

**Draft Resolution for the Implementation of a Conservation and Management Program for Whale Stocks aimed towards the ~~lifting of the moratorium and~~ orderly Management and Development of the Whaling Industry**

Submitted by Antigua and Barbuda

Co-sponsored by Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Palau

RECOGNIZING that the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”) was concluded “to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry”.

ACKNOWLEDGING that most whale stocks were over exploited for many years further acknowledging that through the careful conservation and management measures by the IWC whale stock populations have significantly increased.

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the 1982 moratorium on whaling was implemented as a temporary management measure to be reviewed within 10 years of its implementation and, that this review requirement has not been completed.

RECOGNIZING that significant scientific progress and also a better understanding of environmental and humane factors has been made by the commission, and ~~that most humane factors the nature and the abundance of whale stock populationss, and that most whale stocks are for being~~ significantly increased since the moratorium.

NOTING that in 1994 the ~~Ce~~ommission adopted a robust and risk-averse procedure for calculating quotas for abundant stocks of baleen whales (known as Revised Management Procedure RMP).

RECALLING, that the IWC agreed that before the RMP is implemented ~~and the moratorium is lifted~~ an inspection and observation scheme must be in place so as to ensure the integrity of adherence to agreed catch limits.

REALIZING that the Commission made significant progress towards the development of an inspection and observation scheme (RMS) but ~~failure~~ to reach agreement on a combination of scientific and non-scientific factors ~~that~~ comprises the Revised Management Scheme (RMS); ~~and because of this but failed to reach~~ agreement on a number of outstanding issues.

REALIZING that significant commercial whaling activities are legally taking place in the EEZs of IWC member countries acknowledging that these whaling

activities are now legally undertaken outside of the management authority of the IWC and that the IWC is no longer the premier international organization managing the whaling industry. Concern that its international responsibility for the conservation and management of whale stocks and the orderly development of whaling has been significantly reduced.

NOTING that sustainable whaling contributes to livelihoods, food security and poverty reduction of coastal communities; including aboriginal communities and also cognizant of the commitment of IWC countries to the United Nations sustainable development goals, requiring the commitment of all countries to ensure that no communities are left behind.

BEARING IN MIND that any conservation and management measures for the harvesting of whale resources, including catch limits for sustainable whaling, inspection and observation strategies ~~must be that are~~ based on the best scientific evidence available;

ACKNOWLEDGING that it is in the best and common interest of all Contracting Governments for the Commission to move towards a more balanced approach in consideration of its mandate to ensure proper and effective conservation of whale stocks and orderly development of whaling;  
NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION,

1. WELCOMES the exchange of views among the Contracting Governments realizing that ~~the~~ objective discussions can lead to meaningful ~~progress situations~~ aimed at providing a proper conservative and management strategy for whale resources.
2. DECIDES to begin a process of collaboration among contracting governments to ensure that the ~~Ce~~commission improves its work in realizing the objectives of its Convention (ICRW); including establishing of a special task force to be Chaired by the Chairman of the Commission and comprising of members nominated by contracting governments.
3. Decides to entrust the special task force to
  - A) Review the work of the ~~Ce~~commission with regards to the RMF and RMP
  - B) Make an assessment of the usefulness for the commission to resume work on the implementation of the RMP
  - C) The development of a negotiating framework document that can be used as a basis for ~~recovering~~reconvening negotiations for monitoring and control supporting programs
  - D) Making recommendations to the Commission on the basis of the results of above review.

4. INSTRUCTS the Special Working Group to report the result of review and recommendations at the next meeting of the Commission in 2026.
5. REQUESTS the Scientific Committee to provide the Special Task Force with advice on the best scientific evidence available, in the performance of the assignment and functions entrusted in this Resolution.