

**Statement submitted by the EU Member States Party to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling**

1. The aforementioned Parties to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) regret that Japan has decided to begin whaling in the North Pacific under Article VIII of the ICRW before the IWC Scientific Committee has completed its review of NEWREP-NP and submitted its advice to the Commission.
  2. The EU and its Member States consider that this runs contrary to the spirit of collaboration and the provisions of IWC Resolution 2014-5 on Whaling under Special Permit and Resolution 2016-2 on Improving the Review Process for Whaling under Special Permit.
  3. We recall that the Scientific Committee at its 2017 meeting concluded that the Expert Panel tasked with reviewing NEWREP-NP had conducted a detailed, fair and thorough review of the NEWREP-NP proposal and endorsed the recommendations of the Panel.
  4. We draw the Government of Japan's attention to the Expert Panel's clear recommendation that the lethal sampling components of the programme should not occur until the additional work identified in its report is undertaken and reviewed.
  5. Furthermore, we note with extreme concern the Expert Panel's conclusion that the population size of the common minke whale J-stock is projected to reduce by 20% in 2030 under NEWREP-NP and that further substantial work is required to address this before the programme commences.
  6. We also note with concern the proposed take of sei whales given that the Government of Japan has no reservation in place under CITES for this Appendix I listed species in the North Pacific.
  7. While we thank the NEWREP-NP proponent for the new information presented at the 2017 meeting of the Scientific Committee following some of the Expert Panel's recommendations, we draw the Government of Japan's attention to the fact that the Scientific Committee has not had sufficient time to consider this new information and will not provide its full evaluation of NEWREP-NP until 2018, following direction from the IWC Chair on the interpretation of Resolution 2016-2.
  8. In light of the above, we are disappointed that the Government of Japan has issued Special Permits for whaling in the North Pacific before a full and robust scientific review has been completed.
  9. Therefore, we urge the Government of Japan to re-consider its position on this matter and withdraw its Special Permits in the North Pacific, and to work collaboratively with ICRW Parties to engage in the process established under IWC.
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