

CONSERVACIÓN DE MAMÍFEROS MARINOS DE MEXICO

OPENING STATEMENT BY COMARINO

65th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission, September 2014. Portoroz, Slovenia
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Conservación de Mamíferos Marinos de México (Marine Mammal Conservation of México) COMARINO congratulates the Government of Slovenia for hosting the 65th Meeting of the IWC.

We address to the parties to maintain the moratorium of commercial whaling, even the open commercial whaling disguised as aboriginal subsistence whaling or scientific research.

Especially, COMARINO calls all parties in this Convention to not step back and maintain the clear decision of the Plenary in Panamá in 2012 that cancelled the quota for Greenland disguised whaling.

IWC must take in account that the same arguments exposed in Panama are valid today. Data reported show that whale meat is sold in supermarkets, restaurants for tourists, as a delicatessen, which means nothing has changed. Questions about percentage of Inuits of total population, reports of other sources of animal proteins, or chains of distribution remain unanswered.

Furthermore, we respectfully urge the Commission to make clear the infractions that will be taken for the whaling of 4 fin whales, 146 common minke whales and 3 humpback whales, under "Special permits, declared as Commercial, aboriginal, and scientific permits". This violation *to the* Convention, and to the will of the Plenary in Panama must not remain as innocent whaling and therefore unpunished.

COMARINO recognizes the clear and strongly documented ruling of the International Court of Justice of the United Nations, in which the Court says that the Special permits to kill, take, and treat whales under JARPA II Programme, do not fall within the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph I of the Convention. As a result, the Supreme Court, ordered Japan to Revoke any permit or licence granted in JARPA II.

We call the IWC and all the parties to not only watch Japan to comply the rules of the Court, but to take this opportunity to move forward to a modern view of whales and whaling. As in other fields of scientific knowledge has turned from the killing of animals to a non lethal and non invasive research. We call the parties to include the modern points of view, and delete from the Convention any trace of invasive or lethal research.

Finally COMARINO calls all Parties to ask the Mexican Government to act immediately and support the hard decisions that Mexico is to take to get all nets out of the Vaquita range in the upper Gulf of California, to prevent its extinction, but also to demand to China to stop the illegal trade and imports of totoaba bladder, main cause of the brutal fishery of totobas, only for the bladder which has reached the price up to 8,500 dollars per kilo, and the bycatch of Vaquitas as never before.

COMARINO appeals to the United States of América Government to help México to prevent the Vaquita extinction, closing with a strong action the border through which poachers send the bladders to China.

Vaquita is on the brink of extinction and needs the help of all parties involved.