

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

**IWC Resolution 1996-9**  
**Resolution On Canadian Whaling**

WHEREAS the International Whaling Commission (IWC) Scientific Committee "remains very concerned about the status and small size of the Davis Strait and Hudson Bay stocks of bowhead whales," which are "conservatively estimated at 450 whales";

WHEREAS Canada withdrew from the IWC in 1982, stating that it "no longer has any direct interest in the whaling industry or in the related activities of the IWC" (Official Canadian Press Statement, June 26, 1981);

WHEREAS the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement in Canada contains a clause that would allow the taking of at least one bowhead whale from the area of the Davis Strait and Hudson Bay stocks;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has accepted a recommendation from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board that a license request be issued this year, although a license has not yet been issued;

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:

- CONCERNED about whaling not conducted in accordance with the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946);
- EXPRESSES particular concern over the possible whaling on the Davis Strait and Hudson Bay stock of bowhead whales;
- ENCOURAGES the Government of Canada to:
  - reconsider any outstanding permits it has issued;
  - rejoin the IWC if it continues to have a direct interest in whaling;
  - refrain from issuing further permits, unless it obtains IWC approval for its whaling activities.