

13. With regard to method (e), attention was drawn to a Report recently issued by the Discovery Committee concerning the condition of the stock of humpback whales and to other evidence pointing to a serious decline of that stock, and the Conference appointed a Committee to study this question. The Committee reported that there was ample biological evidence to show that the humpback stock was in very serious danger in all sectors of the southern hemisphere, and recommended that there should be no hunting of this species of whale for at least a year in any waters, or at least in the southern hemisphere and North Atlantic and dependent waters. It proved impossible to obtain the general agreement of the Conference to this proposal, chiefly because some land stations depend mainly upon humpbacks for their output of oil, and it was contended that the total prohibition, even for one year, of the hunting of humpbacks would have an effect on these land stations disproportionate to that which it would have on pelagic expeditions. The Conference, therefore, while admitting the desirability of a total prohibition, agreed that, in the first instance, the hunting of humpbacks by means of pelagic expeditions should be prohibited in the waters south of 40° South Latitude. A provision to this effect has consequently been embodied in the Protocol (Article 1). It is hoped that this measure of protection, coupled with the immunity which all baleen whales would enjoy in the greater part of the waters north of 40° South Latitude, should have useful results, and the Conference strongly recommends the Governments represented thereat and other Governments concerned to study this question further with a view to give complete protection to humpback whales for a suitable period after the 30th September, 1939.

14. With regard to method (f), the Conference agreed that the sector of the waters south of 40° South Latitude which lies between 70° West Longitude and 160° West Longitude should be a sanctuary for

13. Med Hensyn til den under e nævnte Metode blev Opmærksomheden henvendt paa den nylig af „Discovery Committee“ udgivne Beretning vedrørende Bestanden af Knølhvaler og paa andre Beviser for den alvorlige Nedgang i Bestanden; Konferencen nedsatte et Udvalg til at undersøge dette Spørgsmaal. Udvalget berettede, at der var vægtige biologiske Beviser for, at Knølhvalbestanden var i meget alvorlig Fare overalt paa den sydlige Halvkugle, og Udvalget anbefalede, at der ikke blev drevet Fangst af denne Hvalart i mindst et Aar i alle Vande, eller i det mindste paa den sydlige Halvkugle og i det nordlige Atlanterhav med tilgrænsende Vande. Det viste sig umuligt at opnaa almindelig Enighed paa Konferencen om dette Forslag, særlig fordi enkelte Landstationer hovedsagelig var afhængig af Knølhvaler til deres Olieproduktion, og det paastodes, at fuldstændigt Forbud selv for 1 Aar mod Fangst af Knølhvaler vilde have en Virkning paa disse Landstationer, som ikke stod i Forhold til den Virkning, det vilde have paa pelagiske Ekspeditioner. Idet Konferencen indrømmede Ønskeligheden af et totalt Forbud, blev den derfor enig om i første Række, at Fangst af Knølhvaler ved Hjælp af pelagiske Ekspeditioner skulde være forbudt i Vandene sønden for 40° sydlig Bredde. En Bestemmelse herom er følgelig blevet optaget i Protokollen (Artikel 1). Man maa haabe, at denne Beskyttelsesforanstaltning sammen med den Immunitet, som alle Bardehvaler faar i den største Del af Vandene norden for 40° sydlig Bredde, vil give nyttige Resultater; Konferencen anbefaler stærkt overfor de repræsenterede Regeringer og andre interesserede Regeringer at undersøge dette Spørgsmaal yderligere med Henblik paa at give Knølhvaler fuldstændig Beskyttelse i en passende Periode efter 30. September 1939.

14. Med Hensyn til den under f anførte Metode enedes Konferencen om, at det Omraade af Vandene sønden for 40° sydlig Bredde, som ligger mellem 70° vestlig Længde og 160° vestlig Længde, i