

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

IWC Resolution 1977-4
North Atlantic sperm whales

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 adopted a regulation related to the taking of sperm whales in the North Atlantic Ocean establishing a catch limit of 685 animals as the number which can be safely removed from this stock, using information now available,

WHEREAS the Commission has noted that this stock is exploited by vessels under the jurisdiction of Iceland, a member of the Commission, and by vessels under the jurisdiction of Spain and Portugal, which are not members of the Commission,

WHEREAS the Commission 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 through the provision of relevant data and information concerning Spanish catches of sperm 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 catches of sperm whales in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1978 do not exceed the catch limit which has been established by the Commission, to prevent the overexploitation of this stock,
- (b) that the Governments of all countries concerned be encouraged to provide to the Commission all available relevant data and information in their possession concerning North Atlantic sperm whales including information and data arising from examination of ovaries and teeth, data relating to the sex and size of ~whales caught, and data on catch per unit of effort,
- (c) that the Governments of Spain and Portugal be encouraged to undertake appropriate research programmes on North Atlantic sperm 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 Governments of Spain and Portugal, requesting their co-operation with regard to the conservation of the sperm whale stocks of the North Atlantic Ocean and the development of scientific information related to these stocks, and urging them to join the Commission.