

45th / 47th / 48th

IWC Resolutions

1993 / 1995 / 1996

RESOLUTION ON JAPANESE COMMUNITY-BASED MINKE WHALING

1993

WHEREAS since 1986, Japan has presented documentation on the localised and small-scale nature of community-based whaling in Japan, and the socio-economic and cultural importance of whalemeat production, distribution and consumption in four small coastal whaling communities;

WHEREAS community-based whaling in Japan has many characteristics in common with various aboriginal/subsistence whaling;

WHEREAS extensive anthropological research has demonstrated that the cessation of minke whaling in these communities has affected individuals economically, socially, spiritually and culturally, in a manner that threatens the vitality and viability of the communities;

WHEREAS the Commission has considered an action plan containing the essential elements required to manage a limited harvest of minke whales and distribution of the products for these four communities;

WHEREAS the Government of Japan is prepared to give formal assurances that the meat of minke whales to be taken within the framework of community-based whaling shall not become the object of any commercial distribution, but rather exclusively for subsistence purposes;

WHEREAS the report of the Scientific Committee allows the conclusion that a small take of minke whales from the North Pacific is not liable to endanger the stock in question;

WHEREAS the Commission at its 45th Annual Meeting has expressed its sympathy and understanding of the socio-economic and cultural needs of the four coastal communities in Japan and the distress to these communities which has resulted from the cessation of minke whaling;

Now THEREFORE:

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.

RESOLUTION ON JAPANESE COMMUNITY-BASED MINKE WHALING

1995

WHEREAS the International Whaling Commission, at its 45th Annual Meeting adopted a Resolution (IWC/45/51) which recognised the socio-economic and cultural needs of the four community-based whaling communities in Japan and the ongoing distress to these communities which has resulted from the whaling moratorium,

WHEREAS the Resolution further instructed the Commission “to work expeditiously to alleviate the distress to these communities which has resulted from the cessation of minke whaling at its next Annual Meeting,”

WHEREAS the Action Plans tabled in the IWC’s 45th and 46th Annual Meetings were rejected due to alleged commercial elements in the Japanese Community-based Whaling operations,

WHEREAS the Government of Japan tabled an improved Action Plan (IWC/47/SEST1) specifying administrative arrangements to remove commercial elements from Japanese Community-based whaling. This was an interim measure taken to alleviate profound social, cultural and dietary hardships caused by the imposition of the zero quota,

WHEREAS the Action Plan (IWC/47/26) incorporated further suggestions received from members of the Working Group on Socio-Economic Implication and Small-type Whaling at the 47th Annual Meeting of the IWC,

WHEREAS Japan requested an interim relief allocation of 50 minke whales at the 47th Annual Meeting which would be managed in accordance with the Action Plan (IWC/47/26),

WHEREAS Japan proposed a Schedule amendment to insert after Paragraph 13, a new paragraph as follows:

“Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 10, the taking of 50 minke whales from the Okhotsk Sea-West Pacific stock of the North Pacific in the 1995 season is permitted in order to alleviate the hardship in the Community-based Whaling communities,”

WHEREAS this proposal was not adopted by vote due to divergent views expressed by Member States,

WHEREAS the Action Plan (IWC/47/26) itself was commended by the Member States as a well-documented and useful tool to manage an interim relief allocation if the allocation is ever given to Japanese Community-based Whaling communities in future, and

WHEREAS Japan further revised the Action Plan (IWC/47/46), stipulating that the total quota of minke whales to be authorised under the Action Plan, if an interim relief allocation is ever given, would be decided in a future Annual Meeting,

NOW THEREFORE:

The International Whaling Commission, at its 47th Annual Meeting,

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

**RESOLUTION TO RESOLVE THE DISTRESS OF THE JAPANESE SMALL-TYPE
COASTAL WHALING AS COMMUNITY-BASED WHALING**

1996

WHEREAS four small coastal communities in Japan have traditionally depended upon whaling for their cultural, social, dietary and economic needs;

WHEREAS these communities have traditionally engaged in small-type whaling for the Okhotsk Sea - West Pacific Stock of minke whales which are estimated by the IWC Scientific Committee to number at least 25,000 animals;

WHEREAS the adverse impacts of the commercial whaling moratorium have been thoroughly documented since 1986 by international sociologists, anthropologists and economists and acknowledged by the IWC;

WHEREAS the IWC has firmly resolved in Resolution IWC/45/51 to work expeditiously to relieve the distress of the four small coastal communities;

WHEREAS small-type coastal whaling has many characteristics in common with aboriginal/subsistence whaling and shares the similar traditional, social, religious and cultural aspects;

WHEREAS small-type whaling communities and the Government of Japan have worked diligently for three years to draw up an Action Plan, which would manage the harvest and distribution of all minke whale products from the interim relief allocation of 50 minke whales requested by the Government of Japan;

WHEREAS the IWC recognised the revised Action Plan (IWC/46/47) as “constructive management elements in accordance with IWC regulations” in the IWC Resolution 1995-3;

WHEREAS the concerns were again expressed about commercial aspects in the Community-based whaling as is written in the IWC/47/46 at the Technical Committee of the 48th IWC meeting;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved to:

1. ADDRESS outstanding issue of commercial aspects found in the community-based whaling as described in IWC/47/46; and
2. 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.

Baird's Beaked Whaling in Wada



Drying whale meat for tare,
a local specialty



*Voyage to Kinkazan Shrine for a Ceremony
Before the Whaling Season in 1987*





Praying for a good harvest ... praying for the future of whaling ...

