

# International Commission on Whaling

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

## SIXTH REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

(covering the sixth fiscal year 1st June, 1954 to  
31st May, 1955)

*(As approved by the Commission at its seventh meeting in Moscow, July 1955,  
and authorised to be printed)*

L O N D O N

Issued from the Office of the Commission

1955



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## LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

<i>Australia</i>	..	..	..	..	Mr. F. F. ANDERSON
<i>Brazil</i>	..	..	..	..	(Not yet appointed)
<i>Canada</i>	..	..	..	..	Mr. G. R. CLARK
<i>Denmark</i>	..	..	..	..	Mr. P. F. ERICHSEN
<i>France</i>	..	..	..	..	Mr. G. PETER Subsequently succeeded by Mr. P. POUMAILLOU
<i>Iceland</i>	..	..	..	..	His Excellency, A. KL. JONSSON
<i>Japan</i>	..	..	..	..	Dr. AKIRA KODAKI
<i>Mexico</i>	..	..	..	..	(Not yet appointed)
<i>Netherlands</i>	..	..	..	..	Dr. G. J. LIENESCH (Vice-Chairman)
<i>New Zealand</i>	..	..	..	..	Mr. W. C. SMITH Subsequently succeeded by Mr. O'HALLORAN
<i>Norway</i>	..	..	..	..	Mr. GUNNAR JAHN
<i>Panama</i>	..	..	..	..	Mr. R. R. ALEMAN
<i>South Africa</i>	..	..	..	..	Dr. J. M. MARCHAND
<i>Sweden</i>	..	..	..	..	Mr. M. DE WACHENEELT Subsequently succeeded by Mr. ENIGREN
<i>U.S.S.R.</i>	..	..	..	..	Capt. A. N. SOLYANIK
<i>United Kingdom</i>	..	..	..	..	Mr. R. G. R. WALL
<i>U.S.A.</i>	..	..	..	..	Dr. REMINGTON KELLOGG (Chairman)

A. T. A. DOBSON,  
Secretary.

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



## International Whaling Commission

(1) The International Whaling Commission presents this, its Sixth Annual Report, covering the year 1st June, 1954 to 31st May, 1955.

(2) In the course of the year, no new Governments notified the State Department at Washington (the Depository Government for the International Whaling Convention, 1946) of their ratification of or adherence to the said Convention. The number of countries that now have the right to appoint members of the Commission remains therefore at 17, and the names of their Commissioners are shown on page 2 of this Report.

(3) The Commission again expresses the earnest hope that the non-participating countries, especially those whose representatives signed the 1946 Convention, may see their way to ratify or adhere to the Convention without further delay, so that they may be in a position to co-operate in the vital task of conserving the whale stocks of the world.

(4) All the participating countries mentioned on page 2 were represented at the sixth meeting held in Tokyo, in July, 1954, with the exception of Iceland. In addition, representatives were also present, by invitation of the Commission, as observers, from Argentina, Italy, and Chile, and from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

(5) A list of all those who attended the sixth meeting will be found in Appendix I to this Report. The agenda for that meeting constitutes Appendix II.

It will be recalled that a year or two ago the Commission decided to include among the Appendices to the Annual Report the Chairman's Report of the meeting which took place within the period covered by the Report. It was then felt that those reading the Report might like to have the Chairman's Report in a convenient printed form, although it would not be available in this form for some time after the event. The inclusion of this Chairman's Report, however, as an Appendix makes it unnecessary to repeat in the main body of the Report many of the items dealt with in the Chairman's Report, which should therefore be read as part of this Report.

(6) At the first plenary session, held at the Grand Hotel in Tokyo on 19th July, 1954, the Commissioners and their advisers and the various observers were welcomed on behalf of the Japanese Government by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry whose address to the Assembly was greatly appreciated.

(7) At the outset of the sixth meeting the Commission approved its agenda to which reference has already been made.

(8) In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, as amended at the third meeting at Cape Town, the Commission were polled as to whether any additional country desired representation on either of the two Committees.

(9) As a result the Scientific Committee was constituted as follows :—

Australia (Mr. Anderson), Canada (Mr. Gibson), Japan (Dr. Omura), Netherlands (Dr. Sluiter), Norway (Prof. Ruud), South Africa (Dr. Marchand), U.S.S.R. (Mr. Tverianovich), U.K. (Dr. Mackintosh), U.S.A. (Dr. Kellogg) with experts in addition. Dr. Mackintosh (U.K.) was elected Chairman.

(10) The Technical Committee was constituted as follows :—

Australia (Mr. Moore), Canada (Mr. Clark), Japan (Dr. Kodaki), Netherlands (Mr. de Waal), Norway (Mr. Moe), Panama (Mr. Aleman), South Africa (Mr. Plummer), U.S.A. (Mr. Terry), U.S.S.R. (Capt. Solyanik), U.K. (Mr. Wall accompanied by Sir V. Board). Mr. Clark (Canada) was elected Chairman.

In exercise of his powers under the Rules of Procedure, the Chairman, after considering the constitution of the Finance and Administration Committee during the previous four years appointed the following to serve during the year 1954-55 :—

Mr. Wall (U.K.), Dr. Marchand (South Africa), Dr. Kodaki (Japan).

When the Committee met, Mr. Wall (U.K.) was elected Chairman.

(11) All financial matters including the Commission's expenditure during 1953-54 and budget for 1954-55 were referred to the last mentioned Committee, upon whose recommendation the following decisions were subsequently taken by the Commission.

(12) The Commission accepted the financial statement relating to the income and expenditure for 1953-54 as certified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries now the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who act as the Commission's Accountants.

This statement has already appeared as Appendix V to the fifth Report of the Commission.

(13) The Commission took note of the fact that three contributions in respect of 1953-54 were outstanding namely from Brazil, Mexico and Panama. These outstanding contributions were subsequently paid.

(14) As regards the year 1954-55, the Commission decided that the contribution to be requested from each contracting government should remain at £150 sterling. The actual income and expenditure for this year as settled by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and approved by the Commission at its seventh meeting at Moscow is shown as Appendix V to this Report. It will be seen that the cost of the Commission for this year amounted to £2,271, against the estimated budget of £2,580. At the close of year the contributions from Panama and Mexico were still outstanding.

(15) On the recommendation of the Finance and Administration Committee, the Commission agreed that the Annual Meeting should be held in Moscow on 18th July, 1955. The U.S.S.R. Commissioner generously undertook that his Government would provide the accommodation for the meeting and the necessary staff for the conduct of the meeting and verbatim recording of the proceedings, without cost to the Commission.

(16) It will be recalled that a copy of the rearranged schedule (which had been approved by the Commission in 1953) was included as Appendix IV to the fifth Report. It had not come into force because, at that time, written assents to its adoption were still awaited from Brazil and Panama. Assent was received from Brazil during the course of the Tokyo meeting, but at the conclusion of 1954-55 to which year this Report relates, the assent indicated by Panama still awaited confirmation by the Panamanian Parliament.

In the meantime, copies of the Schedule, augmented by all the amendments that came into force as the result of the sixth meeting at Tokyo, have been printed and are ready for circulation immediately the outstanding assent is received, on which day it is due to come into operation.



(17) A number of amendments were made to the Schedule attached to the International Whaling Convention 1946 and these are set out in detail in paragraph 14 of the Chairman's Report (Appendix III). They comprise :—

(a) A prohibition on the taking of blue whales in the North Atlantic for a period of 5 years.

(b) A prohibition on the taking of blue whales in parts of the North Pacific Ocean for a period of 5 years.

