

15/19. LARGE AND SMALL CETACEANS

BEING AWARE that the view is now held by the people of the majority of nations of the world that for scientific, ecological and aesthetic reasons whales should no longer be killed for industry;

RECOGNIZING there is strong pressure within the International Whaling Commission to establish a moratorium on commercial whaling as a matter of urgency;

RECALLING that in 1972 the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm called for a ten-year moratorium on commercial whaling as a matter of urgency, which was subsequently endorsed by the United Nations;

FURTHER RECALLING the resolution of IUCN at its 14th General Assembly in Ashkhabad in 1978 that IUCN shall continue to call for a moratorium on commercial whaling until five conditions had been met;

RECOGNIZING that trade in sperm, fin and sei whale products was banned by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) when those species were added to Appendix I of that Convention in February 1981;

NOTING that the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling 1946 can provide for the proper conservation of all species of cetaceans;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 15th Session in Christ-church, New Zealand, 11-23 October 1981:

CALLS on member nations of the International Whaling Commission to achieve a cessation of commercial whaling as soon as possible;

URGES all nations to work to ban all whaling outside the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling;

RESOLVES that IUCN and its members shall actively promote adherence to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling by all nations, both whaling and non-whaling;

STRESSES the need for continuation of benign research on living whales under the auspices of the International Whaling Commission after passage of the moratorium;

RECOMMENDS to nations in which subsistence whaling is undertaken by or on behalf of indigenous people living a traditional way of life that they ensure that the whaling is conducted solely for subsistence purposes using non-wasteful and humane techniques and at a level which will ensure a return of whale species to optimum population levels;

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that where feasible, nations and local populations convert direct taking of whales to benign uses such as promotion of tourism through organized whale-watching programmes that are properly regulated to avoid negative impacts on the whales or their essential life support processes;

RECOMMENDS that the International Whaling Commission: (a) through its Scientific Committee, collect data progressively on populations of small cetaceans and on the extent of harvesting of such cetaceans, and subsequently regularly monitor these populations and report on their status, and propose further research;

(b) on the basis of this inventory and analysis include on the Schedule of the Convention those populations of small cetaceans in need of protection;

(c) give priority to populations that appear to be in a critical situation; and

(d) immediately include on the Schedule those populations which the Scientific Committee has recommended to be classified as protection status stocks; and

CALLS FURTHERMORE upon the governments concerned to take note of the Scientific Committee's recommendations with respect to belugas and narwhals and to take appropriate management action within areas under national jurisdiction.