

On the one hand, anti-whaling countries say that the distress of the Japanese whaling communities should only be addressed by the resumption of commercial whaling...

Even IWC recognizes Japanese coastal whaling communities' continuing distress

In 1989, the Chairman's Report of the 41st IWC meeting pointed out, "In Japan, the zero-catch limit [on minke] has affected individuals, economically, socially, culturally and in respect to health.... *These impacts pose a serious threat to the continued survival of these traditional small communities.*"

In 1993 — rather belatedly — IWC Commissioners resolved to work "expeditiously" to alleviate the ever-increasing distress in Abashiri, Ayukawa, Taiji, and Wada. They did so again in 1995. And in 1996. And again in 2000, seven years after they had resolved to work "expeditiously."

But IWC says 'no' to the IRA: no commercial whaling until IWC ends moratorium

A majority of IWC Members maintain IWC cannot end the Japanese coastal whalers' distress *except* by ending the moratorium. And IWC cannot end the moratorium until IWC Members finish and vote to accept the long-overdue Revised Management Scheme (RMS).

On the other hand, anti-whaling countries are against ANY resumption of commercial whaling.

Five Members clearly say 'No'!

Five Members, *Australia, Monaco, NZ, the UK, and the US* clearly state 'NO' during IWC Plenary sessions to *commercial whaling under any circumstances*. And many others too state, at the IWC Annual Meetings and elsewhere, that they are either *against the resumption of commercial whaling* or that they will *continue to support the moratorium and the whale sanctuaries—both of which prohibit commercial whaling*.

Filibustering against RMS!

The extended moratorium on *all* commercial whaling is contrary to the science-based conservation and orderly development of the whaling industry which the *International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW)* mandates. To complete the RMS would open the way to resuming commercial whaling on sustainable stocks.

Nonetheless, many IWC Members have, for almost ten years, been filibustering against progress on the RMS by proposing amendments to the RMS which are clearly outside the scope of the *ICRW* and thus outside IWC's responsibilities.

Japan has continued to participate in good faith throughout these almost-decade-long discussions aimed at ending the moratorium by completing and adopting the RMS.

However, a majority of the other Members—including the US, the UK, New Zealand, Australia, and Monaco—have just debated RMS proposals endlessly. They do so because they have no intention of completing the RMS.

In February 2001, an IWC Working Group met on the RMS—yet again. "Progress was made in several areas but some fundamental differences remain," IWC reported.



Whaling vessels in the port of Ayukawa.

HYPOCRISY, Not Responsibility!

Japanese small-type coastal whalers seek only abundant species

None of the species which Japanese small-type coastal whalers have traditionally taken are—or ever were—endangered.

Yet the world's non-whaling nations, working through the International Whaling Commission (IWC), insist that the moratorium which IWC declared in 1982 on all whaling should continue: there should be no more commercial whaling, ever. **Why?**

Science does not support this IWC moratorium on all species

IWC Scientific Committee findings did not and do not support this position; the minke whale population is healthy. This all-encompassing moratorium against commercial whaling is a political response from anti-whaling nations (nations which no longer or never did hunt whales).

Anti-whaling groups, using pseudo-science and emotion, managed to create the mistaken—but widespread—impression that all whales are endangered. Although this is not, and never has been true, the resulting political pressure on many IWC member governments led them, first, to vote for the moratorium and then, quite irrationally, to continue to support it.

For its distressed whaling communities, Japan has requested IWC for interim relief

Since 1988, after the IWC moratorium took effect, Japan has asked every year for small interim relief allocation (IRA) of 50 whales annually. This IRA could help to ease the distress of the four coastal whaling villages which have been devastated by the moratorium. But IWC always says "No, wait... ."



Whaling involves the entire community.

IWC's contradiction

IWC Members are obviously and knowingly contradicting themselves: saying IWC will allow harvests of sustainable whale species under an RMS-amended Schedule on the one hand, and continuing to delay the RMS discussion and support the moratorium and whale sanctuaries on the other.

Hypocrisy, not responsibility!

Is IWC sustainable in the 21st century? Perhaps not.

IWC has damaged its own credibility as a management authority. It has ignored the scientific findings which would allow commercial whaling on sustainable stocks.

Nor is it credible for a management organization to be advocating mutually exclusive objectives: both passage of the RMS and continuing a moratorium on using any resources. The RMS and the moratorium cannot logically or functionally coexist. It is hypocritical—a charade—to pretend otherwise.

