

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

IWC Resolution 1990-3
Resolution on Small Cetaceans

The International Whaling Commission:

- Concerned that certain stocks of small cetaceans are being severely reduced through directed exploitation and incidental catches in fishing operations;
- Noting that the International Conference on mortality of cetaceans in passive fishing nets and traps, which is to be held in La Jolla, California, from 20-25 October 1990, will provide valuable information on certain incidental takes;
- Recognising that there exists an urgent need for further international cooperation to ensure the conservation of small cetaceans;
- Aware that there exist differences in views between member states on the regulatory competence of the IWC with regard to small cetaceans, and noting that this resolution does not seek in any way to prejudice different members' positions;
- Conscious of the sovereign rights of coastal states, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and recalling also the provisions of Article 65 of that Convention;
- Bearing in mind the resolution adopted at its 32nd Annual Meeting, entitled "Resolution concerning the extension of the International Whaling Commission's responsibilities for small cetaceans", and also believing that the Commission possesses the expertise necessary to undertake the practical work required in this area;

Now, therefore:

1. Requests the Scientific Committee to commence a process of drawing together all available relevant information on the present status of the stocks of small cetaceans which are subjected to significant directed and incidental takes, on the impact of those takes on the stocks, and providing an assessment of the present threats to the stocks concerned.
2. Requests the Scientific Committee to present to the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Commission a report on the work undertaken to date, at the same time providing such scientific advice as may be warranted;
3. Recommends that Contracting Governments cooperate by providing such information as may be available;
4. Agrees to present a report from the Commission on the work being carried out under the terms of this resolution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992.