(c) A prohibition on the taking of humpback whales in the North Atlantic Ocean for a period of 5 years.

(d) A prohibition on the taking of humpback whales for a period of 5 years south of 40° South Latitude between 0° Longitude and 70° West Longitude.

(e) A prohibition on the taking of humpback whales south of 40° South Latitude except on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th February in any year.

(f) The opening of the Antarctic season from 7th January instead of 2nd January, no blue whales to be taken before 21st January.

(g) A prohibition on the taking of sperm or minke whales except as permitted by Contracting Governments.

(h) The length below which fin whales can be taken was reduced from 60 feet to 57 feet.

(i) The addition of a new paragraph regarding the declaration of a separate open season for minke whales in areas having oceanographic conditions clearly distinguishable from those of other such areas.

(18) In accordance with the requirements of the Articles of the Convention, all these amendments to the Schedule were duly notified to Contracting Governments and, subject to what follows, came into operation on 7th November, 1955. Objection, however, was raised to amendments (a) and (b) above and these did not come into operation until 24th February, 1955 and 17th February, 1955, respectively, but are not binding in the case of (a) on Iceland and Denmark and in the case of (b) on Japan, Canada, U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A.

(19) The Commission gave consideration to the question of using helicopters and other aircraft for killing whales, although at the present time these aircraft are not used for this purpose. Nevertheless the Commission decided to make a recommendation under Article VI of the Convention and resolved that an approach should be made to that end to the Government of the U.S.A. as the Depository Government.

Such an approach was duly made but the matter had not been concluded by the end of the year to which this Report relates and it will therefore be further considered at the seventh meeting at Moscow in July, 1955.

(20) The Commission also considered the position under the Convention of a "refrigerated ship" used for the collection of whale meat from a factory ship for subsequent treatment for human or animal consumption. The Commission decided to obtain a legal opinion on the subject and were informed that such a ship would have to be regarded as falling within the definition of "factory ship" in Article II of the Convention. This opinion would come before the Commission at its seventh meeting at Moscow in July, 1955, for such action as may be deemed necessary.

(21) The Commission decided again to set up a Scientific Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. N. A. Mackintosh (U.K.) consisting of representatives of Australia, France, Japan, Netherlands, Norway and U.S.S.R. with a technical representative in addition from Norway. It was left to the Convener (Dr. Mackintosh) to prepare the agenda to cover all scientific questions.

of interest to the Commission including those specifically mentioned in the Scientific Committee's report as represented at the sixth meeting. As this Sub-Committee met in London from 18th April to 22nd April, 1955, inclusive, its report, which will fall to be considered at the seventh meeting in Moscow, is printed in full in Appendix IV to this Report.

(22) The Commission's thanks are due to the organisers of the ENERN Expedition, in the course of which a considerable amount of marking was carried out in 1953-54, and it was strongly recommended that further such marking might be repeated during the 1954-55 season. This recommendation was endorsed by the Scientific Sub-Committee already referred to, as will be seen from their report in Appendix IV, to which reference has already been made.

(23) Attention is particularly directed to paragraph 13(3) of the Chairman's report of the sixth meeting, wherein a warning was issued that it might soon be necessary to restrict more severely the Antarctic catch of blue whales, whilst guarding against a corresponding increase in the catch of fin whales. This matter is also dealt with in the Scientific Sub-Committee's report and will in due course fall to be dealt with at the Commission's seventh meeting in Moscow.

(24) Progress reports supplied by the Netherlands, Norway and the U.K., were considered at the sixth meeting. Research is also being carried out in Canada, Japan, the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A.

(25) Through the courtesy of the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics, the Commission had before it the figures in respect of the year 1954-55 covered by this Report and a few figures are given in the next paragraph, although these figures were not available until the sixth meeting, held after the close of the year to which this report relates.

(26) The Antarctic season in 1954-55 extended from 7th January to 7th April, but it was again found necessary to stop operations before the concluding date, as the 15,500 blue whale unit limit was likely to be exceeded. Catching was stopped by the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics as from midnight on 19th March, 1955. By that date 15,300 blue whale units had been taken, 200 short of the permitted total of 15,500.

(27) The killing of humpback whales was permitted on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th February, and during that period 493 humpback whales were captured.

(28) The factory ships engaged in the Antarctic season 1954-55 numbered 19 as follows:—

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.), Tonan Maru, Nisshin Maru, Kinjyo Maru (Japan), Olympic Challenger (Panama).

The total number of catchers attached to factory ships was 233.

(29) The total oil output from the Antarctic season's catch amounted to 2,057,479 barrels. If the catch of land stations in the Antarctic is included, namely 180,081 barrels, the total Antarctic catch of whale oil is increased to 2,237,560 barrels, inclusive of 284,615 of sperm oil.

This output for the Antarctic season 1954-55 represented a decrease of 48,160 barrels on the previous year, and at 6 barrels to the ton the decrease amounted to 8,026 tons.

(30) Outside the Antarctic in the year 1954 the output was about 600,000

barrels, as compared with 450,654 barrels in 1953 and at 6 barrels to the ton represented 100,000 tons.

(31) The Commission's recommendations that resulted from the Report of the Technical Committee are set out in paragraph 12 of the Chairman's Report of the sixth meeting. It was decided to call the attention of Contracting Governments to the continuing large number of undersized lactating and lost whales and to the great waste of resources represented by lost whales. The Commission emphasized the necessity for Contracting Governments to ensure the strict enforcement of measurements of whales taken, and the accuracy of reporting infractions.

(32) In the course of the year under review the Commission was notified by Canada and the U.S.S.R. that permits to take a certain number of whales for scientific purposes had been granted, and those countries, in accordance with the requirements of the 1946 Convention, have been asked to supply, in due course, information as to the result of the scientific investigations carried out as the result of the taking of whales under these permits.

(33) The Commission remains greatly indebted to those who have assisted in carrying out the arduous responsibilities with which it is charged.

In the first place the Japanese Government and the Japanese Whaling Industry provided hospitality and facilities which greatly added to the comfort and efficiency of the Tokyo meeting.

Secondly the Commission greatly appreciated the statistics provided by the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics, and so ably commented upon by its Director, Mr. E. Vangstein.

Finally, at its sixth meeting in Tokyo, the Commission recorded their regret that Professor Birger Bergersen was absent for the first time since the Commission was constituted, owing to his appointment as a Minister, and the Commission decided to convey to his Excellency their sense of gratitude for the great services he had rendered for so many years as the representative of the Norwegian Government.



## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix I—List of those attending the sixth meeting of the Commission in Tokyo, 1954.

Appendix II—Agenda for the sixth meeting.

Appendix III—Chairman's Report of the sixth meeting.

Appendix IV—Report of the Scientific Sub-Committee as circulated with the agenda for the seventh meeting at Moscow, 1955.

Appendix V—Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st May, 1955, as approved by the Commission at its seventh meeting.

Appendix VI—List of Reports received by the Commission during the year ended 31st May, 1955.

