

29th Annual Meeting, 1977
(Rep. int. Whal. Commn 28)

IWC Resolution 1977-3
Spain—Portugal—British Isles fin whale stock

WHEREAS it is the purpose of the International Whaling Commission to provide for the effective conservation and management of whale stocks,

WHEREAS the Commission has noted the presence of a stock of fin whales in the North Atlantic area which it has designated as the 'Spain-Portugal-British Isles stock',

WHEREAS the Commission has noted that it does not have sufficient information on this stock to classify it under the Commission's management scheme and to establish a quota for it,

WHEREAS the Commission has noted that the average catch from this stock for the 5 years 1970-74 was 92 whales, the catch in 1976 was 136, and the average for the 6 years 1970-74, 1976 was 99 whales, and has recommended that there be no increase above present catch levels in 1978,

WHEREAS the Commission has noted that this stock is exploited only by vessels under the jurisdiction of Spain, which is not a member of the Commission, and has noted with appreciation the statement of the observer representing the Government of Spain at the Commission's 29th Annual Meeting informing the Commission of the willingness of the Government of Spain to co-operate fully with the Commission and to provide relevant data and information concerning Spanish catches of fin whales in the North Atlantic Ocean.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the International Whaling Commission

- (a) that all necessary measures should be taken to ensure that the catches of fin whales from the Spain-Portugal-British Isles stock in 1978 do not exceed present catch levels,
- (b) that the Government of Spain be encouraged to provide to the Commission, concerning the fin whale stocks in question, information and data arising from the examination of ovaries, data relating to the sex and size of whales caught, and data on catch per unit of effort,
- (c) that the Government of Spain be encouraged to undertake appropriate research programmes on North Atlantic fin whales, and provide the Commission with the results of these programmes.

The Commission requests that the Chairman transmit the text of this resolution to the Government of Spain, requesting its co-operation with regard to the conservation of the fin whale stocks of the North Atlantic Ocean and the development of scientific information related to these stocks, and urging it to join the Commission.