

Annex V

Statement on the Agenda

STATEMENT BY THE JAPANESE DELEGATION CONCERNING SMALL CETACEANS

At the 52nd Annual Meeting of the IWC, the Delegation of Japan stated that the Scientific Committee should be prepared for the situation where no data on small cetaceans would be provided by Japan if the item on Dall's porpoise is retained as a priority area under the subject of small cetaceans as directed by Resolution 1999¹. The substance of Resolution 1999-9 is clearly outside the jurisdiction of the IWC and Japan and many other member states had expressed their strong objectives to the resolution.

Accordingly, Japan will not provide data concerning small cetaceans for this year's Scientific Committee. Furthermore,

Japan will not participate in the meeting of the standing sub-committee on small cetaceans this year. It is unfortunate that the political attempt to expand the scope of the IWC's influence to include small cetaceans by Resolution 1999-9 has prevented the continued voluntary scientific cooperation of Japan in the field of small cetaceans.

However, Japan will make its data on small cetaceans available following this year's Scientific Committee meeting through appropriate means such as the web site of the Fisheries Agency of Japan.

Finally, although Japan may not make any comments on the draft report of the standing sub-committee on small cetaceans, this should in no way be taken to mean that Japan concurs with or supports the contents of the report.

¹*Ann. Rep. Int. Whal. Commn* 1999: 55-56.