

PRESS RELEASE DAY 3

The Commission began the morning by discussing, Item 11, the report of the Whale Killing Methods and Associated Animal Welfare Issues ([IWC/64/Rep6](#)). The Commission was pleased to receive information from four whaling countries on their operations and one country reported on the euthanasia of stranded animals.

The Commission warmly endorsed the second IWC workshop on welfare issues associated with the entanglement of large whales ([IWC/64/WKM&AWI Rep 1](#)). In particular it (1) adopted a set of Principles and Guidelines for Entanglement Response; (2) is offering the global network of entanglement response operations and (3) has a recommended approach to capacity building and training, including future collaborative work with UNEP-SPAW in the wider Caribbean. The Committee also agreed future collaborative steps promoting good animal welfare including a future expert workshop on euthanasia.

The Commission then turned to Item 12 on its agenda, 'socio-economic implications and small-type whaling'. As it has in the past, Japan reiterated its concern over the hardship suffered by its four community-based whaling communities since the implementation of the commercial whaling moratorium. It introduced an outline of a proposed Schedule amendment to permit the catching of minke whales from the Okhotsk Sea-West Pacific Stock by small-type whaling vessels. It did not include a proposed catch number. There was an exchange of views but no consensus was reached and the item was closed.

Item 13 on the agenda relates to what is termed the Revised Management Procedure. This refers to the Scientific Committee's technical work on examining certain stocks in the context of removals including direct catches as well as bycatches and ship strikes.

The Commission then turned to Item 14, 'Scientific Permits'. Special permit catches have long been a controversial issue amongst member nations. A proposal by the Scientific Committee for a final review of the completed Icelandic programme will be decided upon later in the meeting under financial matters. At present, only Japan carries out special permit whaling. This is in the western North Pacific and the Antarctic. However, the Republic of Korea announced its intention to undertake special permit whaling, stating that later this year it may put forward a proposal for consideration by the Scientific Committee under the Committee's review process. A number of countries reiterated their objections to or support for this kind of whaling.

The next Item, Item 15 concerned the question of safety at sea. The Commission has on several occasions strongly condemned dangerous activity in the Southern Ocean. Last year, the Commission agreed a consensus [Resolution](#). The Resolution *inter alia* reiterated that the Commission, while recognising the right to peaceful protest, condemned actions that are a risk to human life and property. It agreed that this was not the way to pursue the resolution of different view regarding whales and whaling. It encouraged all governments to fulfil their obligations under IMO and UNCLOS. The Commission was again disturbed to receive reports of continuing dangerous activity in the Southern Ocean.

The Commission received a short report on information on catches provided by non-member nations. It welcomed information provided by Canada but noted that no information was available from Indonesia.

The Committee then received and adopted the report of its Infractions sub-committee ([IWC/64/Rep4 rev1](#)).

Finally, on Day 3, the Commission began to address Item 18, 'environmental and health issues'. It received the SOCER report that examined environmental issues and cetaceans in the Indian Ocean ([SC/64/E2](#)). The Commission then welcomed an update on Phase II of its POLLUTION 2000+ research programme. This is examining the complex question of population level effects of chemical pollutants on cetaceans. The Commission also welcomed the Scientific Committee's continuing work examining the effects of disease on cetaceans and on the question of capacity building and guidelines on oil spill response and prevention. The Commission was also pleased to receive the report of a scientific workshop on the interactions between marine renewable developments (wind farms, tidal stream devices and wave energy converters) and cetaceans ([SC/64/Rep6](#)). It endorsed its recommendations including a general strategy and principles to minimise environmental threats posed by such developments.

The final item discussed on Day 3 related to anthropogenic noise. This has been a long-standing issue and the Scientific Committee focussed this year on further scientific work to identify geographical and species-specific areas of concern, effects on cetaceans and on collaboration with the International maritime Organisation on reducing vessel noise.

This concludes Day 3.