

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

IWC Resolution 1996-7
Resolution on Special Permit Catches by Japan

WHEREAS Article VIII of the Convention provides for the issuing by Contracting Governments of a special permit for scientific research;

WHEREAS paragraph 7(b) of the Schedule establishes a sanctuary in the Southern Ocean;

RECALLING IWC Resolution 1995-8 in which the Commission considered that research in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary should be undertaken using non-lethal means and requested Contracting Parties to refrain from issuing special permits for research involving the killing of cetaceans in such sanctuaries;

FURTHER RECALLING IWC Resolution 1995-9 on Whaling under Special Permit which establishes criteria against which the Scientific Committee should assess and provide advice on special permit research programmes and recommends that Contracting Governments refrain from issuing or revoke any permits that do not satisfy the criteria so specified;

NOTING nevertheless that the Government of Japan continues to issue special permits involving the killing of cetaceans and that the number of whales killed under special permit has increased substantially to 440 Southern Hemisphere minke whales and 100 North Pacific minke whales in the 1995-96 season;

NOTING FURTHER that the Government of Japan proposes as part of its 1996-97 research programme to issue special permits to take up to 440 Southern Hemisphere minke whales and 100 North Pacific minke whales;

NOTING ALSO that the JARPA programme is to be reviewed by the Scientific Committee;

NOW THEREFORE the Commission:

CONSIDERS that neither proposal for special permit has been found to meet the criteria for such permits established under IWC Resolution 1995-9;

REAFFIRMS that Contracting Governments should refrain from issuing special permits for research involving the killing of cetaceans in sanctuaries and expresses its deep concern at Japan's continuing proposal to conduct lethal research within the Southern Ocean Sanctuary;

REQUESTS that the Government of Japan, in the exercise of its sovereign rights, refrain from issuing a special permit for the take of Southern Hemisphere minke whales, particularly in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary and refrain also from issuing a special permit to take minke whales in the North Pacific;

FURTHER REQUESTS that the Government of Japan reconsider and restructures its research programmes so that research objectives are achieved by the use of non-lethal means.