

42nd Annual Meeting, 1990
(*Rep. int. Whal. Commn 41*)

IWC Resolution 1990-1
Resolution on Norwegian Proposal for Special Permits

WHEREAS the International Whaling Commission adopted in 1988 and 1989 Resolutions on the Norwegian Proposals for Special Permits (*Rep. int. Whal. Commn 39: 30 and 40: 36*);

WHEREAS the Commission has considered the Report of the Scientific Committee (IWC/42/4) concerning the research programmes to be conducted under Special Permits; and notes that the Scientific Committee this year confined its comments to new points raised, while referring the Commission to its detailed discussion on the Norwegian Special Permit proposal at its 41st Annual Meeting;

WHEREAS the Commission appreciates the effort by Norway in research on whales and investigation of their habitat which do not involve the taking of whales; and particularly appreciates the essential contribution to the Comprehensive Assessment provided by the sightings surveys conducted by Norway in 1989;

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 the proposed take in 1990 described in SC/42/NHMi20 is to be limited to five whales, and, according to the Report of the Scientific Committee, is planned mainly to complete studies conducted in 1988-89;

Now, THEREFORE the Commission

CONSIDERS; taking into account the comments of the Scientific Committee (IWC/41/4 and IWC/42/4); that the proposed take of minke whales in the North Atlantic under the research programme described in SC/41/NHMi12 and SC/42/NHMi20 does not satisfy all the criteria specified in both the 1986 Resolution on Special Permits for Scientific Research and the 1987 Resolution on Scientific Research Programmes, particularly in that the proposed research is not adequately structured so as to contribute to or materially facilitate the completion of the Comprehensive Assessment; neither has it been established that the proposed research addresses critically important research needs.

INVITES the Government of Norway to reconsider the proposed take of minke whales in 1990 under special permit, in the light of the above conclusions.