0.63		8
1956/57	4,452	11	0.25	—	10	3	1956	7,156	19	0.27	1	12

## NOTE:

(a) Figures shown relate only to whales taken by expeditions and land stations of member countries and are based on infractions reports received in the office of the Commission. The incompleteness of the data covering the earlier seasons is due to lack of uniformity in submitting reports.

(b) Size Limits (in feet).

Applicable in the Southern Hemisphere

	1949/50	1951/53	in force since 1954
Blue	70	70	70
Fin	55	60	57
Sci	40	40	40
Humpback	35	35	35
Sperm	35	38(1)	38(1)

Applicable to Land Stations in the Northern Hemisphere

	In force since 1949
Blue	70
Fin	55
Sci	40
Humpback	35
Sperm	35

(i) 35 feet in the case of sperm whales taken for delivery to land stations.

Lower size limits for baleen whales taken for delivery to land stations for local consumption as human or animal food apply in both the Southern and the Northern Hemispheres.

(c) In addition to the whales of a certain species lost in the Antarctic as shown in the table above the following numbers of whales of no stated species have been reported to have been lost:

1949/50	No data
1950/51	
1951/52	Nil
1952/53	41

1953/54	Nil
1954/55	15
1955/56	Nil
1956/57	Nil

TABLE SHOWING OIL PRODUCTION ETC. 1949/50—1956/57

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	2,097,911	147,524	—	—	

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.

## APPENDIX VIII

*List of Reports received by the Commission during the year ended 31 May, 1957 (arranged under countries or organisations alphabetically, with date of receipt in brackets).*

### Australia

An Analysis of Recent Catches of Humpback Whales from the Stocks in Groups IV and V. Prepared for the International Commission on Whaling by the Division of Fisheries and Oceanography C.S.I.R.O. Australia. (20 March, 1957).

### Food and Agriculture Organisation

Yearbook of Fishery Statistics 1954/1955 (27 December, 1956).

The State of Food and Agriculture, 1956. (14 September, 1956).

Economic Marine Algae of Tropical South and East Asia and their utilization. Edited by Secretariat of Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council. F.A.O. Regional Office for Asia and the Far East Bangkok. (23 September, 1956).

### Japan

The Scientific Reports of the Whales Research Institute Vol. II. Published by the Whaling Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan. June 1956 (27 September, 1956).

Report on the Right Whales caught specially for conducting Scientific Researches and Studies under Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. Prepared by the Whales Research Institute, Tokyo. February, 1957. (26 March, 1957).

### Netherlands

Landbouweijfers. 1955 and Jaarveeslag 1955—Published by the Landbouw Economisch Instituut. (June and July, 1956).

Nederlandse anatomen Vereniging Voorzitter. Prof. Dr. M. W. Woerdeman. (14 January, 1957).

Het Walvisonderzoek Yraagt de medewerking van Nederlandse zeevarenden door Prof. Dr. E. J. Slijper, Werkgroep. Walvisonderzoek. T.N.O. (14 January, 1957).

Biologisch onderzoek van bruinvissen en dolijnen. Prof. Dr. E. J. Slijper. Werkgroep Walvisonderzoek. T.N.O. (14 January, 1957).

Some remarks on gestation and birth in Cetacea and other aquatic mammals. Hvalradets Skrifter. Nr. 41. E. J. Slijper, Oslo, W. Nygaard. 1956. (14 January, 1957).

Medewerking Gevraagd voor het Walvisonderzoek. Prof. Dr. E. J. Slijper, Werkgroep Walvisonderzoek. (14 January, 1957).

Some remarks on our present knowledge of the Stock of Fin Whales in the Antarctic. E. F. Drion and E. J. Slijper, Whale Research Group, T.N.O. (26 March, 1957).

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

## Norway

International Regulation of Whaling. A Critical Survey by Prof. J. T. Ruud---  
Reprinted from *Samtiden* (Journal for Politics, International and Social Questions). (28 September, 1956).

Is it desired and justified to extend the open season for Humpback Whaling in the Antarctic? by Åge Jonsgård, Johan T. Ruud and Per Öynes. Norwegian State Institute for Whale Research. (26 March, 1957).

Report on Whale marking carried out by Norwegian Catchers in the Antarctic Season 1955/56, by Johan T. Ruud and Per Öynes. Reprinted from the Norwegian Whaling Gazette, 1957, No. 2 (pp. 59-63). (26 March, 1957).

## United Kingdom

Preliminary estimates of the Southern populations of the Large Baleen Whales by N. A. Mackintosh and S. G. Brown. Reprinted from the Norwegian Whaling Gazette, 1956, No. 9. (10 December, 1956).

National Institute of Oceanography. Discovery Reports, as follows:

Vol. XXVIII. Sperm Whales of the Azores by Robert Clarke (19 December, 1956).

Vol. XXIX (pp. 1-128) Hydromedusae from the Discovery Collections (11 February, 1957).

Vol. XXIX (pp. 129-140) New observations on the aberrant Medusa *tetraplatia Volitans* Busch. (5 March, 1957).

Vol. XXVIII (pp. 299-398) Station List 1950/51 (5 March, 1957).

Annual Report (14 January, 1957).

Collected Reprints. Vol. 4 (14 May, 1957).