

43rd Annual Meeting, 1991
(Rep. int. Whal. Commn 42)

IWC Resolution 1991-5
Resolution on Small Cetaceans

The International Whaling Commission,

- **Recalling** the resolution on small cetaceans adopted at its 42nd Annual Meeting, in which it expressed its concern at the severe reductions of certain stocks of small cetaceans through directed exploitation and incidental catches in fishing operations;
- **Recalling** also its request in that resolution to the Scientific Committee to commence a process of drawing together information on the stocks subjected to significant directed and incidental takes, and on the impact of those takes on the stocks; and to present to the 43rd Annual Meeting a report on the work undertaken to date together with such scientific advice as may be warranted;
- **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;
- **Noting** that the Scientific Committee has prepared an initial review of the status of a number of stocks which confirms that many stocks are severely threatened and puts forward carefully considered scientific advice on ways to address this serious situation;
- **Taking account of** the fact that the Scientific Committee has identified a number of stocks for which further investigation is required, and that some stocks could not be reviewed because of a lack of information;
- **Bearing in mind** the Commission's decision in its 1990 resolution to present a report on the work carried out under the terms of that resolution to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

Now, therefore:

1. **Commends** the Scientific Committee for the work carried out to date;
2. **Requests** the Scientific Committee to continue this work, including those stocks of small cetaceans subject to significant directed and incidental takes which were not reviewed this year;
3. **Requests** those Contracting Governments which have not yet provided appropriate information to make every effort to do so;
4. **Requests** the Secretary to forward to contracting and non-contracting governments, intergovernmental organisations and other entities as appropriate, copies of the relevant sections of the Scientific Committee's report on small cetaceans, at the same time drawing their attention to any particular scientific advice contained therein and offering more detailed advice if that should be sought;
5. **Further requests** the Secretary to forward the report on small cetaceans and the relevant sections of the Scientific Committee's report to the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the earliest possible date after the close of this annual meeting.