

40th Annual Meeting, 1988
(Rep. int. Whal. Commn 39)

IWC Resolution 1988-2
Resolution on the Icelandic Proposal for Scientific Catches

WHEREAS the International Whaling Commission adopted in 1986 a Resolution on Special Permits for Scientific Research (IWC/38/28) and in 1987 a Resolution on Scientific Research Programmes (Rep. in Whal. Commn 38: 27);

WHEREAS the Commission has considered the Report of the Scientific Committee (IWC/40/4) concerning the research programmes to be conducted under special permits, and it is recognised that the sighting survey of the Icelandic Research Programme has made an important contribution to knowledge of the distribution and abundance of whales in the North Atlantic;

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 authorising 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;

WHEREAS at the 1987 meeting the Commission adopted the view that the proposed take of fin, sei and minke whales under special permit did not fully satisfy the criteria set forth in the 1986 Resolution on Special Permits for Scientific Research and recommended that the Government of Iceland revoke and refrain from issuing special permits to its nationals until the uncertainties identified in the Scientific Committee Report (IWC/39/4) had been resolved to the satisfaction of the Scientific Committee;

WHEREAS the Government of Iceland has announced its intention not to issue special permits to take minke whales as described in SC/37/O 20 and as modified in SC/38/ProgRep Iceland;

Now, THEREFORE, the Commission

CONSIDERS; taking into account the comments of the Scientific Committee in 1987, and 1988; that the proposed take of fin and sei whales under special permit as described in SC/37/O 20 and as modified in SC/38/ProgRep Iceland does not satisfy each of the criteria specified in both the 1986 Resolution on Special Permits for Scientific Research and the 1987 Resolution on Scientific Research Programmes;

REQUESTS the Secretary to inform the Government of Iceland accordingly;

INVITES the Government of Iceland to report in writing to the Commission in time for consideration by the Commission at its 41st Annual Meeting.