

Japan  
Fisheries  
Association



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Views and Opinions of Japan's Fisheries Industry

## HIGHLIGHTS

# STRIDE FOR REESTABLISHING SOUND WHALE MANAGEMENT

--The 54th Int'l Whaling Commission Meeting in Shimonoseki in May --

**S**himonoseki, a port city facing Kammon Strait off the western tip of Japan's main island, Honshu, will host the 54th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) May 20-24. The city is endowed with a natural environment, a long history and a rich culture. Shimonoseki thrived as a major base for Antarctic whaling expeditions during the days of commercial whaling. Since 1998, it has been the home port for the Antarctic Whale Research Fleet. The Kaikyo-kan Aquarium, opened in April 2001, exhibits the entire bone framework of a 25-meter blue whale on loan from Norway.

### IWC's Main Role Is To Ensure Science-based Sustainable Use of Whale Resources

In 1982, the IWC passed a commercial whaling moratorium based upon a majority anti-whaling claim that uncertainties existed over the resource status of the cetaceans. In the preamble of the ICRW, it is stated explicitly that the Convention aims to "provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry." The decision on the moratorium and its unreasonable extension are clearly in contravention with the provisions of the Convention in that it gives sole priority to the protection of whales, thereby excludes their use. It also disregards the international agreement on the sustainable use of natural resources agreed by the UNCED.

In the background of the present situation where no resumption of whaling has been permitted for 20 years following the decision on the moratorium, one can conclude that the IWC's functions as a resource management organization have been paralyzed by a commission dominated by anti-whaling countries that disregard science.

### Misleading Management Disrupts the Ecosystem

Whales consume marine living resources by an amount three to five

times as large as the human world fisheries catch of approximately 90 million tons. Recent research has found that baleen whales feed not only on krill but also consume large amounts of fish resources important to humans, such as herring, Pacific saury, anchovy, squid, and pollock. To give protection only to whales which stand at the top of marine food chain is tantamount to disrupting the balance of the marine ecosystem. The world population now exceeds 6 billion, and is anticipated to reach 10 billion by 2050. When considering the food problem amid this population forecast, it becomes clear that the efficient use of all resources will become essential.

Mineral resources such as petroleum and iron ore will decrease by the amount they are consumed. However as living resources, such as whales, are renewable, they can be used without causing a decrease if used wisely. The unilateral protection of cetaceans serves neither for the benefit of mankind nor the environment.

### We Hope the IWC Regains its Dignity

We sincerely hope that the IWC in Shimonoseki will again respect the spirit of the Convention and make rational decisions regarding cetaceans as a marine living resource on the basis of sound scientific discussion. We also hope that it will present itself as a responsible resource management organization to the international community and regain its dignity as a respectable international organization.

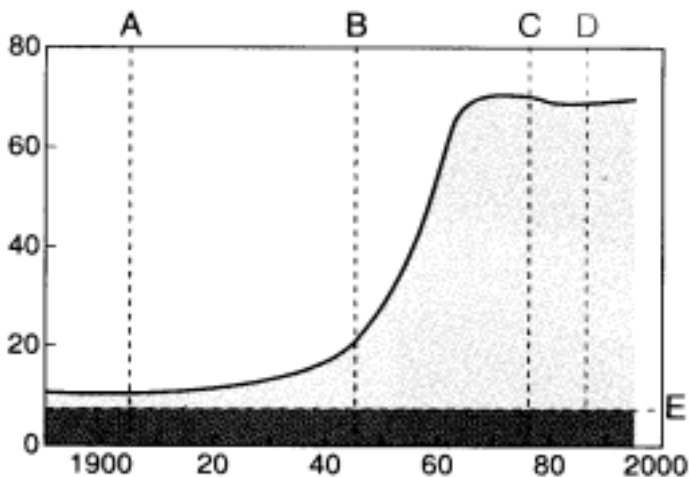


**As whales increase, less  
food is left for humans**

(Campaign Poster for the Shimonoseki Meeting)