# APPENDIX I

## LIST OF COMMISSIONERS AND OTHERS ATTENDING THE SIXTH MEETING, 1954

AUSTRALIA	.. F. F. ANDERSON	with R. MOORE, <i>adviser</i>	
BRAZIL	.. .. W. S. ROBERTO		
CANADA	.. .. G. R. CLARK	with GORDON GIBSON, <i>expert</i>	
DENMARK	.. .. IB. BODENHAGEN		
FRANCE	.. .. F. TOUSSAINT		
ICELAND	.. .. (Not represented)		
JAPAN	.. .. A. KODAKI	with <i>experts and advisers</i> as in annex	
MEXICO	.. .. M. M. ARCE		
NETHERLANDS	.. G. J. LIENESCH	with L. DE WAAL E. J. SLEIJER G. ELSHOVE	} <i>experts</i>
NEW ZEALAND	.. R. M. MILLER		
NORWAY	.. .. J. T. RUUD	with E. MOL E. VANGSTEIN	} <i>advisers</i>
PANAMA	.. .. R. R. ALEMAN		
SOUTH AFRICA	.. J. M. MARCHAND	with D. J. C. PLUMMER, <i>adviser</i>	
SWEDEN	.. .. PEDER HAMMARSKJÖLD and OLOF RIPA		
U.S.S.R.	.. .. A. N. SOLYANIK	with V. TVERIANOVICH YU. M. PAVLOV	} <i>experts</i>
U.K.	.. .. R. G. R. WALL	with N. A. MACKINTOSH SIR VYVYAN BOARD	} <i>experts</i>
U.S.A.	.. .. R. KELLOGG	with W. M. TERRY Commander J. P. MARTIN	} <i>advisers</i>

### (Annex)

#### JAPANESE Experts :

MUNEYASU TACHIKAWA  
HIDEO OMURA  
YASUHIKO NARA  
MASAHIRO NISHIBORI  
KENZO KAWAKAMI  
YASUMATSU MIYAKE  
KEIJIRO MAEDA

#### Advisers :

IWAO FUJITA  
KYUHEI SUZUKI  
KENKICHI NAKAMIZO  
KOJA HOKETSU  
YASUO SUZUKI  
SUZO KAMIMURA  
SHIGEO TAKEDA

### *Attending as Observers*

ARGENTINE	..	..	..	GUILLERMO CONTI
				G. HARDY
				I. J. ORTIZ
CHILE	..	..	..	R. SUAREZ-BARROS
ITALY	..	..	..	L. COZZI
PORTUGAL	..	..	..	V. A. MARTINS
F.A.O.	..	..	..	C. MILES
I.C.E.S...	..	..	..	G. J. LIENESCH
Secretary	..	..	..	A. T. A. DOBSON
Assisted by	..	..	..	T. MORI and other Japanese staff

*Note.*—It is understood that owing to delay in the mail, the Peruvian Representative (Miguel Grau-Price, Chargé d'Affaires) did not receive his conference papers in time to be an accredited observer.

### APPENDIX II

AGENDA for the SIXTH MEETING of the Commission to be held in Tokyo, on *Monday, 19th July, 1954, at 10 a.m., at Tokyo Grand Hotel, 2-1 Nagata-Cho, Chiyoda-Ku.*

1. Welcome on behalf of the Japanese Government.
2. Opening remarks by the Chairman. Arrangements for the meeting.
3. Formal approval of the Agenda, as set out below.
4. Appointments to Committees. The Commission will be polled, in pursuance of Rule XVIII of the Rules of Procedure, as to whether any additional countries desire representation. (NOTE :—The present membership of the Scientific and Technical Committees is set out in Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Chairman's Report of the Fifth Meeting. The Chairman will appoint the members of the Finance and Administration Committee.)
5. Report as to re-arranged Schedule.
6. Finance. Provisional Statements showing the cost of the Commission during the year *1st June, 1953 to 31st May, 1954*, and the estimated cost for the year *1st June, 1954 to 31st May, 1955.* (*Sixth Meeting, Documents I (a) and (b).*) (NOTE :—The Commission will no doubt wish to refer these statements to the Finance and Administration Committee for consideration, and for recommendations as to the contribution to be requested from each Contracting Government for the year 1954-55.)
7. Report of the Special Scientific Sub-Committee set up, with Professor B. Bergersen as Convener. (*Sixth Meeting, Document II.*) (NOTE :—The Commission will no doubt wish to refer this Report and that under item (8) to the Scientific Committee for consideration.)
8. General Scientific Report by Dr. N. A. Mackintosh. (*Sixth Meeting, Document III.*)
9. Report on Whale Marking. (*Sixth Meeting, Document IV.*)



10. Statement of Infractions committed during the land station season 1953 and the pelagic season 1953-54. (*Sixth Meeting, Document V.*) (NOTE :- The Commission may wish to refer this statement to the Technical Committee for consideration.)

11. Review of the 1953-54 season's catch. Figures will be furnished by the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics, but it is hoped that a Summary may be made available in advance of the meeting.

12. Amendments to the Schedule, arising from the Scientific Sub-Committee's Report. (*Document II above*) and from other sources.

(A) Insert the following, as a new *Paragraph 4*, re-numbering the subsequent paragraphs.

4. It is forbidden to kill or attempt to kill blue whales and humpback whales in the following areas :—

(a) in the Northern Hemisphere.

(b) in the waters South of 50° South Latitude between 0° Longitude and 70° West Longitude ; and it is forbidden to kill or attempt to kill blue whales in the waters of the South Atlantic outside the Antarctic.

(NOTE :—This area may require defining.)

(B) *Paragraph 6* (present numbering)

Delete the words " Provided that in any pelagic whaling season for baleen whales the killing of humpback whales shall be permitted " and insert the word " except " ; after " 4th February " insert the words " in any year."

(C) *Paragraph 6* (present numbering)

At end insert the words " Except in the waters South of 50° South Latitude between 0° Longitude and 70° West Longitude."

(D) *Paragraph 7(a)* (present numbering)

Delete the proviso at the end of 7(a) and substitute " and no such whale catcher shall be used for the purpose of killing or attempting to kill blue whales before the 16th January in any year."

(E) *Paragraph 7(a)*

Last line : after " taken " insert " or killed."

(F) Insert a new Sub-paragraph 7 (b) as follows :—

"It is forbidden to use a whale catcher attached to a factory ship for the purpose of killing or attempting to kill sperm or minke whales except as permitted by the Contracting Governments in accordance with sub-paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) of this paragraph."

(Sub-paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) will then become (c), (d) and (e) respectively.)

(G) *Paragraph 7 (a)* (present numbering)

For the words " 2nd January," substitute the words (" date to be inserted ") ; and delete the proviso at end.

(H) *Paragraph 8 (a)* (present numbering)

Delete the words " five hundred."

(I) *Paragraph 9 (b)* (present numbering)

For the words " 60 feet (18.3 metres) " in the first line substitute the words " 55 feet (16.8 metres) " ; and in the fourth line delete the words " fin whales of not less than 55 feet (16.8 metres) may be taken for delivery to land stations in the Southern Hemisphere and"

(J) Paragraph 10(d) (present numbering)

At end add, " And provided a separate open season may also be declared for land stations within an area, with substantially differing regional oceanic conditions ; however, the aggregate of the open seasons for land stations under the jurisdiction of the same Contracting Government, shall not exceed nine consecutive months of any twelve months."

13. The use of Helicopters and/or other aircraft for killing whales. (*Sixth Meeting. Document VI.*)

14. Report by the Finance and Administration Committee.

15. Report by the Scientific Committee.

16. Report by the Technical Committee.

17. Draft Fifth Annual Report for approval. (*Sixth Meeting. Document VII.*)

18. Any other Business.

19. Date and Place of Next Meeting.

(NOTE :—The Commission may wish this to be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee for recommendations. This may affect the arrangements for the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman at the conclusion of the present holders' tenure of office.)

