

49th Annual Meeting, 1996
(Rep. int. Whal. Commn 47)

IWC Resolution 1996-1

Resolution to Resolve the Distress of the Japanese Small-Type Coastal Whaling as Community-Based Whaling

WHEREAS four small coastal communities in Japan have traditionally depended upon whaling for their cultural, social, dietary and economic needs;

WHEREAS these communities have traditionally engaged in small-type whaling for the Okhotsk Sea - West Pacific Stock of minke whales which are estimated by the IWC Scientific Committee to number at least 25,000 animals;

WHEREAS the adverse impacts of the commercial whaling moratorium have been thoroughly documented since 1986 by international sociologists, anthropologists and economists and acknowledged by the IWC;

WHEREAS the IWC has firmly resolved in Resolution IWC/45/51 (*Rep. Int. Whal. Commn 44:31*) to work expeditiously to relieve the distress of the four small coastal communities;

WHEREAS small-type coastal whaling has many characteristics in common with aboriginal/ subsistence whaling and shares the similar traditional, social religious and cultural aspects;

WHEREAS small-type whaling communities and the Government of Japan have worked diligently for three years to draw up an Action Plan, which would manage the harvest and distribution of all minke whale products from the interim relief allocation of 50 minke whales requested by the Government of Japan;

WHEREAS the IWC recognised the revised Action Plan (IWC/47/46) as "constructive management elements in accordance with IWC regulations" in the IWC Resolution 1995-3;

WHEREAS the concerns were again expressed about commercial aspects in the community-based whaling as is written in IWC/47/46 at the Technical Committee of the 48th IWC meeting;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved to:

1. ADDRESS outstanding issue of commercial aspects found in the community-based whaling as described in IWC/47/46; and
2. CONVENE a Workshop on the community-based whaling in the four small coastal communities in Japan to review and identify commercial aspects and socio-economic and cultural needs; the results and recommendations of the Workshop be reported to an intersessional Working Group to be held prior to the 49th Annual Meeting.