

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

IWC Resolution 1987-4
Resolution on Japanese Proposal for Special Permits

WHEREAS the International Whaling Commission adopted in 1986 a Resolution on Special Permits for Scientific Research (IWC/38/28);

WHEREAS the Commission has considered the Report of the Scientific Committee (IWC/39/4) concerning the research programs to be conducted under special permits;

WHEREAS the Commission takes cognizance of Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, under which the granting by any Contracting Government to its nationals of a special permit authorizing the killing, taking or treatment of whales for purposes of scientific research remains the responsibility of each Contracting Government, exercising its Sovereign rights in respect of maritime areas under its jurisdiction and freedom of the high seas;

Now, THEREFORE the Commission

ADOPTS THE VIEW that the proposed take of Southern Hemisphere Minke Whales and Sperm Whales under the proposed research program as described in SC/39/O 4 does not satisfy the criteria set out in the 1986 Resolution in Special Permits for Scientific Research in that the proposed research does not appear, on present information, to be structured so as to contribute information essential for rational management of the stock and that the proposed take will not, at least at this stage, materially facilitate the Comprehensive Assessment; and

REQUESTS the Secretary so to notify the Government of Japan; and

RECOMMENDS the Government of Japan to refrain from issuing special permits to its nationals for the taking of such whales under the research program described in SC/39/O 4 until such time as the Scientific Committee is able to resolve the serious uncertainties identified in its discussion as to the capability of the research methods proposed to contribute sufficiently reliable results needed for the Comprehensive Assessment or for other critically important research needs.