## APPENDIX III

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

1. The Commission held its sixth annual meeting in Tokyo, at the invitation of the Japanese Government, at the Tokyo Grand Hotel. At the first Plenary Session, held on 19th July, 1954, the Commissioners with their experts and advisers, and the various observers were welcomed on behalf of the Japanese Government by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, who expressed his pleasure at the opportunity of meeting the Commission and wished them a successful meeting. His welcoming speech is recorded in full in the verbatim report of the First Plenary Meeting. (*Sixth Meeting Document XIV (A).*) The final Plenary was held on 23rd July, 1954.

2. Commissioners were present from Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Union of South Africa, U.S.S.R., U.K. and the U.S.A.

Brazil, Denmark, Mexico, New Zealand and Sweden were also represented, Iceland was not represented. Representatives were also present as observers from Argentine, Chile, Italy, Portugal, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. Owing to delay in the mail, the Peruvian representative did not receive his papers in time to attend as an accredited observer.

3. After approving the Agenda, the Commission were polled as to whether any Contracting Government wished to have representation on either of the two standing committees, where it had not had such representation before, or whether it desired to vary its existing representation.

4. As a result, the Scientific Committee was constituted as follows :—

Australia (Mr. Anderson), Canada (Mr. Gibson), Japan (Dr. Omura with Messrs. Nara and Kawakami), Netherlands (Dr. Slijper), Norway (Dr. Ruud),

South Africa (Dr. Marchand), U.K. (Dr. Mackintosh), U.S.A. (Dr. Kellogg), U.S.S.R. (Mr. Tverianovich). Dr. Mackintosh was elected Chairman.

5. The Technical Committee was constituted as follows :—

Australia (Mr. Moore), Canada (Mr. Clark), Japan (Dr. Kodaki accompanied by Messrs. Tachikawa, Nishibori, Miyake, Maeda), Netherlands (Mr. de Waal), Norway (Mr. Moe), Panama (Mr. Aleman), South Africa (Mr. Plummer), U.S.A. (Mr. Terry) accompanied by Commander Martin), U.S.S.R. (Capt. Solyanik), U.K. (Mr. Wall accompanied by Sir V. Board). Mr. Clark was elected Chairman.

6. With regard to the Finance and Administration Committee, the Chairman nominated the following to serve for 1954-55. Mr. Wall (U.K.), Dr. Marchand (S. Africa), Dr. Kodaki (Japan). Mr. Wall was elected Chairman.

7. A large number of items on the Commission's approved agenda were referred to one or other of the three Committees whose reports came up in due course for the Commission's consideration.

8. As regards the Finance and Administration Committee's recommendations, the Commission came to the following conclusions :—

(a) The expenditure for the year 1953-54 as set out and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Conference Document I (A) was approved. The net expenditure for that year was £1,854 16s. 2d., but the Commission took note of the fact that three contributions were outstanding at the end of the year (Mexico, Panama and Brazil) which it was hoped would be speedily paid.

The balance carried forward to 1954-55, amounted to £1,457.

(b) As regards the budget for 1954-55, which covers the Tokyo (Sixth) Meeting, the Commission accepted the estimates set out in Document I (B), subject to certain amendments, viz., an increase to £800 in the item dealing with travelling and an increase to £250 in that relating to Special Stationery Services. These increases brought the total estimated expenditure to £2,580.

(c) The Commission resolved that the contribution to be requested from Contracting Governments in respect of 1954/55 should be £150 as before. This will produce £2,550 which, with the balance of £1,457 brought forward, will produce a total income of £4,007, leaving a balance to be carried forward to 1955-6 of £1,427.

Against the balance to be carried forward the Commission contemplated the publication of one or more scientific reports during the year.

The Commission accepted the budget on these lines and it is to be found in Document I (B) Revised.

(d) As regards the date and place of the next meeting, the Commission considered the matter in the light of an invitation from the U.S.S.R. Government that the 1955 meeting should be held in Moscow in the latter part of July.

When the matter was put to the vote, the selection of Moscow was agreed to by 12 votes with two abstentions ; two of the assents were subject to confirmation by the Governments concerned.

The Commission asked the U.S.S.R. Delegation to express their thanks to the U.S.S.R. Government for their invitation.

9. The Commission approved the draft of the Fifth Annual Report (covering the financial year 1953-54), as submitted by the Secretary, subject to the



insertion of certain figures not available when the draft was prepared. The Commission agreed that the re-arranged Schedule, although not yet in force, owing to the fact that all the assents in writing had not been received by the opening of the sixth meeting, should for record purposes, be included among the Appendices to the fifth report, which otherwise remain as before.

At the time of the sixth meeting, assents to the re-arranged Schedule were outstanding from Panama and Brazil. In the former case, notification by Parliament was necessary and could not be obtained before 1st October, 1954. The Assent from Brazil was received in the course of the meeting on 22nd July, 1954.

10. Through the usual co-operation of the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics, the Commission had before them, in the usual form, detailed figures relating to the whaling season of 1953 (Land Stations) and 1953-54 (Pelagic whaling). The Commission were indebted to Mr. Vangstein for a clear commentary on the situation which is reported in full in the verbatim report of the First Plenary Meeting (Conference Document XIV (A)).

11. As regards the Antarctic Season in 1953-4 there were 17 factory ships engaged with 206 whale catchers, and the total output of whale oil amounted to 2,100,879 barrels. The land stations produced another 184,647 barrels, making a grand total of 2,285,526 barrels, inclusive of 144,518 barrels of sperm oil. This output represented an increase of 167,429 barrels on the previous year, which at 6 barrels to the ton amounted to 27,905 tons. Outside the Antarctic in the year 1953 the output was 397,836 barrels, as compared with 429,670 barrels in 1952 and at 6 barrels to the ton represented 66,306 tons. The Commission noted that pelagic whaling in the Antarctic was stopped as from midnight on 18th March, 1954. By that date, 15,439 blue whale units had been taken, or 61 whales short of the authorised total of 15,500. The catching of humpbacks was permitted on the first four days of February. Altogether 594 humpbacks were taken during that period, a decrease of 355 on the previous year.

12. The Technical Committee's report was circulated as Conference Document XVII and the commission decided that its recommendations should be put into effect as follows :—

(1) As regards the report made by the Sub-Committee (consisting of Sir V. Board (U.K.), Mr. Terry (U.S.A.), Mr. Miyake (Japan) and Mr. Moe (Norway)), it was decided that the attention of Contracting Governments should be called to the continuing large number of undersize, lactating and lost blue whales ; to the great waste of resources represented by lost whales ; to the forms used by the Norwegian Government for recording details of infractions ; and finally to the necessity for member Governments to ensure the strict enforcement of measurements of whales taken and the accuracy of reporting of infractions.

(2) Consideration was given to the use of helicopters and other aircraft for killing whales and, although helicopters are not so used at the present time, the Commission decided to make a recommendation under Article VI of the Convention, and resolved that the necessary approach be made to that end to the Government of the U.S.A. as the Depository Government.

(3) The Commission decided that a legal opinion should be obtained as to the application of Article 2 of the Convention and para. 11 of the schedule to a refrigerated ship collecting whale meat from a factory ship for subsequent treatment for human or animal consumption.

(4) The Commission decided that the Scientific Sub-Committee referred to in paragraph 13(1) should be asked to consider the extension of whale marking

and to prepare a co-ordinated programme to which the Commission might make a financial contribution.

(5) The Commission decided that the Scientific Sub-Committee referred to in paragraph 13(1) should include a technical representative in connection with the consideration of any technical matters that might arise.

