

Annex R

Statements on the Agenda

ANNEX R1. STATEMENT BY THE ICELANDIC, JAPANESE AND NORWEGIAN DELEGATIONS CONCERNING DNA REGISTER SYSTEMS

Members of the Scientific Committee and the Commission are aware that the Governments of Iceland, Japan and Norway have, on a voluntary basis, implemented national DNA register systems to provide for effective monitoring of whale meat products in the market and that information on these DNA register systems has been provided to the Commission. This statement is to reassert the position of the Governments of Iceland, Japan and Norway that the monitoring of markets is outside the jurisdiction and competence of the IWC and that for this reason, inclusion of items related to DNA identification of market products on the agenda of the Scientific Committee and its Working Group is inappropriate. For this reason, representatives of the Governments of Iceland, Japan and Norway and their appointed scientists will not participate in Scientific Committee discussions of this matter. However, the Governments of Iceland, Japan and Norway will provide additional information on their DNA register systems as they deem appropriate including information on technical aspects of these systems. Further, we urge that the future work of the Scientific Committee on matters related to the use of DNA technologies and analyses take the position of our Governments into account. In this regard, documents dealing with the marketing of whale meat products should not be submitted to or discussed by the Scientific Committee.

ANNEX R2. STATEMENT BY THE JAPANESE DELEGATION CONCERNING WHALEWATCHING

It is the Government of Japan's position that whalewatching is outside the competence of the IWC. Further, the IWC has limited financial and human resources and should be focusing its efforts on important matters such as stock assessments.

ANNEX R3. STATEMENT BY THE JAPANESE DELEGATION CONCERNING SMALL CETACEANS

Resolution 1999-9 on Dall's porpoise is clearly outside the jurisdiction of the IWC, and therefore Japan continues not to provide data concerning small cetaceans at this year's Scientific Committee meeting. Furthermore, Japan will not participate in the meeting of the Standing Sub-Committee on Small Cetaceans this year. It is unfortunate that the political attempt to expand the scope of the IWC's influence to include small cetaceans by Resolution 1999-9 has prevented the continued voluntary scientific co-operation of Japan in the field of small cetaceans. However, Japan will make its data on small cetaceans available following this year's Scientific Committee meeting through appropriate means, such as the website of the Fisheries Agency of Japan. Finally, although Japan may not make any comments on the draft report of the standing sub-committee on small cetaceans, this should in no way be taken to mean that Japan concurs with or supports the contents of the report.

ANNEX R4. STATEMENT CONCERNING THE CONTRIBUTION OF WHALE-WATCHING DATA TO POPULATION ASSESSMENTS

Clapham, Chilvers, Fortuna, Gales, Galletti, Groch, Iniguez, Kock, Lens, Ridoux, Rogan, Rojas, Scheidat, Senn, Sequeira, Simmonds, Stachowitsch, Štrbenac.

This represents a response to the statement by the Government of Japan concerning the usefulness of whalewatching within the context of the IWC. In contrast to the views expressed in that statement, it should be noted that in many locations whalewatching has provided a free or low-cost platform for data collection that has proved of considerable importance to the assessment and understanding of local cetacean populations.

Numerous published studies have been based in part or entirely upon data collected on whalewatching vessels. From just one area alone (the Gulf of Maine in the U.S.), whalewatching-based studies have resulted in at least 50 peer-reviewed publications (note that this is just papers in international refereed journals, and does not include numerous other articles submitted to SC meetings and elsewhere). These publications represented a significant contribution to the Scientific Committee's Comprehensive Assessment of North Atlantic Humpback Whales in 2001/02.

Refereed papers based upon whalewatching data concern several species of large whales, and many topics of central importance to management such as abundance, distribution, population characteristics and structure, reproductive rates, social structure, age at sexual maturity, migratory movements, mating systems, sex ratio, and changes in distribution in relation to the abundance of prey.

Because of the free access provided by whalewatching vessels, these studies have been conducted at essentially no survey cost. Whalewatching-based studies have been conducted in both developed and developing countries; examples include the United States, Tonga, French Polynesia, Norway, Iceland, the Dominican Republic, New Zealand and Australia. Consequently, to state that the IWC should ignore whalewatching and instead concentrate its "scarce resources on stock assessments" ignores the considerable contribution to the latter that can be made by whalewatching data.

In addition, recent studies have suggested that some dolphin-watching operations have negative impacts on populations of small cetaceans. Such a finding is directly relevant to IWC concerns regarding the effect of human activities on stocks, and this should be pursued further given the importance of assessing whether similar impacts occur from whalewatching on baleen whales.

Finally, we note that the results of SC whalewatching discussions have been incorporated into local legislation governing whalewatching (e.g. on blue whales in Chile), and Marine Protected Areas (e.g. in Croatia).