

Opening Statement IWC 64

Denmark

The Kingdom of Denmark supports the sustainable use of all living resources of the Sea, based on the best available scientific advice taking into account the precautionary principle. This applies to fish as well as to whales. Within the Kingdom of Denmark whaling is confined to the waters of the Faroe Islands and Greenland in the North Atlantic, where marine mammals have long been – and continue to be – valuable renewable resources and an important part of the cultures and needs of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

For the Kingdom of Denmark an important decision to be taken by the IWC this year relates to the catch quotas for Greenland (Humpback whales, Minke whales, Fin whales and Bowhead whales). The history of whaling in Greenland is as long as the history of Greenlanders. Greenland of today still depends to a large extent on the hunting of large whales as the needs estimates clearly demonstrates. Not to catch whales is simply not an option.

Fortunately, the IWC Scientific Committee has approved the estimates for the four whale species to be caught by Greenland. We have in our request for new quotas fully respected the findings of the Scientific Committee.

If we want the IWC to survive as a relevant and responsible conservation and management organization we should all be prepared to give and take in order to reach a common ground. Denmark, which continues to remain in the middle of the IWC, would like to see a pledge from all parties to be prepared to reach compromise and seek consensus on all essential matters.