

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

IWC Resolution 1990-4
Resolution on the Directed Take of Dall's Porpoises

WHEREAS the Commission gratefully acknowledges the contribution made by the Government of Japan and the Japanese scientists in providing fishery and biological information on Dall's porpoise to the Scientific Committee;

WHEREAS the Scientific Committee is greatly concerned that the takes in the Japanese hand harpoon fishery for Dall's porpoises have increased sharply in recent years and concluded, both in 1989 and 1990, that the current takes in the harpoon fishery are not sustainable and that the catch should be reduced urgently at least to the pre-1986 levels, approximately 10,000 animals per year;

WHEREAS the Commission recognises that the Japanese Government's regulations for 1989 reduced the takes of Dall's porpoise to about 29,000 animals, a reduction of 28% compared with the 1988 takes, and notes its intention to take further measures to reduce the takes in 1990;

WHEREAS the Scientific Committee stated that the planned rate of reduction of the takes in 1990 by 15% of the 1989 catch is inadequate to prevent population decline if the population estimates are even roughly correct;

Now, THEREFORE, the Commission REQUESTS the Japanese Government to consider the advice from the Scientific Committee as a matter of urgency, and as soon as possible to reduce the takes to at least the levels before 1986, and that even further reductions be considered when planned new stock assessments are completed.