## WHAT IS YOUR VIEW ON WHALING? SCIENCE AND WORLD OPINION SHOW FOLLOWING FACTS ABOUT WHALES.

### Changes in minke whale population in the Antarctic



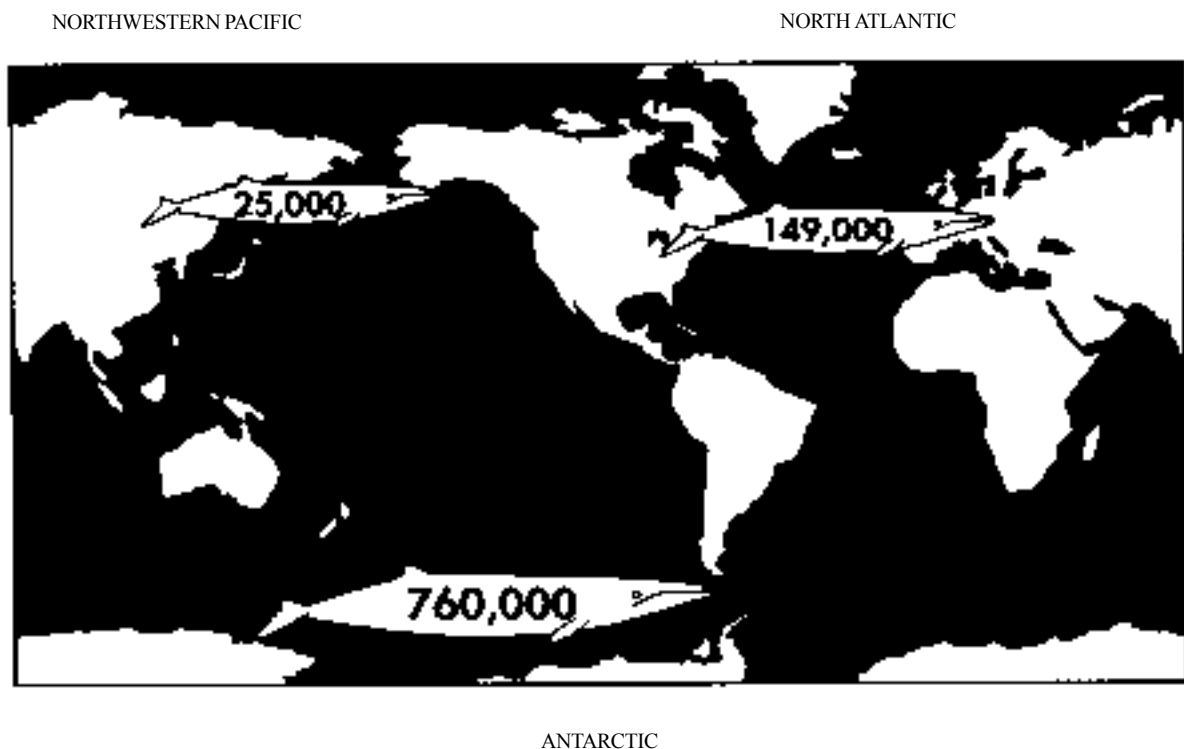
Notes:

- A. Start of Antarctic whaling (1904)
- B. End of World War II (1945)
- C. Introduction of New Management Procedure (1975)
- D. Commercial Whaling Moratorium (1986)
- E. Optimum stock level

(estimate by the IWC's Scientific Committee in 1996; unit: 10,000 heads)

### Minke whale population in the world oceans

(estimate by the IWC in 1996; unit: head)



## WHAT CAN WE DO FOR THE COMING FOOD CRISIS IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

—The ocean can be a source to meet increasing food demand—

Whales Consume This Much of Marine Resources



Anchovy Found in the Stomach of A Brydes Whale



Fish in A Minke Whale Stomach

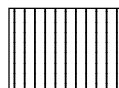
(Photos: By courtesy of the Institute of Cetacean Research)

### Annual consumption of marine species by cetaceans as compared with the amount harvested by commercial fisheries

marine species consumed by  
whales world wide

About 500 mil. tons

annual fisheries  
harvest



about 90 mil. tons

## RESULTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL OPINION SURVEY ON THE WHALING ISSUE

### QUESTION:

Under the following conditions, do you support or oppose harvesting of minke whales?

■Minke whales are not an endangered species. The International Whaling Commission (IWC) has estimated that the number of minke whales throughout the world reaches 1 million.

■Harvested minke whales can be used as food for human beings

■Catch of minke whales is part of food culture of some countries and peoples

■Catch of minke whales is carried out under restriction of annual quota of the IWC so that catch may not affect adversely the total population.

### RESPONSE

	Strongly Support	Support	TOTAL	No opinion	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	TOTAL
U.S.	20	51	<b>71</b>	10	8	11	<b>19</b>
Australia	11	42	<b>53</b>	6	12	28	<b>40</b>
France	11	52	<b>63</b>	11	15	12	<b>27</b>
U.K	16	45	<b>61</b>	8	12	19	<b>31</b>

Note: The public opinion poll in the United States was conducted in October 1997 on a total of 698 adult Americans selected randomly. Those in France, Australia and the United Kingdom were conducted in March 1998 on about 500 people of age 18 or older, respectively.

