

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

IWC Resolution 1990-6

Resolution in Support of the United Nations General Assembly Initiative Regarding Large-Scale Pelagic Driftnet Fishing and its Impact on the Living Marine Resources of the World's Oceans and Seas

WHEREAS the purpose of the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling 1946 is to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry and the Convention recognises *inter alia* the interest of the nations of the world in safeguarding the great resources represented by the whale stocks; and

WHEREAS the Commission is empowered by Article VI of the Convention to make recommendations to any or all Contracting Governments on any matters which relate to whales or whaling and to the objectives and purposes of the Convention; and

WHEREAS more than one thousand fishing vessels use large-scale pelagic driftnets in the Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean and in other areas of the high seas including important habitats for cetaceans encompassing feeding and breeding grounds and migratory pathways;

WHEREAS members of the international community have taken steps to reduce their large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing in some regions in response to regional environmental and resource management concerns; and

WHEREAS the Commission's Scientific Committee is co-sponsoring an international symposium and workshop, entitled "Mortality of Cetaceans in Passive Fishing Nets and Traps," in October 1990; and

WHEREAS members of the United Nations General Assembly, in Resolution 44/225 on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas, adopted by consensus on 22 December 1989, expressed their concern that living marine resources, including marine mammals, can become entangled in large-scale pelagic driftnets and as a result of such entanglement are often either injured or killed;

WHEREAS Resolution 44/225 calls on members of the international community to cooperate to carry out its various provisions, including measures (specified in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4) designed to ensure the appropriate conservation of living marine resources; and

WHEREAS Resolution 44/225 requests urgent study of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impact on the living marine resources and to report their views to the Secretary-General as requested by the Under Secretary General of the United Nations in his letter to the International Whaling Commission of 22 March 1990; and

WHEREAS in 1989 and 1990 the Commission's Scientific Committee noted new information on the incidental taking of cetaceans.

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION, recognising the importance of Resolution 44/225 to its work

Endorses Resolution 44/225.

Requests that the Secretary forward this resolution promptly to the United Nations Secretary-General, attaching the reports of the Scientific Committee (documents IWC/42/4 and IWC/41/4), for consideration in his report to the 45th session of the General Assembly, drawing attention to the fact that the concerns of the Scientific Committee were

such that it had conceived and planned the October 1990 Symposium and Workshop, and that the Secretary forward for information the report of the October 1990 Symposium and Workshop as soon as available, bearing in mind the recommendations in paragraph 3 of Resolution 44/225 that all interested members of the international community, by 30 June 1991, review the best available scientific data on the impact of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and agree upon further co-operative regulation and monitoring measures, as needed.