

Appendix 10

RESOLUTION ON THE DIRECTED TAKE OF STRIPED DOLPHINS IN DRIVE FISHERIES

WHEREAS the Commission gratefully acknowledges the contributions made by the Government of Japan and Japanese scientists in providing fishery and biological information on striped dolphins to the Scientific Committee this and past years;

WHEREAS the Commission notes the significance of the striped dolphin catches in the Japanese drive fishery;

WHEREAS the mean annual catches of striped dolphins in the drive fisheries have declined from 7,558 in the 1960s, to 6,295 in the 1970s, to 4,070 in the 1980s, to just 899 in the 1990s so far;

WHEREAS the Scientific Committee has expressed concern since the mid 1970s that takes of striped dolphins in the drive fishery have sharply declined over the years and concluded in 1981 that this has been caused by the overexploitation of the coastal population of striped dolphins;

WHEREAS the Scientific Committee since 1981 has called for the management of all stocks of small cetaceans taken in the drive fishery to be on a scientific basis;

WHEREAS the Scientific Committee strongly recommended in its report (IWC/44/4) that an assessment be made of the coastal population of striped dolphin taken in the drive fishery as a matter of urgency;

WHEREAS the Scientific Committee noted in the same report that the striped dolphin population cannot support continued exploitation at the current level and advised that an interim halt to the fishery would be appropriate;

WHEREAS the Commission is 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;

Now, THEREFORE, the Commission INVITES the Japanese Government:

- 1) to consider the advice from the Scientific Committee including research needs as a matter of urgency;
- 2) to take appropriate action as soon as possible that will allow recovery of the population;
- 3) to consider appropriate action regarding other species of small cetaceans taken in the drive fishery individually and on a scientific basis.