13. The report of the Scientific Committee was circulated as Conference Document XV, and apart from the question of amendments to the Schedule, it contained a number of recommendations upon which the Commission decided as follows :—

(1) That a Scientific Sub-Committee should be set up consisting of representatives of Australia, France, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, U.S.S.R. and U.K. with a technical representative from Norway. It was decided that the Sub-Committee should meet at some suitable time before the next meeting and that Dr. Mackintosh (U.K.) should be the convener and should prepare the agenda to cover all scientific questions of interest to the Commission including those, e.g., Pelagic whaling in the North Pacific, mentioned in the Scientific Committee's report.

(2) The Commission while expressing their thanks to the organisers of the ENERN expedition, pointed out that it was essential for an extended programme to be undertaken, so that reliable conclusions might be drawn.

The Commission understood that the whaling companies were favourably considering giving further support to whale marking and expressed the hope that more whale marking might take place in 1954-55.

(3) The Commission took special note of the Committee's views in para. 18 of their Report, on the subject of Antarctic stocks in general. Having regard to the scientific advice at their disposal and to the catch statistics covering whaling operations in the Antarctic, the Commission expressed the opinion that it may soon become necessary to restrict more severely the Antarctic catch of blue whales, while guarding at the same time against a corresponding increase in the catch of fin whales. This alone would involve a reduction in the total permitted catch in the Antarctic. If there should be clear signs of depletion of fin whale stocks also, the Commission believe that a further and very substantial reduction of the total permitted catch should be made at once. The Commission resolved that their views on this matter should be brought to the attention of Contracting Governments and by them made known to their whaling industries.

(4) The Commission took note of the progress reports supplied by the Netherlands, Norway and the U.K. and understood that research was also being carried on in Canada, Japan, the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A.

14. Most of the recommendations of the Scientific Committee were concerned with amendments to the Schedule.

A number of proposed amendments appeared on the Agenda, but not all of these were accepted.

Those amendments which were accepted were as follows :—

(1) *In Paragraph 4.* Insert the following two new sub-paragraphs, the existing paragraph numbered 4 being re-numbered 4(3).

4(1) It is forbidden to kill or attempt to kill blue whales in the North Atlantic Ocean for a period of five years.

(9 votes in favour, with 5 abstentions.)

4(2) It is forbidden to use a whale catcher attached to a factory ship or to a land station for the purpose of killing or attempting to kill blue whales



for a period of five years in the North Pacific Ocean between 20° North Latitude and 66° North Latitude eastward of a line running south from 66° North Latitude along the meridian 168° 58' 22.69" West Longitude to 65° 15' North Latitude ; thence southwestward along a great circle course to the intersection of 51° North Latitude and 167° East Longitude ; thence southeastward along a great circle course to the intersection of 48° North Latitude and 180° Longitude ; thence south along the meridian 180° Longitude to 20° North Latitude.

(7 votes in favour, 2 against, 5 abstentions.)

(2) *In Paragraph 6.* Insert the following sub-paragraphs, the existing paragraph numbered 6 being now re-numbered 6(3).

6(1) It is forbidden to kill or attempt to kill humpback whales in the North Atlantic Ocean for a period of 5 years.

(8 votes in favour, 6 abstentions.)

6(2) It is forbidden to kill or attempt to kill humpback whales in the waters south of 40° South Latitude between 0° Longitude and 70° West Longitude for a period of 5 years.

(7 votes in favour, 2 against and 4 abstentions, without the addition of the last 6 words ; the subsequent addition of these words attracted 10 votes with 3 abstentions.)

(3) *Paragraph 6*, now to be re-numbered 6(3), shall read as follows :—

It is forbidden to use a whale catcher attached to a factory ship for the purpose of killing or attempting to kill humpback whales in any waters south of 40° South Latitude except on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th February in any year.

(4) *In Paragraph 7(a).* For " 2nd January " substitute " 7th January."

(12 votes in favour. 3 abstentions.)

Omit the proviso at end and insert the words " and no such whale catcher shall be used for the purpose of killing or attempting to kill blue whales before the 21st January in any year."

Paragraph 7(a) as so amended will then read as follows, the new words being underlined :—

7(a) It is forbidden to use a whale catcher attached to a factory ship for the purpose of killing or attempting to kill baleen whales (excluding minke whales) in any waters south of 40° South Latitude, except during the period 7th January to 7th April, following, both days inclusive ; and no such whale catcher shall be used for the purpose of killing or attempting to kill blue whales before the 21st January in any year.

(11 votes in favour, with 2 abstentions.)

(5) Insert a new *sub-paragraph 7 (b) as follows* :—

" 7(b) It is forbidden to use a whale catcher attached to a factory ship for the purpose of killing or attempting to kill sperm or minke whales, except as permitted by the Contracting Governments in accordance with sub-paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) of this paragraph."

The existing sub-paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) will then become (c), (d) and (e) respectively.

(12 votes in favour. 2 abstentions.)

(6) *In Paragraph 9(b)*, for the words " 60 feet (18.3 metres) " read " 57 feet (17.4 metres)."

(12 votes in favour. 2 abstentions.)

(7) *At end of Paragraph 10(d), add the following words :—*

Except that a separate open season may be declared for any land station used for the taking or treating of minke whales which is located in an area having oceanographic conditions clearly distinguishable from those of the area in which are located the other land stations used for the taking or treating of minke whales under the jurisdiction of the same Contracting Government ; but the declaration of a separate open season by virtue of the provisions of this sub-paragraph shall not cause thereby the period of time covering the open seasons declared by the same Contracting Government to exceed nine continuous months of any twelve months."

(6 votes in favour, 8 abstentions.)

15. A number of amendments did not attract the requisite number of votes, viz., the prohibition on the taking of humpback whales in the North Pacific Ocean, and on the taking of blue whales in the waters south of 40° South Latitude between 0° Longitude and 70° West Longitude, and finally the proposed reduction of the blue whale unit limit by 500.

The proposal to prohibit the taking of blue whales in the South Atlantic did not attract a proposer.

16. At the final Plenary Meeting, the Commission indicated its appreciation of the hospitality and facilities which had been generously provided both by the Japanese Government and the Japanese Whaling Industry. The staff provided by the Japanese Government under Mr. Mori had done invaluable work and had produced the papers without any delay.

17. The Commission also recorded its appreciation of the great services which had been rendered by Mr. Vangstein and the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics.

18. The satisfaction of the Commission was also expressed at the presence of the Observers from Argentine, Chile, Portugal and Italy and the hope was expressed that this indicated their intention of adhering to or ratifying the Convention at an early date.

19. The representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, expressed their pleasure at having been present.

20. Finally the Commission recorded their regret that Prof. BIRGER BERGERSEN had, for the first time since the Commission was set up, been unable to attend, and it was decided to convey to him the Commission's sense of gratitude for all the great services that he had rendered ever since he had represented the Norwegian Government at Whaling Conferences.

REMINGTON KÉLOGG,  
*Chairman.*

26th July, 1954.

#### APPENDIX IV REPORT OF SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE (April, 1955)

1. The Scientific Sub-Committee appointed by the Commission at their Tokyo meeting in 1954 met in London on 19th April, 1955, and following days.

2. The Sub-Committee consisted of the following : —

Dr. MACKINTOSH, <i>Chairman</i>	..	..	..	..	} UNITED KINGDOM
Dr. R. M. LAWS	..	..	..	..	

