

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

IWC Resolution 1996-5
Resolution on Northeast Atlantic Minke Whales

WHEREAS the Commission established zero catch limits for commercial whaling in paragraph 10(e) of the Schedule;

RECALLING that the Government of Norway, having lodged an objection to paragraph 10(e) of the Schedule, unilaterally authorised commercial whaling on minke whales beginning in 1993;

NOTING the Commission's 1994 decision that, until all aspects of the Revised Management Scheme are incorporated into the Schedule, the Revised Management Procedure should not be implemented;

RECALLING that the RMP endorsed by the Commission at its 46th Annual Meeting requires valid abundance estimates for any whale species and areas to which it is applied;

NOTING the conclusions of the Scientific Committee at the 47th Annual Meeting (IWC/47/4) that the 1992 abundance estimate was not valid and that the RMP could not be used to calculate catch limits for North Atlantic minke whales without an acceptable estimate;

RECALLING that the Commission at its 47th Annual Meeting (IWC Res. 1995-5) called on the Government of Norway to reconsider its objection to paragraph 10(e) of the Schedule, and to halt immediately all whaling activities under its jurisdiction;

AWARE that the Government of Norway allowed continuation of the commercial hunt in 1995 after the 47th Annual Meeting, and that the Government of Norway authorised a commercial hunt beginning in May of 1996, before the Scientific Committee had met to consider an abundance estimate for the stock;

APPRECIATIVE that the Government of Norway has a policy against issuing licenses for the export of whale meat and products;

AWARE, however, of recent reports of attempts to smuggle products of the Norwegian harvest into the markets of other countries, which highlight the need to establish a supervision and control scheme so that commercial harvests can be monitored through the end of the marketing process;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Commission at its 47th Annual Meeting (IWC Res. 1995-6), in a Resolution on improving mechanisms to prevent illegal trade in whale meat, called on all governments with stockpiles of whale meat to report to the 48th Annual Meeting, and annually thereafter, on the volume of such stockpiles, their domestic laws governing the possession and sale of whale meat and all enforcement actions taken with respect to whale meat illegally obtained and/or sold;

NOTING that the Government of Norway has declined to submit a report as called for in IWC Res.1995-6;

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:

AFFIRMS its view that commercial whaling should not be taking place while paragraph 10(e) of the Schedule remains in force;

REGRETS the unilateral setting of quotas for commercial whaling, especially when no valid abundance estimate is agreed;

CALLS ON the Government of Norway, in the exercise of its sovereign rights, to:

- reconsider its objection to paragraph 10(e) of the Schedule;
- halt immediately all whaling activities under its jurisdiction;
- maintain its policy against the export of whale meat and products as long as the Commission maintains paragraph 10(e) of the Schedule;
- immediately submit a report to the Commission on the subjects requested in IWC Res. 1995-6.