

Resolution on special permits for scientific research

(Fremsat af formanden)

Vedtaget ved konsensus den 12. juni 1986

Whereas the purpose of The International Whaling Commission is to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry; and

Whereas the Commission has decided that catch limits for the killing for commercial purposes of whales from all stocks for the 1986 coastal and the 1985/86 pelagic seasons and thereafter shall be zero, this provision to be kept under review based on the best scientific advice, the Commission being required by 1990 at the latest to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the effects of this decision on whale stocks and consider modification of this provision and the establishment of other catch limits; and

Whereas Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling provides that notwithstanding anything contained in the Convention any Contracting Government may grant to any of its nationals a special permit authorizing that national to kill, take and treat whales for purposes of scientific research subject to such restrictions as to number and subject to such other conditions as the Contracting Government thinks fit; and

Whereas paragraph 30 of the Schedule of the Convention provides for all proposed permits to be reviewed by the Scientific Committee; and

Whereas the killing, taking and treating of whales for purposes of scientific research should only be undertaken in a manner consistent with the principles and in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

Now therefore the Commission, until the comprehensive assessment under schedule paragraph (10 E) is completed,

Recommends that prior to deciding on the granting of permits for the killing, taking and treating of whales for the purpose of

scientific research, Contracting Governments while complying fully with Paragraph 30 of the Schedule should also take account of guidelines drawn up by the Scientific Committee.

Recommends that Contracting Governments in deciding the issuance of, or modifications, postponement, or withdrawal of the permits, should take account of the comments of the Scientific Committee.

Recommends that the duration of any such permits issued by the Contracting Governments should be strictly limited to the need for completion of the proposed research.

Reaffirms that as stated in Paragraph 30 of the Schedule the preliminary results of the scientific research will be subject to annual review by the Scientific Committee.

Recommends that Contracting Governments when considering proposed research permits and the Scientific Committee when reviewing such permits and when reviewing the results of research from permits previously issued in accordance with the procedures of the Convention should take into account whether:

- (1) the objectives of the research are not practically and scientifically feasible through non-lethal research techniques;
- (2) the proposed research is intended, and structured accordingly to contribute information essential for rational management of the stock;
- (3) the number, age and sex of whales to be taken are necessary to complete the research and will facilitate the conduct of the comprehensive assessment;
- (4) whales will be killed in a manner consistent with the provisions of Section III of the Schedule, due regard being had to whether there are compelling scientific reasons to the contrary.