Whale management beyond IWC . . .

Because IWC is no longer credible as a responsible management organization, traditional whaling nations are being forced to consider alternatives. The World Council of Whalers and the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) are examples of whalers and whaling nations cooperating to improve whale management.

IWC may continue to refuse to recognize that its mandate is not only to protect whales. If it does, then the traditional coastal whaling nations will, of individual and regional necessity work further on science-based management regimes which will allow their traditional coastal whaling communities to survive.








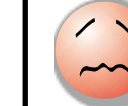





Japan's community-based whalers continue to seek to harvest traditionally-abundant species under a science-based regime which ensures sustainable use.

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Chronology of Fruitless Discussions

Year	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	
IWC	40th Auckland NZ	41st San Diego US	42nd Noordwijk Netherlands	43rd Reykjavik Iceland	44th Glasgow UK	45th Kyoto Japan	46th Puerto Vallarta Mexico	47th Dublin Ireland	48th Aberdeen UK	CBWWS Sendai Japan	49th Monte Carlo Monaco	50th Muscat Oman	51st St. George's Grenada	52nd Adelaide Australia	53rd London UK
Requests for IRA	1st Japanese request for an interim relief allocation	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th		10th	11th	12th	13th	14th
Results	Deferred 	Deferred 	Voted down 	Voted down 	Voted down 	Voted down  IWC/45/51	Voted down 	Voted down  IWC Resolution 1995-3	Voted down  IWC Resolution 1996-1		Voted down 	Voted down 	Voted down 	Voted down  IWC Resolution 2000-1	?

Commercial whaling moratorium took effect in Japanese waters—coastal minke whaling suspended.

The International Whaling Commission, at its 45th Annual Meeting, **RECOGNISES** the socio-economic and cultural needs of the four small coastal whaling communities in Japan and the distress to these communities which has resulted from the cessation of minke whaling and, **RESOLVES** to work expeditiously to alleviate the distress to these communities which has resulted from the cessation of minke whaling at its next Annual Meeting.

The IWC... **RECOGNISES** the revised Action Plan (IWC/47/46) as constructive management elements in accordance with IWC regulations.

The IWC... **Resolved to:**

- ADDRESS** outstanding issue of commercial aspects found in the community-based whaling as described in IWC/47/46; and
- CONVENE** a Workshop on the community-based whaling in the four small communities in Japan to review and identify commercial aspects and socio-economic and cultural needs; the results and recommendations of the Workshop be reported to an intersessional Working Group to be held prior to the 49th Annual Meeting.

The Workshop:

- Draws the attention of the Commission to the 1993 Resolution on Japanese community-based minke whaling (IWC/45/51), in particular the commitment to work expeditiously to alleviate the distress to the small-type coastal whaling communities which has resulted from the cessation of minke whaling.
- Recommends an expeditious completion of the RMS in accordance with resolutions adopted by the IWC on the subject.
- Recommends that Japan should take account of relevant comments made at the Workshop if it decides to submit a further revision of the Revised Action Plan (IWC/47/46) at the 49th IWC Annual Meeting.

The IWC... **REAFFIRMS** the Commission's commitment to work expeditiously to alleviate the distress caused by the cessation of minke whaling to the communities of Abashiri, Ayukawa, Wadoura and Taiji.

As the Netherlands rightly pointed out during the Plenary of the 52nd IWC, that the IWC had to adopt a Resolution so similar to the one adopted in the past implies that "the Commission is not working expeditiously".



Coastal whalers: a status report

The *IWC moratorium* on taking all large whales became effective in *Japanese waters in 1988*, despite the fact that the minke whales, were not threatened. Because the coastal whalers could no longer take minke, as they had traditionally, they were forced by economics to reduce their active vessels almost by half from nine vessels to five.

Before the moratorium, the fleet had harvested mainly minke. This is why *Japan has, each year since the moratorium, asked for an interim relief allocation of 50 minke*. With the moratorium, the whalers may only take the Baird's beaked and pilot whales. (Japan, not IWC, has management responsibility for these species.)

In recent years, because *minke are not declining and there has been no harvest of them since the moratorium took effect*, many coastal fishermen are reporting that now these *whales are eating fish species which fishermen are also harvesting*. Fishermen argue that this is significantly decreasing their landings, compounding the difficulties which the moratorium has already caused the coastal communities.