Mr. GUNNAR JAHN	..	..	..	..	}	NORWAY
Prof. J. RUUD	..	..	..	..		
Dr. P. BUDKER	..	..	..	..	}	FRANCE
Mr. PATTERSON	..	..	..	..		
Dr. H. OMURA	..	..	..	..	}	AUSTRALIA
Prof. E. SLIJPER	..	..	..	..		
Dr. BOGDANOV	..	..	..	..	}	JAPAN
Mr. V. TVERIANOVICH	..	..	..	..		
Mr. J. PAVLOV	..	..	..	..	}	NETHERLANDS
					}	U.S.S.R.

The Secretary was in attendance. Mr. E. Moe (Norway) also attended in connection with Technical matters, and Mr. E. Vangstein (Norway) in connection with International Whaling Statistics. Mr. R. G. Williams, Secretary of the National Institute of Oceanography attended during the whale marking discussions.

3. The various matters referred to the Sub-Committee at the Tokyo meeting were embodied in an agenda in the following terms, which were approved by the Sub-Committee :—

- (1) Approval of Agenda as below.
- (2) Limit to the catch of separate species in the Antarctic.
- (3) Sanctuary in the Pacific Sector.
- (4) Long term prospects of the Southern Stocks.
- (5) Pelagic Whaling in the North Pacific.
- (6) Other Whaling outside the Antarctic.
- (7) Whale marking programme.
- (8) Other business.

4. The Sub-Committee had before them a number of documents, which greatly assisted them in their deliberations.

5. They included :—

- (a) Some notes by the Chairman on the various items of the Agenda.
- (b) A memorandum supplied by the Australian authorities on the results of research on the Australian stocks of humpback whales.
- (c) A report by Messrs. Hysten, Jønsøgaard, Pike and Ruud on the age composition of Antarctic fin whale catches.
- (d) A report by Prof. Slijper and Mr. Drion on size limits in fin whales in relation to the regulation of whaling.
- (e) A memorandum by Mr. Jahn on catches of blue whales in the North Atlantic and Arctic.
- (f) A paper by Dr. Omura on whales in the North Pacific.
- (g) A progress report on research and two printed papers by Prof. Slijper, and
- (h) Several tables prepared by Mr. Vangstein dealing with the 1954-55 whale catches.

6. With regard to item 2, *Limit to the Catch of Separate Species in the Antarctic*, the Sub-Committee believe that it would be a great advantage if the Commission could specify separately the actual maximum numbers of blue and fin whales to be taken in each Antarctic season. They would, however, feel bound in that case to recommend a small catch of blue whales, perhaps not very far above the figure of 1,250 which was formerly adopted for humpbacks,



and later modified in favour of a time limitation. Mr. Jahn informed the Sub-Committee that there would be great practical difficulties in operating such separate quotas and, after having given the question further consideration, had come to the conclusion that, for the time being, he would not advocate specific quotas, but very much preferred a reduction in the total limit. Mr. Moe was also opposed to such separate quotas. After discussion, the Sub-Committee agreed not to ask for catch quotas for separate species.

7. With regard to item 3, *Sanctuary in Pacific Sector*, the Sub-Committee considered that there was no special virtue in the Pacific sector as a sanctuary compared with other parts of the Antarctic; it covers most of Areas I and VI, and had been chosen in the first place only because closure would not interfere with contemporary whaling. It was agreed that there is now something to be said in favour of opening this area to whaling. The Sub-Committee were very reluctant to abolish a sanctuary without at the same time closing some other area, but after discussion they agreed that it would be difficult, unless the Commission decided otherwise, to close some other area in the Antarctic which would necessarily be part of the normal whaling grounds. They noted that to open a sanctuary would at least be likely to afford some relief to the intensity of whaling in other regions. The majority of the Sub-Committee (excluding the Soviet Delegation) decided to recommend therefore that the existing sanctuary should be opened for a period of three years, at the end of which it would automatically be closed again. The effect of opening it should be carefully watched. They strongly recommend that the best use should be made of any consequent opportunities for research on the populations of whales in this region.

8. The Soviet Delegation expressed the view that without sufficient scientific investigation of this problem, and taking into account the need to conserve the stocks of whales, they could not support a recommendation by the Sub-Committee to open the sanctuary. They felt it might be wise to retain it as it is, but agreed that the question could be discussed further at the Commission's meeting in Moscow.

9. Under item 4, *Long term Prospect of the Southern Stocks*, the Sub-Committee discussed the condition of the blue and fin whale stocks together with the sanctuary and the minimum lengths of fin whales.

10. It was noted in the first place that the latest catch figures indicate a further decline in the blue whale stock. In the 1954-55 season blue whales constituted only 7.5 per cent of the catch of blue and fin whales together in the period 7th January to 19th March. Since separate quotas for the species are not recommended, it was agreed that the number of blue whales taken must depend on the opening date and the overall limit. The Sub-Committee recommend that the opening date for blue whales should be further retarded to a date after which about 1,500 blue whales might be expected to be taken. They suggest the 1st February for the Commission's agenda. They would like to emphasise that they take a grave view of the condition of this species. It would appear that the stock is now only a fraction of the original population, and its powers of recovery might already be found to be largely lost even if it received total protection.

11. The Sub-Committee then discussed at some length the condition of the fin whale stock. Prof. Ruud spoke on his memorandum which is based on age determinations from the baleen plates. From these, the numbers of whales in separate year classes are calculated, and hence the rates of mortality. The conclusion is that the total mortality rates, including the mortality from whaling, over a series of years, have been in excess of the maximum rate which would

permit the maintenance of a stable population, and therefore that the stock of fin whales is in the process of depletion.

12. Dr. Laws also described his investigations on rates of mortality based on age determinations from counts of corpora albicantia of the ovaries. These broadly confirm Prof. Ruud's conclusions.

13. The Sub-Committee noted that the whole Antarctic whaling industry is virtually dependent on healthy stock of fin whales, and they agree unanimously that definite signs of depletion, such as are indicated by these researches, point to a very dangerous situation. Once progressive depletion has set in, there is a risk that it will be accelerated and that the stock, if much reduced, will begin to lose its powers of recovery.

14. The Sub-Committee feel that the only remedy for these dangers is a substantial reduction of the total catch, and they recommend that as soon as may be practicable the scale of Antarctic whaling should be adjusted so that the number of fin whales taken is not more than the number taken four or five years ago. The exact figure might be discussed at the meeting in Moscow, but it may be noted that with the declining catch of blue whales the number of fin whales taken has risen from 17,474 in 1950-51 to nearly 26,000 in 1954-55. The Sub-Committee have provisionally in mind a catch of about 19,000 fin whales. The rest of the catch of baleen whales should be made up of the suggested 1,500 blue whales and smaller numbers of humpback and sei whales.

15. Having in mind the views expressed at the meeting in Tokyo, the Sub-Committee realise that an immediate cut of this magnitude would scarcely be acceptable for the season of 1955-56, but felt convinced that some such limit (as implied in paragraph 14) would soon be necessary. They felt therefore that the reduction should be approached by stages. If for the season 1955-56 the catch of fin whales was kept down to 25,000, then the overall limit would work out at something like 14,000 blue whale units, allowing for about 1,500 blue whales and some humpback and sei whales. In order that a clear proposal should appear on the Commission's agenda, the Sub-Committee strongly recommend 14,500 units for the season of 1955-56.

16. Prof. Slijper was not disposed to dissent out of hand from this recommendation, but was not prepared to endorse it whole-heartedly at the moment. He wanted a further opportunity to study the very detailed report put forward by Prof. Ruud. In the absence of such a further study, Prof. Slijper was not prepared to commit himself at this stage.

