

# **Report of the Scientific Committee**

**Bled, Slovenia, 24 April-6 May 2018**

## **Annex Z Statements on the Agenda**

**This report is presented as it was at SC/67b.  
There may be further editorial changes (e.g. updated references, tables, figures)  
made before publication.**

**International Whaling Commission  
Bled, Slovenia, 2018**



## **Annex Z**

### **Statements on the Agenda**

#### **ANNEX Z1. STATEMENT BY THE ICELANDIC, JAPANESE AND NORWEGIAN DELEGATIONS CONCERNING DNA REGISTER SYSTEMS**

Members of the Scientific Committee and the Commission are aware that the Governments of Iceland, Japan and Norway have, on a voluntary basis, implemented national DNA register systems to provide for effective monitoring of whale products in the market and that information on these DNA register systems has been provided to the Commission.

This statement is to reassert the position of the Governments of Iceland, Japan and Norway that the monitoring of markets is outside the jurisdiction and competence of the IWC and that for this reason, inclusion of items related to DNA identification of market products on the agenda of the Scientific Committee and its Working Groups is inappropriate. For this reason, representatives of the Governments of Iceland, Japan and Norway and their appointed scientists will not participate in Scientific Committee discussions of this matter.

However, the Governments of Iceland, Japan and Norway will provide additional information on their DNA register systems as they deem appropriate including information on technical aspects of these systems. Further, we urge that the future work of the Scientific Committee on matters related to the use of DNA technologies and analyses take the position of our Governments into account. In this regard, documents dealing with the marketing of whale meat products should not be submitted to or discussed by the Scientific Committee.

#### **ANNEX Z2. STATEMENT BY THE JAPANESE DELEGATION CONCERNING WHALE WATCHING**

It is the Government of Japan's position that whale watching is outside the competence of the IWC. Further, the International Whaling Commission has limited financial and human resources and should be focusing its efforts on important matters such as stock assessments.

#### **ANNEX Z3. STATEMENT BY THE JAPANESE DELEGATION CONCERNING SMALL CETACEANS**

Resolution 1999-9 on Dall's porpoise is clearly outside the jurisdiction of the IWC and therefore Japan continues not to provide data concerning small cetaceans at this year's Scientific Committee meeting. Furthermore, Japan will not participate in the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Small Cetaceans and discussions in other Sub-Committees and/or Working Groups when/where issues on small cetaceans be dealt with. 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 co-operation 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 website of the Fisheries Agency of Japan. Finally, although Japan may not make any comments on the draft report of the Sub-Committee on Small Cetaceans and relevant parts of draft reports related to small cetaceans prepared by other Sub-Committees and/or Working Groups, this should in no way be taken to mean that Japan concurs with or supports the contents of the report.

#### **ANNEX Z4. STATEMENT BY THE JAPANESE DELEGATION CONCERNING CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS (CMP)**

Japan has committed to conservation of threatened whale stocks including the western gray whale. With this in mind, it continuously submitted 'Status report of conservation and researches on the western North Pacific gray whales in Japan' to the Sub-Committee on Bowhead, Right and Gray Whales (BRG), and has decided to continue the submission of the report to the Sub-Committee on Conservation Management Plans (CMP) responding to the recent reformulation of sub-committees in 2017. However, it must not be construed to prejudice Japan's position that the Conservation Committee is not consistent with the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling because the Committee negates one of the objectives of the Convention, i.e. sustainable use of whales.

**ANNEX Z5. JAPAN STATEMENT IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED WORKSHOP ON CETACEANS AND ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING: A GAP ANALYSIS**

As Japan expressed at the occasion of the adoption of Agenda of this Scientific Committee, it does not support the Scientific Committee to deal with issues outside the competence of IWC.

It found that most of the activities envisaged to be dealt with at the proposed Workshop [see Annex L, Items 6.2, 7.1 and 7.2] are outside the competence of IWC.

For this reason, Japan cannot support the proposed Workshop, and especially it cannot support the allocation of a budget of Scientific Committee for this purpose.