## EVENTS

**JFA Celebrates 120th Anniversary on Feb.12**

The Japan Fisheries Association (JFA) on February 12 celebrated the 120th anniversary of its founding at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo.

In his address before about 650 guests, mainly from the fishing industry, Hiroya Sano, President of the JFA, looked back the long path the association treaded during the past century, and pledged for fresh strenuous effort for the future in pursuing its objectives of promoting the fishing industry and contribute to the economic well-being and cultural heritage of Japan.

Sano noted the struggle of those in the fisheries industry amid present difficult climate, but stressed a bright future for the industry if all in the industry mobilize their wisdom. He expressed profound respect and gratitude for the effort of precursors and stressed to face up to the challenges before us and take this occasion as a step for further progress of the industry."

Established in 1992, the JFA served as the umbrella organization for the entire industry in Japan. It has more than 400 members, including associations, private companies and individuals who contribute to JFA's activities.

Congratulatory greetings for the anniversary were received from various parts of the world, including members of the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA).

**JFA WINTER EVENING RECEPTION**

On February 6, the Japan Fisheries Association hosted the Winter Evening Reception in Tokyo, inviting fisheries attaches from about 50 embassies in Tokyo. This annual event has been aimed to foster and promote amicable relations between the Japanese fishing community.

In his welcome speech, Hiroya Sano, President of the JFA, stressed this is the special year for the association as it marks the 120th anniversary of its founding. This was followed by a lecture by Mr. Joji Morishita, Deputy Director of the Far Seas Fisheries Division of the Fisheries Agency, who outlined concisely the development of whaling controversy and elaborated on major points at issue. The speech appeared to have attracted special attention of participants as the coming annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission is slated to be held in Shimonoseki, Japan.

The lecture was followed by a Sushi Party at which representatives both from the Japanese fishing community and diplomatic corps exchanged views on various issues of fisheries.

**JFA to Hold 4th Seafood Expo in July**

The Japan Fisheries Association will hold the fourth international Seafood & Technology Expo at the International Exhibition Center in Tokyo on July 24-26. The JFA expects that this event, marking its 120th anniversary, will have a greater number of exhibitors and attract more visitors than the previous shows. For further information see: URL: <http://www.k-ide.com/seafood/>

**Himi to Host Int'l Fixed Net Fishing Conference in November**

Himi City in Toyama Prefecture, northcentral Japan, will host an international conference on fixed net fishing in November 2002. According to the organizer, the aim of the conference, dubbed as "International Fixed Net Fishing Summit in Himi," is to provide opportunities to government officials from countries having advanced fixed net fishign techniques to present case studies of differing methods, exchange views and ideas, and discuss the way to construct cooperative system among them. Another aim is to appeal to the international community for worldwide cooperation for the proper use of marine resources and protection of the marine environment.

The conference will be marked by the keynote speech by a representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) under the theme of "The worldwide food crisis and the role of the fishing industry."

During the 4-day session, case study presentations will be made on the introduction of the fixed net fishing method in Costa Rica as well as the present state of fixed net fishing industry in Himi.

Also, panel discussions and workshop sessions will be held on such subjects as fixed net fishing in the 21st century, protection of marine environment and resources and ways to cope with food shortages."

The conference will also include a tour to a fixed net fishing site in Himi. (For detailed information contact: <http://www.city.himi.toyama.jp>)

**Korea and the Philippines join OPRT  
marking Progress in Conservation and  
Management of Tunas  
—80 % of the world's tuna longliners  
are now under OPRT—**

The Organization for Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT) formally approved as its members the Korea Deep Sea Fisheries Association (Tuna Longline Fisheries Committee) and OPRT Philippine Inc. newly established by owners of tuna longline fishing vessels in the Philippines. The approval came at OPRT's board of directors meeting on February 19, 2002. A total of 183 vessels from Korea and 6 from the Philippines were registered under the OPRT, bringing the total registered vessels to 1,246 including 495 from Japan and 562 from Taiwan. As a result, about 80 % of large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels in the world are now under registration of the OPRT. (See "What's New" by clicking "Menu" at OPRT website: URL: [www.oprt.or.jp](http://www.oprt.or.jp))