

Papers on Japanese Small-type Coastal Whaling

Submitted by the Government of Japan
to the International Whaling Commission

1986-1996



The Government of Japan

March 15, 1997

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THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

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THE FOUR JAPANESE SMALL-TYPE WHALING COMMUNITITES



Whaling vessel "Yasumaru No.1"
(courtesy: SHIMOMICHI Yoshiichi)



Oshika Town, Oshika Peninsula (centre)
(courtesy: Oshika Town)



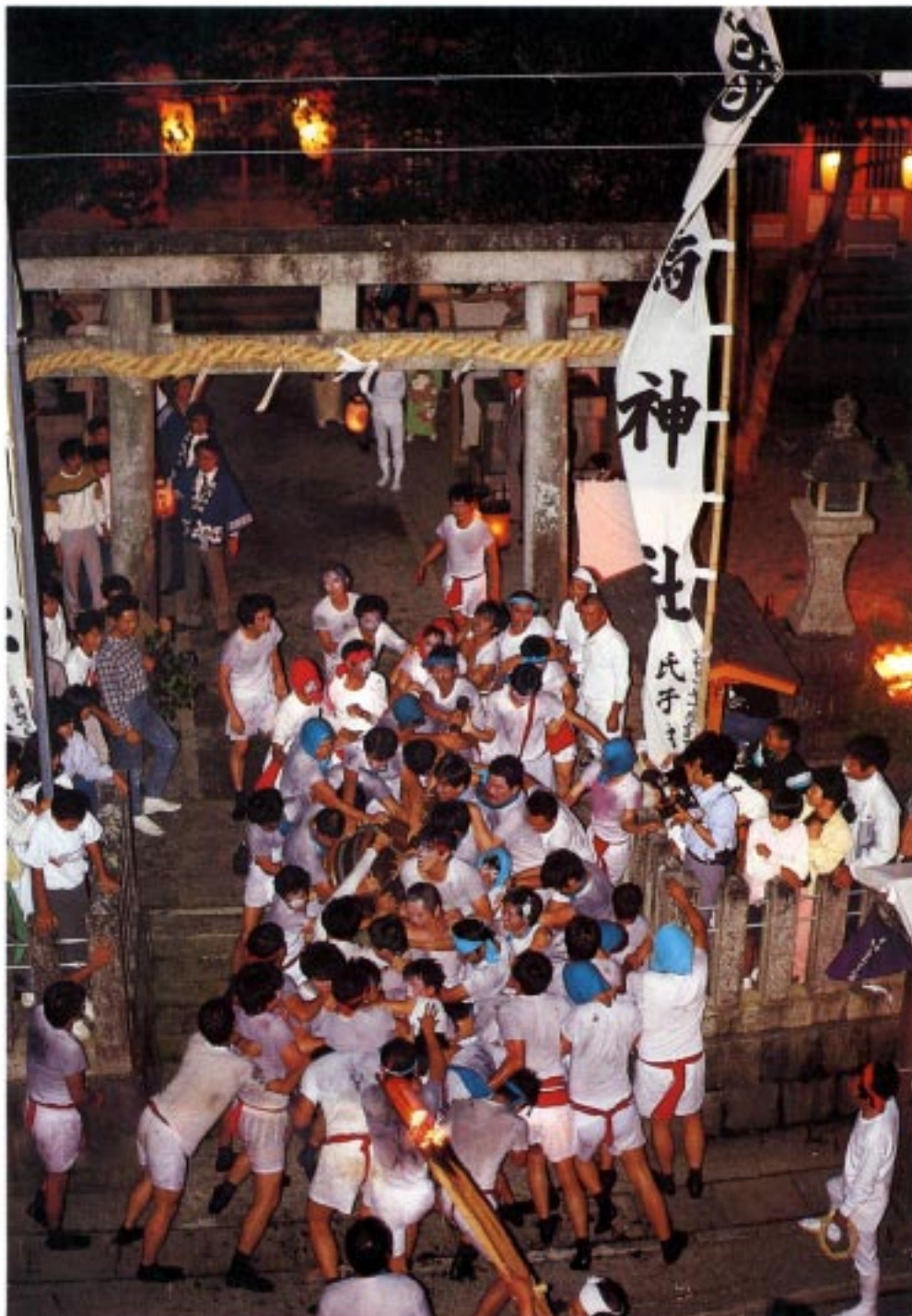
Aerial view of the town of Wada (courtesy: Wada Town)



Historical site at Tomyo-zaki (a lookout for whaling)
(courtesy: KAINO Yoshitsugu)

THE WHALING IN JAPAN

— Photograph by Hideo Higuchi



A Ritual for Whaling (Taiji)

Shinto rituals in Taiji date back to the days before modern organised whaling. The Toya Festival starts with participants having a taste of pomegranate seeds and boiled whale blubber depicting the body of a whale. They subsequently walk to the shrine and parade the streets carrying portable barrel-shaped shrines.



