

Norsk-japansk felleseklæring, avgitt ved avslutningen av intersesjonalt møte i Den Internasjonale Hvalfangstkommissjon (IWC), Monaco 8. februar 2001; lastet ned fra nettstedet http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/e/whale/w_whatsnew/pdf/mud_200102_rms_meeting.pdf

No substantial progress in the IWC RMS meeting

The IWC (International Whaling Commission) held an inter-sessional meeting of the RMS (Revised Management Scheme) working group from February 6 to 8, 2001 in Monaco. The meeting aimed to complete the RMS in order to manage the resumption of whaling on a sustainable basis. The IWC has been working on the RMS for more than eight years. It includes a risk-averse method of calculating catch quotas developed by the IWC's Scientific Committee and an observation and inspection scheme. However, due to the stance of anti-whaling countries, particularly New Zealand, the UK and the USA, the meeting did not achieve any substantial progress. Therefore, Minoru Morimoto and Odd Gunnar Skagestad, the Japanese and Norwegian Commissioners to the IWC, issued a joint statement at the conclusion of the meeting.

“We are extremely disappointed that we failed to make substantial progress towards the adoption of RMS, but with the previously recorded positions of the anti-whaling countries we cannot be surprised. These nations have publicly stated that they are opposed to the sustainable use of whale resources yet they persist in taking part in the negotiating process designed to allow the resumption of whaling for abundant species. Their continuing tactic of insisting on the inclusion of excessive demands that will make the system impractical and unworkable, does not represent good faith negotiation.

The IWC is obliged by the International Convention of the Regulation of Whaling to manage the sustainable use of whales. The anti-whaling delegates are ignoring their obligations under this International Treaty.

We appeal to all members of the IWC to “leave their baggage at the door” and return to next meeting in London with the intention of completing the RMS in good faith, or, if any members remain openly opposed to the RMS, to leave the negotiating table.”

The IWC will hold its 53rd annual meeting in London in July of this year. Discussions on the RMS will be continued as a part of that meeting.