

ANNUAL REPORT, 1997-98, DRAFT

This report surveys the Commission's activities since the 49th Annual Meeting which was held in Monte Carlo, Monaco, 20 - 24 October 1997, under the Chairmanship of Dr P. Bridgewater (Australia). The Chairman's Report of that meeting was published in the Forty-Eighth Annual Report of the Commission (*Rep. int. Whal. Commn 48:*).

Stock Catch Limits and Classifications

The Commission set zero catch limits for commercial whaling on all stocks at the 34th (1982) Annual Meeting and these remained unchanged. Paragraphs 10 (a), (b) and (c) of the Schedule are the current legal basis for the classification of whale stocks. However, the Commission at its 44th Annual Meeting in 1992 recognised by a Resolution (*Rep. int. Whal. Commn 43:40*) that these paragraphs had proved to be deficient in several respects. This had led to the development and acceptance by the Commission of a Revised Management Procedure (*Rep. int. Whal. Commn 45:43*) which does not include a system of classification of stocks. The Commission agreed at its 48th (1996) Annual Meeting that the Scientific Committee should not spend time providing advice on the stock classifications required under paragraph 10 of the Schedule and which appear on pages 26-27 of *Rep. int. Whal. Commn 37*.

Catches

The Government of Japan issued a Special Permit to take 400 (or 440 if required to implement the research) minke whales, excluding dwarf minke whales, in Antarctic Area IV and the eastern part of Area III (south of 55°S, east of 35°E, west of 130°W), between 11 November 1997 and 8 April 1998. This research is a continuation of the multi-year programme to estimate biological parameters for management of the Antarctic minke whales and elucidation of the role of whales in the Antarctic marine ecosystem.

Commercial whaling operations on the Northeastern Atlantic stock of minke whales were carried out by the Government of Norway under objections it lodged in 1985 to the classification of this stock as a Protection Stock, and in 1982 to the zero catch limits for commercial whaling which became effective from 1986.

The catches taken under Special Permit and objection are shown in Table 1.

Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling

Aboriginal subsistence whaling is permitted and regulated by the IWC, and the catches taken by native peoples of member governments for subsistence purposes in 1997 are also shown in Table 1.

Infractions

There were no infractions of the Commission's regulations reported in the 1997 aboriginal subsistence whaling operations.

Scientific Research

The Commission's *Southern Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research* (IWC-SOWER) programme has continued as a broad-based research activity in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Government of Japan provided two vessels for continuing research into shipboard identification methods for true and pygmy blue whales. This included sightings, acoustic and biopsy studies, and observations of behaviour and external morphology. Scientists from Australia, Chile, Japan, Peru, South Africa, New Zealand and the USA took part in the research conducted off the west coast of Chile from 14 December 1997 to 9 January 1998.

The same two vessels were also used to carry out the 20th Antarctic Minke Whale Sightings Cruise conducted in Area IIW (south of 60°S, from 30°W to 60°W). Scientists from Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, UK and the USA took part in this survey from 14 January to 26 February 1998.

The Commission funded database contracts to continue analyses of the sightings records obtained by the Antarctic minke whale sightings cruises, to enter additional sightings data, and to evaluate and present new analytical methods which may be applied to these data.

Scientific Committee

A Special Meeting of the Scientific Committee Towards a Comprehensive Assessment of Right Whales Worldwide was held in Cape Town, South Africa, 16 - 25 March 1998. This comprised a two-day open symposium followed by a workshop attended by invited scientists.

The Secretariat has continued work on data entry of whale records into machine-readable format. This includes entry and verification of additional Southern Hemisphere catch records, whale marking and recovery data. Verification and development of the programs for the baleen whale catch limit algorithm, aboriginal subsistence whaling management procedure and North Pacific minke whale trials has also continued.

IWC Activities

The Chairman of the Commission held an informal Consultation with Commissioners in Antigua & Barbuda, 3 - 5 February 1998.

Cooperation with Other Organisations

The Commission was represented in an Observer capacity at meetings of:

ICES, Baltimore, Maryland, USA, 25 September - 3 October 1997
IATTC, La Jolla, California, USA, 28 - 31 October 1997;
CCAMLR, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 27 October - 7 November 1997;
ICCAT, 15th Regular Meeting, Madrid, Spain, 14 - 21 November 1997;
ASCOBANS, 2nd Meeting of the Parties, Bonn, Germany, 17 - 19 November 1997;

Finance

The statement of estimated income and expenditure for the financial year ending 31 August 1997 was approved at the 49th Annual Meeting of the Commission. The audited accounts appear on pages 3-6 of the 48th Annual Report (*Rep. int. Whal. Commn 48*).

