

## Annex L

### Summary of Presentations by Non-Governmental Organisations

The views of the Animal Welfare Institute were supported by a number of NGOs<sup>1</sup>. It noted the threats to cetaceans from inter alia climate change, pollution, marine noise and marine traffic and acknowledged the work of the Scientific Committee on such issues. It questioned whether it is possible to sustainably utilise whales since they are difficult to study, and the above factors making studies even more complex. It commented that governments and NGOs are increasingly acknowledging the need to protect the welfare of the animals that humans utilise, making the approval of explosive harpoons on conscious whales a retrograde action. Further, since it believes commercial whaling cannot be conducted humanely, it queried whether it should indeed be conducted at all. Finally, the Animal Welfare Institute called for increased participation of NGOs within the IWC and increased transparency within the work of the Commission.

The International Transport Worker's Federation (ITF) stated that interference of research activities by Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS) cannot be described as peaceful protest and its actions pose a risk to people's lives. It noted that the IWC unanimously condemns such acts, thus does not understand why SSCS boats are able to sail to the Antarctic repeatedly. It requested cooperation from the countries concerned, particularly port and flag states, to take effective measures to ensure safety at sea. ITF also noted that the role of the IWC is to conduct discussions democratically and based on science, while being respectful of different cultures and customs. It strongly supports the sustainable use of marine resources.

The Humane Society International spoke on behalf of a number of other NGOs<sup>2</sup>. While respecting the motivation in seeking a consensus package to bring whaling back under IWC control and in addressing the 33 identified issues, it noted that the process had failed to produce a tangible outcome. It disagrees that the impediments to consensus are the issues of coastal whaling, special permit whaling and sanctuaries and does not believe discussions within the Small Working Group should be allowed to continue for an additional year. Previous negotiations regarding the Irish Proposal and the Revised Management

Scheme have shown the impediment to compromise is the unwillingness of whaling countries to make concessions. Without such concessions Humane Society International believes the objectives of bringing whaling under control and improving whale conservation are unlikely to be achieved. Without a commitment from all Contracting Governments to bring all whaling under IWC control, Humane Society International believes no more resources should be allocated to negotiations within the Small Working Group. Instead it believes the IWC should dedicate efforts to the conservation and protection of cetaceans.

The Association of Traditional Marine Mammal Hunters of Chukotka (ATMMHC) noted that its people have pursued the rational and sustainable use of natural resources for centuries and that they do not take more from the environment than needed for food and for supporting the wellbeing of their communities. It asked that the IWC respect this way of life and support the real needs and demands of its people for whale products. It believes some Contracting Governments are attempting to undermine communities affected by IWC regulation by questioning their need for whale hunts. The ATMMHC believes compromise and reform must be achieved within the IWC, and when considered within the perspective of its own history, surviving the harsh conditions of the Arctic north, the task should not appear so daunting.

The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), speaking on behalf of a number of other NGOs<sup>3</sup>, expressed dismay at the depletion of great whales, particularly since

<sup>1</sup>American Cetacean Society, Animal Welfare Institute, Asociacion de Biología Marina de Guatemala, Campaign Whale, Canadian Marine Environment Protection Society, Centro de Conservación de Cetacea, Cetacean Society International, Comité Ballena Azul, Conservación de Mamíferos Marinos de México, Cousteau Society, Dolphin Connection, Eastern Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness, Environmental Investigation Agency, Fundación Cethus, Humane Society International, The Humane Society of the United States, Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute, Irish Seal Sanctuary, Iruka and Kujira Action Network, LegaSeaS International, Natural Resources Defense Council, NOAA, Norwegian Society for the Protection of Animals, OceanCare, Pacific Orca Society/Orcalab, Pew Environment Group, Project Jonah, Pro Wildlife, Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, The Whaleman Foundation, Whales Alive, World Society for the Protection of Animals and WWF.

<sup>2</sup>Antarctic Southern Ocean Coalition, American Cetacean Society, Asociación de Biología Marina de Guatemala, Animal Welfare Institute, Campaign Whale, Canadian Marine Environment Protection Society, Centro de Conservación de Cetaceans, Cetacean Society International, Comité Ballena Azul, Conservación de Mamíferos Marinos de México, Cousteau Society, Dolphin Connection, Eastern Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness, Environmental Investigation Agency, Fundación MonteCarlo Verde, Greenpeace, The Humane Society of the United States, Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International League for the Protection of Cetaceans, International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute, International Ocean Institute, Iruka and Kujira Action Network, Irish Seal Sanctuary, LegaSeaS International, Natural Resources Defense Council, NOAA, Norwegian Society for the Protection of Animals, OceanCare, Pacific Orca Society/Orcalab, Pro Wildlife, Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, The Whaleman Foundation, World Society for the Protection of Animals and WWF.

<sup>3</sup>American Cetacean Society, Animal Welfare Institute, Asociación de Biología Marina de Guatemala, Campaign Whale, Canadian Marine Environment Protection Society, Centro de Conservación de Cetacea, Cetacean Society International, Comité Ballena Azul, Conservación de Mamíferos Marinos de México, Cousteau Society, Dolphin Connection, Environmental Investigation Agency, Eastern Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness, Fundación MonteCarlo Verde, Global Ocean, Humane Society International, The Humane Society of the United States, Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International League for the Protection of Oceans, International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute, International Ocean Institute, Irish Seal Sanctuary, Iruka and Kujira Action Network, LegaSeas International, Natural Resources Defense Council, NOAA and Norwegian Society for the Protection of Animals.

the 1950s when a sanctuary in the Antarctic was first proposed. It supported the continuation of the Moratorium and believes it should be taken further to end all whaling under special permits, in sanctuaries and under objection. This can be justified due to the improvement in scientific knowledge regarding whales, employing non-lethal research methods and the increase in non-lethal utilisation of whales. Additionally, increasing threats to the survival of whales resulting from human activities in and around the water mean that relieving the ecological stress caused by whaling is necessary. If the Small Working Group is to continue meeting, the ASOC believes the terms of reference should be amended to include discussion of a phase-down and out of residual commercial whaling. During this time catches should be reduced, no new

whaling vessels should be brought into service and no new whaling operations begun. The ASOC also recommends that more research be conducted on the recovery of whale populations and ecosystems and into new cetacean threats.

Te Ohu Kaimoana supports indigenous and coastal peoples to continue their traditional and cultural practices of hunting whales for food. It believes that it is imperative that compromise is reached and a package must be agreed to ensure the future of the IWC. It feels that currently indigenous and coastal people have to beg the Commission for whale quotas and believes that this process is demeaning. Further, it believes limiting indigenous peoples' use of whales to a nutritional need or subsistence basis alone is indefensible and a rights-based formula should be included in discussions on the future of the IWC.

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