

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

IWC Resolution 1996-2
Resolution on Whalewatching

The International Whaling Commission:

RECALLING the resolutions adopted at its 45th and 46th Annual Meetings establishing, *inter alia*, a Working Group to keep under review developments relating to all aspects of whalewatching relevant to the Commission's responsibilities;

WISHING to encourage the development of whalewatching as a sustainable, non-lethal use of cetacean resources;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the development and control of whalewatching is a matter for the coastal states involved;

RECOGNISING the need for precautionary measures to ensure that the continuing development and expected expansion of whalewatching activities do not adversely affect cetacean populations, individual animals, or their environment, or significantly increase the risk to the survival or ecological functioning of such populations;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of the contribution which whalewatching makes to education, economic and social development of the wider community, and the advancement of scientific knowledge through well designed research and monitoring programmes;

CONSCIOUS that any guidance which the Commission provides on this matter should be based on the best available scientific information;

RECOGNISING that any guidance on the conduct of whalewatching operations which the Commission may issue may require updating from time to time to reflect advances in scientific knowledge;

APPRECIATING the work of the Scientific Committee in proposing objectives for the management of whalewatching, and general principles to guide the development of whalewatching rules;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission

CONSIDERS that the IWC has a continuing part to play in monitoring and providing guidance on the sustainable development of whalewatching;

HAVING ADOPTED the Scientific Committee's recommendations on the general principles for the management of whalewatching (IWC/48/4) recommends that these should be drawn to the attention of coastal states, and encourages such states to take account of these principles in formulating national rules;

ENDORSES the priorities for further work which the Scientific Committee has proposed;

ENCOURAGES countries to provide to the Scientific Committee information on whalewatching activities and the assessment of impacts on cetaceans and their environments;

CONSIDERS that the educational, economic and social development aspects of whalewatching should be further discussed at the 49th Annual Meeting.