

47th Annual Meeting, 1995
(Rep. int. Whal. Commn 46)

IWC Resolution 1995-10
Resolution On The Environment And Whale Stocks

RECALLING that at its 46th Annual Meeting, the Commission adopted a Resolution (IWC Resolution 1994-13) endorsing the plans of the Scientific Committee to pursue study of environmental changes and their impacts on cetaceans, including the convening of two workshops, one on pollution, to be convened before the 47th Annual Meeting, and a second on the effects of global warming and ozone depletion, to be convened before the 48th Annual Meeting, and accepting the recommendation in the Scientific Committee report that the focus of the workshops on environmental changes on cetaceans should be to identify research activities that might enable the eventual prediction of the effects of factors both direct and indirect on cetaceans and to incorporate such knowledge into conservation and management programmes for cetaceans;

NOTING that the Special Workshop on Chemical Pollution and Cetaceans was duly held in Bergen, Norway in March 1995, and that it made a series of recommendations which have been considered by the Scientific Committee (Report of the Scientific Committee, IWC/47/4 - Section 6.1);

NOTING the belief of the Workshop that a considerable amount of fundamental research is needed before it will be possible to address adequately the question of chemical pollutants on all cetaceans, and that such research should be undertaken by means of a multidisciplinary, multinational focused programme concentrating on those species/areas where there is most chance of success, notably the three species identified by the Workshop as being most suitable as indicator species;

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION

WELCOMES the information and data received from Contracting Governments, relevant international organisations, scientists and other experts on pollutants in the marine environment and their effects on cetacean populations presented at the Bergen Workshop;

COMMENDS the comprehensive and thorough review carried out by the Workshop and represented by its report;

NOTES the recommendations of the Workshop summarised in Table 2 of the Workshop Report (SC/47/Rep2);

DIRECTS the Secretariat to consult with Contracting Governments and the Scientific Committee over ways to facilitate the development and execution of the research programme recommended by the Workshop and to report its conclusions to the Commission at its next Annual Meeting;

AGREES that cooperation between the IWC and other bodies working on related issues (e.g. ICES, IOC, UNEP and OSPARCOM) is essential and DIRECTS the Secretariat to draw up a list of such related bodies and ensure that copies of the report are sent to them with a request for comments and a standing request for future information as and when it becomes available;

URGES Contracting Governments to ensure that the availability of the report is made known to relevant institutions in their countries;

ENCOURAGES Contracting Governments to continue to cooperate in providing information on the potential effects both direct and indirect of pollutants on cetaceans as these become known by forwarding them to the Secretariat;

URGES Contracting Governments to send scientists with relevant expertise to the IWC Workshop on the effects of climate change on cetaceans.