Preparation of offerings



Pomegranet seeds and boiled whale blubber

Remains of Whaling Traditions throughout Japan



Kujira Odori, Shingu, Wakayama Prefecture



Kujira-tsuki Odori, Toda, Shizuoka Prefecture



Meizaiten Festival, Arikawa, Nagasaki Prefecture*



Whale bone torii, Taiji, Wakayama Prefecture*



Whale bone torii, Arikawa, Nagasaki Prefecture*

Kyo-hi of whales, Kyonan, Chiba Prefecture*



A Buddhist ihai*



Memorial Service for Whales, Nagato, Yamaguchi Prefecture*



A Buddhist kako-cho*

(*See page ix)

*The Last Minke Whaling
Before the Moratorium
in September 1987 off Kushiro, Hokkaido*





****The Explanation of the photographs on pages iv and v.***

Meizaiten Festival, Arikawa, Nagasaki Prefecture

Meizaiten, the festival of the guardian god of Arikawa's *Kujiragumi*, starts with the town's young men dedicating a traditional whale song to their god. They make a tour of all the spots associated with whales and whaling, and then go from door to door singing traditional songs.

Kuyo-hi of whales (memorial dedicated to whales), Kyonan, Chiba Prefecture

The *kuyo-hi* of whales is a memorial dedicated to all the whales taken in the whaling operation.

Whale bone torii (a shrine gate made of whale jaw bones), Arikawa, Nagasaki Prefecture; also, a torii, Taiji, Wakayama Prefecture

Whale bones form an arch that serves as an entrance to the shrine.

Memorial Service for Whales, Nagato, Yamaguchi Prefecture

Memorial Service for the Deceased Whales, April 28-May 2, Koganji Temple, Nagato, Yamaguchi Prefecture. The custom of holding memorial services for deceased whales has been passed down through generations in this community in Yamaguchi Prefecture. The memorial service spans five days. In a temple hall accommodating the death registered rolls and memorial tablets for the whales taken by this community in the past, the monk and the participants chant a prayer in unison. The ceremony also serves as a memorial service for all the fish resources taken, and for the ancestors of the people of the town.

A Buddhist *ihai* (a memorial tablet of whales)

An *ihai* is a memorial tablet that holds posthumous Buddhist names of every whale.

A Buddhist *kako-cho* (a death register roll of whales)

The *kako-cho* is a set of death register rolls carrying the posthumous Buddhist names of every whale taken by past whaling operations, recorded in the chronological order of their deaths.

Papers

The 38th Annual Meeting of the IWC in Malmö, Sweden, 1986

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The 39th Annual Meeting of the IWC in Bournemouth, UK, 1987

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The 40th Annual Meeting of the IWC in Auckland, New Zealand, 1988

IWC/40/23	Small-Type Coastal Whaling in Japan: Report of an International Workshop <i>This report was issued as a separate, joint publication of the Japan Social Sciences Association of Canada, the Fund to Promote International Educational Exchange, and the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies and later endorsed by the Japanese government for presentation to the IWC. Copies are available from the Canadian Circumpolar Institute at the University of Alberta, Edmonton (formerly the Boreal Institute for Northern Studies).</i>	
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The 41st Annual Meeting of the IWC in San Diego, California, USA, 1989

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Resolutions

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48th IWC Resolution, 1996

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References

The following four papers, though not included in this book, were submitted to the IWC in their respective captioned years. Their titles are listed here for the reader's reference.

40th, 1988

Women's Tale of Whaling: Life Stories of 11 Japanese Women
Who Live with Whaling

42nd, 1990

Whaling Towns and Tourism: Possibilities for Development of Tourism
at the Former Whaling Towns — Taiji, Wada and Ayukawa

Endangered Culture: Japanese Whaling in Cultural Perspective

44th, 1992

Whale Meat as a Component of the Changing Japanese Diet in Hokkaido

Editor's Note

The papers in this book were written independently of each other and, to preserve the tone and text of the original, have been edited for internal consistency only; no attempt has been made to achieve stylistic consistency throughout this publication. Changes have been restricted to obvious typographical, punctuation, and other similar errors and internal inconsistencies. All footnotes have been moved to the end of the documents and presented as end notes.
