

41st Annual Meeting, 1989
(Rep. int. Whal. Commn 40)

IWC Resolution 1989-3
Resolution on the Proposed take by Japan of Whales in
the Southern Hemisphere under Special Permit

WHEREAS the Commission in 1987 adopted a resolution recommending that the Government of Japan refrain from issuing special permits for the taking of whales under the programme until such time as the serious uncertainties identified in the Report of the Scientific Committee (IWC/39/4 and Report of the Special Meeting Cambridge 1987) were resolved;

WHEREAS the Commission has considered the reports of the Scientific Committee (IWC/39/4, Report of Special Meeting Cambridge 1987, IWC/40/4 and IWC/41/4) concerning the research described in SC/39/O 4, including the improvements specified in SC/41/SHMI13, to be conducted under Special Permits;

WHEREAS the Commission recognises the important contribution of the Government of Japan to the development of non-lethal whale population assessment methods especially through sightings surveys conducted under the IWC/IDCR programme of Southern Hemisphere Minke Whale Assessment Cruises during the last decade;

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;

Now, THEREFORE the Commission

ACCEPTING that the Scientific Committee was not unanimous in its view of the research programme described in SC/39/O 4, including the improvements described in SC/41/SHMI13 (IWC/41/4);

CONSIDERS that the programme does not fully satisfy the criteria specified in both the 1986 Resolution on Special Permits for Scientific Research and the 1987 Resolution on Scientific Research Programmes, more particularly in that the proposed research is not structured to provide or demonstrate that any existing methodology can solve the problems or satisfy the objectives which have been set, and therefore the proposed research does not contribute information essential for rational management of the stock, neither will the proposed take of minke whales in the Southern Hemisphere in 1989/90 under Special Permit materially facilitate the Comprehensive Assessment, nor has it been established that the proposed research addresses critically important research needs;

INVITES the Government of Japan to reconsider its research programme in light of the criticisms based on the above-mentioned criteria.