

48th Annual Meeting, 1996
(Rep. int. Whal. Commn 47)

IWC Resolution 1996-3
**Resolution on Improving Mechanism to Restrict Trade and
prevent Illegal Trade in Whale Meat**

RECALLING the Resolutions passed by the IWC in 1995 (IWC Res. 1995-6) and 1994 (IWC Res. 1994-7) and at the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (Res. Conf, 9.12) on illegal trade in whale meat;

WELCOMING the continuing co-operation between the IWC and CITES to address the problem of illegal trade in whale meat;

ACKNOWLEDGING the current listing of great whale species in Appendix I of the CITES Convention, pursuant to and in recognition of the establishment of zero quotas for commercial whaling agreed by the Contracting Governments to the IWC and other decisions of the IWC, relating to the status of stocks of great whale species;

NOTING that the United States of America, in co-operation with other countries, is developing a reference set of "type-species" of DNA sequences for use with other countries in addressing the problem of illegal trade by determining the geographic origin of such products;

RECALLING that, at its Annual Meeting in 1994, the Commission resolved that meat and products from research whaling should be "utilised entirely for domestic consumption";

NOTING that IWC Resolution 1995-6 called upon countries to report to the IWC at its 48th Annual Meeting and annually, thereafter, on the volume of stockpiles of whale meat;

NOW THEREFORE the International Whaling Commission:

COMMENDS the Government of Norway for its ban on exports of whale meat and blubber and urges its maintenance and full enforcement;

COMMENDS the Government of Japan for the enforcement actions taken with respect to illegal whale meat shipments confiscated in September 1995 and April 1996;

CALLS ON all Contracting Governments or other entities to report to the 49th Annual Meeting of the IWC, and annually thereafter on the status of any stockpiles of whale meat, and status of domestic laws governing the possession and sale of whale meat, and on domestic enforcement actions taken with respect to whale meat illegally obtained or sold;

URGES all governments to continue to support IWC recommendations and CITES obligations through increased controls to prevent any further illegal whale meat trade activities and to take appropriate action against offenders;

DIRECTS the IWC Secretariat to forward to the CITES Secretariat this Resolution, the Report of the Infractions Sub-Committee, and submissions from governments and other entities in response to this Resolution.