17. Prof. Slijper then drew attention to his paper on the use of minimum lengths in the regulation of whaling. Last year it was noted that there was an advantage in taking immature whales on the assumption that some of them, if not taken by the whalers, would any way die through natural mortality. Prof. Slijper had now made a further investigation of the question and argued that if the catching were concentrated on the older whales, among which the rate of natural mortality is supposed to be high, then there would on balance be a net gain in recruitment of young whales to the stock.

18. Although the basic argument was appreciated by the Sub-Committee it was pointed out that the conclusion depended on the assumed rates of mortality at different ages, and especially on the maximum ages to which the whales live, and there is not sufficient information on these matters. It was also noted that the calculations referred to an undisturbed stock, whereas the actual problem applies to a population with depleted numbers in the higher age classes. It was felt that any beneficial effect of raising the size limit again would be long delayed. After discussion, it was agreed that no change should be recommended now,



but that the matter should be brought to the attention of the Scientific Committee in Moscow. This would give Prof. Slijper an opportunity to submit any further calculations on the basis of other possible mortality rates and age compositions. The Sub-Committee noted that the South African Commissioner had asked for a raising of the minimum length of fin whales to be put on the Commission's agenda.

19. As regards item 5, *Pelagic Whaling in the North Pacific*, the Sub-Committee discussed the scientific aspect of the question raised in 1952 by the Canadian Commissioner that in these waters pelagic whaling should not take place east of a line approximating to the international date line. Dr. Omura submitted a paper on the results of Japanese research in the North Pacific. The Sub-Committee felt that they would need time for a critical study of the many interesting subjects with which it deals, but they noted in particular the following points :—

(a) Japanese factory ships have operated on three grounds, a western ground south-east of Kamtchatka and two eastern grounds on the north and south side of the Aleutian Islands roughly between 160° and 170° W. From the position of these two eastern grounds (visited in 1954) it can be said that pelagic whaling has already spread to the North-East Pacific.

(b) Comparisons of the blood group composition of fin whales from the western and eastern stocks indicate that there is some genetic distinction which implies a certain degree of segregation of the two stocks.

(c) There are some signs of depletion of certain stocks on both sides of the North Pacific, though the evidence needs further examination.

(d) Whale marking so far gives no evidence as to possible segregation of the east and west stocks. The Sub-Committee would like to stress the importance of continuing and if possible increasing whale marking in the North Pacific.

20. The Sub-Committee were also given some information on Soviet research in the North Pacific. They noted with interest that some 250 whales had already been marked in this area and that further details would be supplied later.

21. The Soviet scientists considered that further biological information was still needed before any recommendation could be made on pelagic whaling in the North Pacific. The Sub-Committee were disposed to agree that no definite recommendation should be made to the Commission at this stage.

22. Under item 4, *Other Whaling outside the Antarctic*, Mr. Patterson gave some general observations on the Australian report on research on humpbacks. It was clear that the West Australian stock had deteriorated between 1942 and 1954. The Sub-Committee welcomed the information that it was intended to reduce the catch in these waters from 1,320 to 1,120. It can be assumed that the East Australian stocks are in a relatively healthy condition, and the Sub-Committee would agree that there seems to be no immediate danger to this stock with the present rate of catching at 720 whales. They would suppose, however, that any other whaling in the whole East Australian and New Zealand area would in the long run be taxing the same stock.

23. As regards other areas, Dr. Budker stated that hunting for humpbacks had ceased in respect of Madagascar and Gabon and he did not think that they were likely to begin again for some years. Although he personally would like to see more protection for humpbacks, he did not wish to suggest for the time being any extension of the protection afforded last year, and the Sub-Committee decided to make no recommendation with regard to this species, especially in view of the stoppage of whaling in the areas referred to by Dr. Budker.

24. In connection with *blue whales in the North Atlantic*, Mr. Jahn referred to his paper on the catches in past years which indicates that only a small stock, or the remnants of a formerly larger stock, supplies the blue whales now taken in the north. The Sub-Committee expressed their regret that Denmark and Iceland had not accepted the protection of blue whales in the North Atlantic which was proposed last year, but they note that the subject will come up for discussion on the Commission's agenda.

25. The Sub-Committee briefly discussed the hunting of *sperm whales*. They can only reiterate their view that they have no reason for supposing there is danger to the stocks of this species provided the size limit is strictly observed, but they would like to point out that should circumstances arise in which any factory ship operated in tropical or subtropical latitudes without being bound by the limit, then considerable damage might be done to the stock.

26. The Sub-Committee next considered item 7, *Whale Marking*, especially with a view to outlining a more definite scheme to facilitate the international co-ordination of whale marking programmes. The Chairman suggested that the main question for the Sub-Committee was the machinery of co-ordination. More detailed programmes of actual marking would come later. For co-ordinated marking on any substantial scale, the scheme would have to be carefully organised, and it would involve a good deal of administrative work. The following basic principles were agreed upon :—

(1) To make the best of such a scheme, it should be regarded as a long-term plan. Although many results might come in a comparatively short time it is possible that marks may be returned 50 years after firing and marking might be continued for many years. Provision should be made for the identification of marks in the distant future as well as in the near future.

(2) Reliable and permanent records should be kept of all marks fired and all those recovered. It is most important that all marking should be done under the supervision of a responsible person, preferably but not necessarily a trained scientist.

(3) The marking equipment should allow no risk of confusion of the serial numbers of marks.

(4) Suitable arrangements should be made for the pooling of data and division of work among the appropriate research workers.

(5) The scheme should not be developed too hurriedly, and in the first place it might apply only to marking in the Southern Hemisphere. There is not likely to be much interchange of whales between the Northern and Southern hemispheres, and therefore any current marking in the North Pacific and North Atlantic could remain independent, at least for the present.

(6) To meet these basic requirements there should be a co-ordinating body which would assist other bodies which co-operate in marking, and which would have custody of a complete set of permanent records and supply information and data to the Commission and to the co-operators. The records should be kept in such a way that they can be clearly understood if they come into other hands in the course of time.

27. It was proposed that the National Institute of Oceanography should act in the first place as the co-ordinator, and Dr. Mackintosh said he thought that the Institute would probably agree to take formal responsibility for acting in this capacity, subject to their being satisfied with the general terms of the scheme.

28. The Sub-Committee think that it would be proper for the N.I.O. as co-ordinator to receive full details of all marks fired, that is to say the marking logs, or transcripts of the logs which give particulars of the date and position of each mark fired by authorities which take part in the scheme. They would



also receive all particulars of marks recovered. This should ensure the permanent safety of the records and allow data to be aggregated for statistical purposes.

29. On their part, the N.I.O. would undertake to inform co-operators of any of their marks which are recovered, and supply appropriate data and information to the Commission and co-operating authorities. They would normally attend to the supply of marking equipment, and the payment of rewards for such recovered marks as are received by them.

30. Plans will need to be made for the use of the new data obtained. Dr. Mackintosh suggested that this would need some further consideration. He could not commit the N.I.O. at this stage, but he was sure that they would not wish to undertake research which might in any way discourage the initiative of those who were concerned in the marking of whales in various regions. The N.I.O. would no doubt be mainly interested in the broader aspects. It was agreed, however, that any rigid division of the use of data was undesirable, and that as a general rule those concerned should be able to use the available data for drawing inferences which might be helpful in the researches in which they were engaged. Any such problems concerning the use of the data could no doubt be solved by informal arrangements.

