



ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា

Kingdom of Cambodia
ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ
Nation Religion King

ក្រសួងកសិកម្ម រុក្ខាប្រមាញ់ និងនេសាទ
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

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May 22nd, 2018

Phnom Penh.....

Dr. Ribbecca Lent,
Executive Secretary
IWC Secretariat,
The Red House, 135 Station Road,
Imprington, Cambridge
CB24 9NP, UK
E-mail: secretariat@iwc.int

Dear Dr. Lent,

I am responding to Circular IWC.CCG.1295 dated 16 February 2018 inviting all contracting governments to discuss on way forward of the IWC.

The Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia appreciates the efforts made by the Japanese Government in finding way forward to resolve the current working system of IWC and in pursuing traditional small type coastal whaling for its traditional practices.

The government of Cambodia strongly supports the Japanese government’s proposal for the amendment of the Schedule to allow for Japan’s Coastal Whaling to operate in its EEZ as a subsistence fishing as well as respecting the traditional practices of the century old local coastal communities.

We recognize that the current IWC has not been a relevant international organization to provide benefits to IWC members supporting sustainable exploitation of whale resources, which is one of the main objectives of the ICRW.

Due to the severe discrepancy between the current IWC and the objectives of the ICRW, some drastic and novel approaches are required.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that the objectives of the ICRW are not to totally prohibit whaling per se, and the moratorium on commercial whaling is a TEMPORARY measure. Establishing a catch limit for Small Type Coastal Whaling is consistent with the existing paragraph 10(e).

On the other hand, the Scientific Committee's finding after the RMP Implementation Review in 2013 took full account of the concerns regarding a risk to the J-stock and concluded that a small quota for Japan's STCW would not be detrimental to the stock.

It is quite unusual for an international organization for the management of natural resources to resort to vote for decision-making without exhausting constructive discussions especially without considerations of the advices provided by its own specialized Scientific Committee.

I believe that under the current IWC system, any truly meaningful decision like that on schedule amendment could not be made. Therefore, the current decision-making system requires a consideration for a more appropriate scheme. Such a scheme includes some give and take, meaning that both sides should make some concessions: the anti-whaling camp accepts some form of whaling and the pro-whaling camp accepts some form of whale conservation area. Would both sides accept this idea? If we agree to this idea, we can discuss further.

Please accept, Dr. Lent, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Sincerely



Prof. (Dr.) Nao Thuok

IWC Commissioner for Cambodia