

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

IWC Resolution 1996-4
Resolution on Small Cetaceans

The International Whaling Commission;

CONCERNED that the conservation and status of certain stocks of small cetaceans continue to be depleted through, *inter alia*, targeted kills, incidental catches in fishing operations, and habitat degradation;

RECOGNISING the continuing urgent need for co-operation to conserve and restore depleted stocks of small cetaceans;

RECALLING that;

Resolutions IWC/42/26, IWC/43/29 and IWC/44/25 recommend the provision of information to and the continuation of the work of the Scientific Committee in respect of inadequately documented or severely threatened stocks;

Resolutions IWC/42/31, IWC/44/33 and IWC/45/45 recommend the reduction of directed takes of Dall's porpoise and striped dolphins and other appropriate action to allow recovery of the population of these species;

Resolution IWC/44/34 recommended that range states continue efforts to determine stock size and removal rates for belugas and narwhals;

Resolution IWC/45/39 recommended the collection of data on harbour porpoise stock identity, bycatches and pollutant levels and invited range states to reduce bycatches;

Resolution IWC/46/63 invited the Mexican Government to develop expeditiously an overall management plan for the Biosphere Reserve set up primarily to protect the Vaquita; and further invited IWC member nations to offer the Mexican Government technical, scientific and financial assistance to implement the management plan;

NOTING that although the Baiji is accorded legal protection in the People's Republic of China, it is threatened by incidental capture, habitat degradation and pollution;

WELCOMING the helpful information and contributions provided by certain contracting parties and range states on specific small cetacean species, particularly those referred to by the Scientific Committee;

NOW THEREFORE the Commission:

COMMENDS the Scientific Committee for their work to date on identifying the problems facing small cetacean species and advising on ways in which those threats can be reduced or minimised;

CONGRATULATES those range states and Contracting Governments which have taken appropriate action;

CONGRATULATES the Mexican Government on its introduction of a management plan for the Biosphere Reserve of the Upper Gulf of California and the Colorado River Delta, and for its recovery strategy for the Vaquita;

CONGRATULATES the Government of the People's Republic of China on its conservation measures to date and invites Contracting Governments to provide appropriate technical, scientific and financial assistance to the People's Republic of China, if requested, to assist in furthering its conservation programme for the Baiji.

RECOMMENDS that the Scientific Committee continues to consider the problems facing small cetacean stocks, including reviewing developments on topics that were a subject of previous reports; and

REMINDS all Contracting Governments of the above recommendations adopted by the Commission to take appropriate action, inviting them to note the recommendations of the Scientific Committee and provide further information to its 49th Annual Meeting.