

**Resolution on the safety of vessels engaged in whaling and whale research-related activities**

**Submitted by**  
**Australia, Netherlands, New Zealand, United States of America**

Whereas the safety of vessels and crew and the order of maritime navigation are, and have long been, the common interest of nations worldwide,

Whereas the Commission and Contracting Governments support the right to legitimate and peaceful forms of protest and demonstration,

Mindful of the fact that issues relating to confrontation between vessels at sea and in port have been discussed by this Commission as well as other international fora including the International Maritime Organization,

Recognizing the fact that domestic and international concerns have been expressed concerning confrontation at sea and port relating to whaling and whale research activities,

Seriously concerned that dangerous confrontations risk human life, property, and the order of maritime navigation, and may lead to grave accidents,

Recalling the International Regulations for Avoiding Collisions at Sea which set uniform principles and rules for avoiding collisions at sea,

Recalling further the guidelines of the International Maritime Organization relating to consultation and cooperation in marine casualty investigations,

Now therefore this Commission,

Agrees and Declares that the Commission and its Contracting Governments do not condone any actions that are a risk to human life and property in relation to these activities of vessels at sea, and urges persons and entities to refrain from such acts;

Encourages Contracting Governments to take appropriate measures, consistent with IMO guidelines, in order to ensure that the substance and spirit of this Resolution are observed both domestically and internationally.