

33rd Annual Meeting, 1981
(Rep. int. Whal. Commn 32)

IWC Resolution 1981-4
Resolution to the Government of the United States on the Bering Sea Bowhead Whale

RECOGNISING the danger of extinction faced by the Bering Sea bowhead whale and the consequences for the Inupiat culture

MINDFUL of the recommendations of the Scientific Committee which again note the high risk to the stock, recommend zero quota and ask that any catch should be restricted to sexually immature whales (i.e. less than 12m long) and that they be taken in a manner that will reduce the struck and lost rate to zero

ENCOURAGED by the Co-operative Agreement entered into by the US Government and the AEWG and the good will and effort shown by the Inupiat people of Alaska

CONCERNED at the very high proportion of the struck quota allocated to the 1981 season

THE IWC COMMENDS the Inupiat people of Alaska on their efforts to control the hunt, and their essential contribution of finance and effort in the gathering and provision of data and research

URGES them to restrict the existing quota to sexually immature whales and to reduce the numbers of whales struck but not landed to zero as quickly as possible.