Because the 49th Annual Meeting was held after the start of the 1997/98 financial year the Commission had adopted a budget of £1,167,560 for that year, including £190,000 for research activity, at its 48th (1996) Annual Meeting. This budget is shown on page 53 of the 47th Annual Report (*Rep. int. Whal. Commn 46*).

Contributions from Contracting Governments for 1997/98 were set at £894,600, making allowance for a projected shortfall which in the event amounted to £156,091 due to the failure of 10 Governments to pay in full: Argentina, Costa Rica, Dominica, Grenada, Kenya, Peru, St Kitts & Nevis, St Vincent & The Grenadines, Senegal and Solomon Islands. The Commission imposes the sanctions of withholding Commission documentation and the suspension of the right to vote for a Government more than 3 months in arrears with its annual payments

A further sum of £1,623,080 representing non-payments from previous years was still outstanding from these Governments, together with interest. The Government of Antigua & Barbuda has made arrangements to repay its arrears of contributions by instalments.

The 6 former members Belize, Ecuador, Egypt, Philippines, Seychelles and Uruguay still owe £251,085 for unpaid contributions and interest.

Membership

The Government of the Republic of Italy deposited an instrument of adherence to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, its Protocol and Schedule on 12 February 1998. The 40 members of the International Whaling Commission and their Commissioners are listed in Appendix A.

Appendix A

List of Members of the Commission

<i>Contracting Government</i>	<i>Date of Entry into Force</i>	<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Date of Appointment</i>
Antigua & Barbuda	21.07.82	Mr D.C. Joseph	03.06.96
Argentina	18.05.60	Ambassador O.R. Rebagliati	06.12.96
Australia	10.11.48	Mr H. Bamsey	16.03.98
Austria	20.05.94	Dr A. Nouak	09.08.96
Brazil	04.01.74	Mr R.A. Barbosa	25.01.94
Chile	06.07.79	Not notified	
People's Republic of China	24.09.80	Mr Zhou Youzhan	01.05.81
Costa Rica	24.07.81	Not notified	
Denmark	23.05.50	Mr H. Fischer	24.04.86
Dominica	18.06.92	His Excellency G. Williams	19.09.97
Finland	23.02.83	Mr A. Haapanen	01.07.83
France	03.12.48	Mr S. Hofmann	13.11.96
Germany	02.07.82	Mr N. Kleeschulte	01.03.84
Grenada	07.04.93	The Hon. M. Baptiste	20.06.96
India	09.03.81	Mr S.C. Dey	12.01.93
Ireland	02.01.85	Mr M. Canny (Chairman)	20.12.90
Italy	06.02.98	Mr G. Ambrosio	02.04.98
Japan	21.04.51	Mr K. Shima	14.10.87
Kenya	02.12.81	Mr N. Odero	01.11.84
Republic of Korea	29.12.78	Mr J-U. Lee	01.02.97
Mexico	30.06.49	Ambassador S. Oñate	30.04.97
Monaco	15.03.82	Prof. F. Doumenge	15.11.93
Netherlands	14.06.77	Mr F.H.J. von der Assen	01.01.90
New Zealand	15.06.76	The Hon. J.K. McLay	01.01.94
Norway	23.09.60	Ambassador K. Bryn	24.02.95
Oman	15.07.80	Mr H.S.A. Ambusaidi	24.05.96
Peru	18.06.79	Mr J. Vertiz C	01.07.82
Russian Federation	10.11.48	Mr V.Y. Ilyashenko	02.05.95
St Kitts and Nevis	24.06.92	Mr. A. Hart	20.08.97
St Lucia	29.06.81	Dr J.E. Edmunds	31.07.86
St Vincent & The Grenadines	22.07.81	The Hon. S. Nanton	08.09.89
Senegal	15.07.82	Not notified	
Solomon Islands	10.05.93	Mr A. Wata	22.01.98
South Africa	10.11.48	Mr G. de Villiers	21.09.95
Spain	06.07.79	Mr D. C. Dominguez D.	01.10.96
Sweden	15.06.79	Prof B. Fernholm (Vice-Chairman)	15.02.96
Switzerland	29.05.80	Dr T. Althaus	24.02.97
UK	10.11.48	Mr C.I. Llewelyn	26.01.94
USA	10.11.48	Dr D.J. Baker	19.01.94
Venezuela	11.07.91	Mr C.E. Gimenez	03.10.94