31. It seems preferable that all marks should be supplied by the same manufacturer to ensure uniform quality and to avoid any confusion. This does not rule out the use of marks from other sources, but it would be best to aim at a single series of numbered marks which would normally be returned through the co-ordinator if recovered.

32. It was suggested that a detailed scheme should be drafted, embodying standing instructions and advice on the operation of a scheme on the above lines. Dr. Mackintosh will prepare a draft for circulation before the meeting of the Commission, and this draft could be considered first, perhaps by the Scientific Committee.

33. As to the provision of vessels for marking on any substantial scale, the Sub-Committee understand that there is a prospect that two catchers might be available for marking for a period in the season of 1955-56.

34. Under item 8, *Other Business*, the Sub-Committee considered research on whales, and it was suggested that there would be great advantages if a meeting could be arranged to bring together scientists (including the younger ones) not necessarily connected with the Commission but engaged on research on whales in various parts of the world, to discuss their work among themselves and exchange views and ideas. The difficulty in arranging such a meeting is mainly the cost of travelling and the Sub-Committee hoped that some assistance in this direction could be afforded from the Commission's funds. It is understood that Prof. Ruud, before the Moscow meeting, will circulate a memorandum on plans for such a meeting to be held some time in 1956.

35. Should this proposal not commend itself to the Commission, such funds might be devoted to the purchase of whale marks.

36. Prof. Slijper said he hoped progress reports on research would be submitted at the meeting in Moscow. He expressed his appreciation of the data collected on blubber thickness in the past season, and hoped more could be obtained in 1955-56. He also discussed some points on the histology of the mammary glands.

37. In case the Commission should consider the question of publication of

any papers or memoranda submitted at the meetings, the Sub-Committee thought it should be made clear that memoranda on scientific subjects are often based on unfinished research or on data or inferences which have not been arranged in final form, but written simply to give some help towards the Commission's work. Such memoranda should be regarded as confidential unless otherwise agreed with the Author.

38. In conclusion it should be understood that if certain of the Sub-Committee's recommendations are accepted by the Commission, it will be necessary to include in the agenda proposals for altering the appropriate paragraphs of the Schedule. These are paragraph 5 (which creates a sanctuary of Areas I and VI of the Antarctic) ; paragraph 7(a) alteration of 21st January to 1st February ; and paragraph 8(a) which deals with the overall blue whale unit limitation.

Signed on behalf of the Sub-Committee :

N. A. MACKINTOSH,  
*Chairman.*

# APPENDIX V

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE—YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY, 1955

(as provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and approved by the Commission at its Seventh Meeting)

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1. Secretary's fees .. .. .	394	—	—	Balance brought forward .. .. .	..	..	1,457 13 7
2. Administrative, clerical and typing staff provided by Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food .. .. .	750	—	—	Contributions from Contracting Governments :—	£		
3. Overhead expenses of Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food .. .. .	200	—	—	Australia .. .. .	..	..	150
4. Travelling and subsistence (Secretary) .. .. .	602	10	4	Brazil .. .. .	..	..	150
5. Special accommodation facilities .. .. .	150	—	—	Canada .. .. .	..	..	150
6. Special stationery facilities including cost of Annual Report, Convention and foreign postage .. .. .	127	11	8	Denmark .. .. .	..	..	150
7. Additional payment in respect of Annual Meeting, 1953—additional charge from H.M.O.W. .. .. .	3	19	3	France .. .. .	..	..	150
8. Scientific Sub-Committee Meeting. London entertainment expenses .. .. .	43	16	10	Iceland .. .. .	..	..	150
	2,271	18	1	Japan .. .. .	..	..	150
Balance carried forward .. .. .	1,735	15	6	*Mexico .. .. .	..	..	150
Total .. .. .	£4,007	13	7	Netherlands .. .. .	..	..	150
				New Zealand .. .. .	..	..	150
				Norway .. .. .	..	..	150
				*Panama .. .. .	..	..	150
				South Africa .. .. .	..	..	150
				Sweden .. .. .	..	..	150
				U.S.S.R. .. .. .	..	..	150
				United Kingdom .. .. .	..	..	150
				U.S.A. .. .. .	..	..	150
					£2,550		
					2,550	—	—
					£4,007	13	7

\* Not yet paid.

## APPENDIX VI

*List of Reports received by the Commission during the year ending 31st May, 1955 (arranged under Countries or Organisations alphabetically, with date of receipt in brackets).*

### Canada

Preliminary Report on the growth of Finback Whales from the Coast of British Columbia. By Gordon C. Pike, Fisheries Research Board of Canada, Pacific Station at Nanaimo, B.C. (July, 1954.)

Two Records of *Berardius Bairdi* from the Coast of British Columbia. By Gordon C. Pike, Fisheries Research Board of Canada, Pacific Station at Nanaimo, B.C. (July, 1954.)

Colour Pattern of Humpback Whales from the Coast of British Columbia. By Gordon C. Pike, Fisheries Research Board of Canada, Pacific Station at Nanaimo, B.C. (July, 1954.)

### Food and Agriculture Organisation

Activities of F.A.O. under Expanded Technical Assistance Programme, 1953-54. Rome, December, 1954. (January, 1955.)

Fisheries Bulletin. January-March, 1955. (March, 1955.)

Year Book of Fishery Statistics. Vol. IV. Part I. Rome, 1953. (March, 1955.)

### Japan

The Japanese Whaling Industry. Japan Whaling Association. Tokyo, 1954. (July, 1954.)

Biological Investigation of the Northern Pacific Baleen Whales caught by the Japanese Whaling Fleet in 1953. Japan Whaling Association, July, 1954. (July, 1954.)

Report on Whale Marking in Japan, No. V. In the waters off Sanriku-Hokkaido and the North Pacific Ocean, 1953. Japanese Fisheries Agency, Tokyo, 1953. (October, 1954.)

The Scientific Reports of the Whales Research Institute. No. 9 (Various Papers). Whale Research Institute, Tokyo, June, 1954. (August, 1954.)

### Netherlands

On the importance of Measuring the Thickness of the Layer of Blubber in Whales. By E. J. Slijper (Netherlands Whale Research Group T.N.O., Zoologisch Laboratorium der Universiteit van Amsterdam. (April, 1955.)

Verzoek om Medewerking aan Nederlandse Zeevarenden voor het Waarnemen van Walvissen. Prof. E. J. Slijper, Zoologisch Laboratorium der Universiteit van Amsterdam, 1954. (April, 1955.)

### Norway

The Age Composition of Antarctic Fin Whale Catches, 1945-46 to 1952-53, and some reflections of total mortality rates of Fin Whales. By A. Høyen, A. Jønsdard, G. C. Pike and J. T. Ruud. (April, 1955.)

Observations on the use of Size Limits in the Regulation of Whaling. By Johan T. Ruud. Reprinted from the Norwegian Whaling Gazette, 1954, No. 4. (September, 1954.)

Whale Marking Trials at Steinshamn, Norway. By J. T. Ruud, Robert Clarke and A. Jønsdard. Reprinted from the Norwegian Whaling Gazette, 1953, No. 8. (October, 1954.)



### United Kingdom

National Institute of Oceanography. Discovery Reports Vol. XXVI (part), Vol. XXVII (part). (July and August, 1954.)

National Institute of Oceanography. Annual Report, 1953-54. (January, 1955.)

National Institute of Oceanography. Collected Reports, Vol. II. (January, 1955.)

Whale Oil and Sperm Oil. Main Catch Reports--Seasons 1953-54 and 1954-55, and World Production. David Geddes & Son Ltd., London, 1954. (November, 1954.)

