

39th Annual Meeting, 1987
(Rep. int. Whal. Commn 38)

IWC Resolution 1987-1
Resolution on Scientific Research Programmes

WHEREAS the International Whaling Commission adopted under Article V of the Convention and incorporated in paragraph 10(e) of the Schedule a regulation providing that catch limits for the killing for commercial purposes of whales from all stocks for the 1986 coastal and the 1985/86 pelagic seasons and thereafter shall be zero, this provision to be kept under review based on the best scientific advice, the Commission being required by 1990 at the latest to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the effects of this decision on whale stocks; and

WHEREAS Article VI of the Convention provides that the Commission may make recommendations to Contracting Governments on any matters which relate to whales or whaling and in accordance with Article VI the Commission adopted in 1986 a Resolution on Special Permits for Scientific Research (IWC/38/28) which remains in effect; and

WHEREAS Article VIII of the Convention provides that a Contracting Government may grant to any of its nationals a special permit authorizing that national to kill, take and treat whales for purposes of scientific research, and that such killing, taking and treating of whales in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall be exempt from the operation of the Convention; and

WHEREAS paragraph 30 of the Schedule to the Convention provides for the Scientific Committee to review all proposed special permits to be issued by Contracting Governments and research programs under existing special permits that involve the killing, taking, or treating of whales; and

WHEREAS the Commission recognises that the conduct of the comprehensive assessment as referenced in paragraph 10(e) of the Schedule to the Convention is considered of highest priority for the Commission while such paragraph is applicable;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION, in order to safeguard and promote its international whale conservation program and in furtherance of the objectives expressed in paragraph 10(e) of the Schedule;

REQUESTS that the Scientific Committee annually review all research programs involving the killing of whales under special permits and report their views on whether the programs under an existing or proposed special permit at least satisfy the following criteria in addition to such guidelines as may be applicable, including the criteria specified in the Resolution adopted in 1986 on Special Permits for Scientific Research (IWC/38/28):

- (1) The research addresses a question or questions that should be answered in order to conduct the comprehensive assessment or to meet other critically important research needs;
- (2) The research can be conducted without adversely affecting the overall status and trends of the stock in question or the success of the comprehensive assessment of such stock;
- (3) The research addresses a question or questions that cannot be answered by analysis of existing data and/or use of non—lethal research techniques; and
- (4) The research is likely to yield results leading to reliable answers to the question or questions being addressed.

AGREES to review, annually, beginning with the 39th IWC meeting, the Report of the Scientific Committee regarding special permits involving the killing of whales.

AGREES, should an ongoing or proposed research program not satisfy the criteria specified in the Resolution adopted in 1986 on Special Permits for Scientific Research (IWC/38/28) and, additionally, beginning at the 40th IWC meeting, the above criteria in the view of the Commission, to so notify the Contracting Government concerned.

RECOMMENDS that Contracting Governments, in providing the Secretary with proposed special permits and in submitting reports on programs under to the Scientific Committee for review, specify how each proposed special permit or program satisfies each of the above criteria in addition to such guidelines as may be applicable.

RECOMMENDS that Contracting Governments, in the exercise of their Sovereign rights, refrain from issuing or revoke, permits to its nationals that the Commission, taking into account the comments of its Scientific Committee, considers do not satisfy each of the criteria specified above and therefore are not consistent with the Commission's conservation policy.