

Appendix 9

RESOLUTION ON SMALL CETACEANS

The International Whaling Commission,

- **AWARE** that some stocks of small cetaceans continue to be depleted through, inter alia, incidental catches in fishing operations, habitat degradation and targeted kills,
- **RECOGNISING** the urgent need for further international cooperation to conserve and rebuild depleted stocks of small cetaceans,
- **AWARE** of the differences in views among 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,
- **AWARE** of the progress being made within the framework of the UN Convention on Migratory Species to develop regional agreements for the conservation of small cetaceans;
- **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, and the decisions taken by governments during the recent United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,
- **NOTING** that the Commission has the expertise to undertake the practical work required in this area,
- **WELCOMING** the helpful information provided by Japan and some other Governments on specific small cetacean stocks, particularly those referred to in reports of the Scientific Committee,

Now, therefore:

1. **INVITES** those countries with stocks of small cetaceans which have been adversely impacted by directed take, habitat degradation, adverse interactions with fishing operations or other anthropogenic or environmental impacts, to seek advice from the International Whaling Commission on ways in which those impacts may be assessed, and to this end to share catch statistics and data on incidental takes.
2. **INVITES** the Secretariats of ICES, Agreements for the conservation of small cetaceans negotiated under Article IV of the Convention on Migratory Species and other relevant organisations, to exchange information with the Secretary of the IWC.
3. **INVITES** the Scientific Committee to continue to consider the problems facing the stocks of small cetaceans which have been brought to their attention and to advise on ways in which those threats may be eliminated or minimised.
4. **INVITES** Contracting Governments to cooperate by providing technical or financial assistance as appropriate to those countries with small cetacean stocks which are considered to be endangered, threatened or vulnerable, or whose status is uncertain.
5. **INVITES** those countries with stocks of small cetaceans which have recently been reviewed to note the recommendations provided to the Commission by the Scientific Committee.
6. **REQUESTS** the Secretary to forward to contracting and non-contracting governments, intergovernmental organisations and other entities as appropriate, copies of this resolution together with 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.