

Resolution 2014-2

Resolution on Highly migratory cetaceans

NOTING that nearly all marine cetacean species¹ are highly migratory and thus critically dependent on international cooperation for their conservation and management;

RECALLING that the ICRW Schedule currently lists management measures for only 17 of these species;

NOTING that Articles 65 and 120 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provide that States shall cooperate with a view to the conservation of marine mammals and, in the case of cetaceans, work through the appropriate international organisations for their conservation, management and study both within and beyond the exclusive economic zone;

RECOGNISING that efforts by coastal States to protect these migratory species depend upon concerted, additional conservation efforts on the High Sea;

NOTING further that for the majority of cetacean species the main conservation threats involve factors, such as entanglement, marine debris and traffic, that cannot be solved through IWC action alone, but require the co-operation of other relevant organisations;

NOW THEREFORE THE COMMISSION:

DECIDES to seek enhanced collaboration in the conservation of migratory cetaceans with other intergovernmental organisations whose co-operation is essential to secure the lasting protection of these species in the world ocean;

REQUESTS the Secretariat to conduct consultations and develop a draft work plan with regard to sharing of data and research priorities;

INVITES Contracting Parties to raise the need for increased international collaboration regarding highly migratory cetaceans in relevant international fora, with a view to contributing to the conservation efforts of the IWC;

DECIDES to review progress at the 66th Meeting of the Commission.

¹ The most recent list (see Appendix) used by the IWC Scientific Committee includes 88 species of cetaceans of which 81 are marine or mainly marine. Of the marine species, all but 7 belong to the families listed as Highly Migratory in Annex I of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.