

20. The Conference considered a statement by the Japanese Delegation with regard to the effect of Article 8 of the Principal Agreement upon land stations in Japan, some of which actually operate for more than six months in any one year, a considerable portion of the catch consisting of sperm whales. In order to meet so far as possible the case of such land stations, the Conference agreed to confine the application of Article 8 to baleen whales, and an amendment to this effect has been included in the Protocol (Article 6).

21. The Conference having considered reports to the effect that some difficulty has been experienced in the application of Article 12 of the Principal Agreement, the purpose of which is to limit the period between the killing and the treatment of a whale, it was agreed to remove the uncertainty as to the exact interpretation of the Article by redrafting it on different lines with the same purpose in view. Provision has been made accordingly in the Protocol (Article 8).

22. The Conference learned with concern that during the Antarctic whaling season of 1936—37, and the summer of 1937, no less than 15 right whales had been killed. They were informed that some of these whales had been measured, and among them four foetuses were found, the lengths of which were approximately 20 feet, 19 feet, 17 feet and 1 foot respectively. Some of these whales were taken by nationals of Governments which were signatories to the Principal Agreement. The Conference desires to draw the attention of the Governments concerned to these breaches of the Geneva Convention and the Principal Agreement. From the commercial point of view, little advantage can accrue to any expedition by the taking of the few right whales that still exist, and, in the opinion of the Conference, it is deplorable not only that right whales should be killed in spite of the provisions of the Principal Agreement, but that, in particular, as the statistics prove, breeding right

20. Konferencen overvejede en Erklæring fra den japanske Delegation om den Indflydelse Hovedoverenskomstens Artikel 8 havde paa Landstationer i Japan, af hvilke enkelte faktisk var i Drift mere end 6 Maaneder af Aaret og hvis Fangst for en stor Del bestod af Spermacethvaler. For saa vidt muligt at tage Hensyn til saadanne Landstationer enedes Konferencen om at begrænse Anvendelsen af Artikel 8 til Bardehvaler, og en hertil sigtende Ændring er blevet indføjet i Protokollen (Artikel 6).

21. Konferencen, som har overvejet Beretninger om, at der har været visse Vanskeligheder, der er opstaaet ved Anvendelsen af Hovedoverenskomstens Artikel 12, hvis Formaal er at begrænse Tidsrummet mellem Drab og Behandling af Hvaler, enedes om at fjerne Usikkerheden vedrørende den nøjagtige Fortolkning af Artiklen ved med dette Formaal for Øje at omredigere den paa forskellige Punkter. En hertil sigtende Bestemmelse er blevet optaget i Protokollen (Artikel 8).

22. Konferencen har med Bekymring erfaret, at der under den antarktiske Hvalfangstperiode i 1936—37 og i Sommeren 1937 er blevet dræbt ikke mindre end 15 Rethvaler. Det blev oplyst, at nogle af disse Hvaler var blevet maalt, og at der blandt dem fandtes 4 Fostre, hvis Længde var henholdsvis 20 Fod, 19 Fod, 17 Fod og 1 Fod. Nogle af disse Hvaler var fanget af Statsborgere i Lande, hvis Regeringer har undertegnet Hovedoverenskomsten. Konferencen ønsker at henlede de paagældende Regeringers Opmærksomhed paa disse Brud paa Genève-Konventionen og Hovedoverenskomsten. Fra et erhvervsmæssigt Synspunkt kan en Ekspedition kun have ringe Fordel ved at fange de faa Rethvaler, som endnu findes, og efter Konferencens Mening er det beklageligt, ikke alene at Rethvaler dræbes til Trods for Bestemmelserne i Hovedoverenskomsten, men især — som det fremgaar af Statistikken — at ynglende Rethvaler er blevet dræbt. Konferencen udtalte derfor Haabet om, at de paagældende