

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Santiago (Chile), 3-15 November 2002

Consideration of proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II

PROPOSALS TO AMEND APPENDICES I AND II

In addition to the responses received from the organizations consulted in accordance with Article XV, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention, that are provided in Annex 3 of document CoP12 Doc. 66, comments received from the International Whaling Commission are provided in the annex to the present document (in the form in which it was submitted). Copies of the documents or extracts of the documents referred to in the comments of the IWC can be obtained from the Secretariat upon request.



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NJG/JAC/29319

21 August 2002

Mr. Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary General
CITES
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CH-1219 Chatelaine
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SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr Wijnstekers,

I am writing in response to your letter of 28 June 2002 requesting scientific information from this Commission on the following proposals to amend CITES Appendices I and II:

- transfer of *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* from Appendix II to Appendix I (Proposal 12.3);
- transfer of the northern hemisphere stocks of common minke whales, *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, (except the Yellow Sea, East China Sea and Sea of Japan stock) from Appendix I to Appendix II (Proposal 12.4);
- transfer of the western North Pacific stock of Bryde's whales, *Balaenoptera edeni*, from Appendix I to Appendix II (Proposal 12.5).

Before providing such information, I draw your attention to IWC Resolution 1999-6 on Co-operation Between the IWC and CITES (copy enclosed) adopted by a majority vote at IWC's 51st Annual Meeting which, *inter alia*:

“DIRECTS the Secretariat, when the IWC is requested to provide comments on any proposal submitted by a CITES Party to transfer any whale species or stock from Appendix I to II, to advise the CITES Conference of the Parties that the IWC has not yet completed a revised management regime which ensures that future commercial whaling catch limits are not exceeded and whale stocks can be adequately protected;

FURTHER DIRECTS the Secretariat to advise the CITES Conference of Parties that zero catch limits are still in force for species of whales which are managed by the International Whaling Commission;”

Although progress on a revised management regime (i.e. the Revised Management Scheme) has been made since the 51st Annual Meeting, it is not yet complete and catch limits for commercial whaling remain at zero.

Regarding your request for scientific information, the agreed policy of the IWC is that the Secretariat should forward to you copies of appropriate sections of the reports of the Scientific Committee. These are enclosed with brief explanations included below. Please note that for the most part, the extracts provided are from the Plenary Report of the Scientific Committee. Further details are available in Annexes to the Plenary Report, and these can be provided on request.

To help put the information enclosed in context with respect to the minke and Bryde's whale stocks, following the introduction of zero catch limits for commercial whaling, IWC's Scientific Committee has been carrying out in-depth evaluations (referred to as 'Comprehensive Assessments') of the status of all large whale stocks in the light of management objectives and procedures (not all are complete). A Comprehensive Assessment includes the examination of current stock size, recent population trends, carrying capacity and productivity. In addition, the Commission has accepted (in 1994), but not yet implemented, the Revised Management Procedure (RMP) - a scientifically robust method of setting safe catch limits for certain stocks where the numbers and status are known (as the result of a Comprehensive Assessment) to be plentiful. Before using the RMP to calculate a catch limit, *Implementation Simulation Trials* are carried out and involve investigating the full range of plausible hypotheses related to a specific species and geographic area, and using the most recent information on abundance and catch history. Completion of *Implementation Simulation Trials* is a pre-requisite for the Scientific Committee to be able to provide advice to the Commission on catch limits. Once *Implementation Simulation Trials* for a stock are complete, an *Implementation Review* is carried out every five years. The RMP has not been implemented yet because the Commission has not yet reached agreement on the Revised Management Scheme (this is the RMP plus non-scientific aspects of management such as an inspection and observation scheme – see Resolution 1999-6).

Black Sea bottlenose dolphin - *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*

The last time the Scientific Committee addressed this species was during the 43rd Annual Meeting in 1991 (see *Rep. int. Whal. Commn* 42, 1992: 200-201). The Scientific Committee addressed: distribution; problems and catch statistics, population estimates and assessment and status. Please note that the information enclosed is the same as that forwarded to the CITES Secretariat in January 2000 with respect to proposals for CoP 11, i.e. no new information is available from IWC. The Committee plans to review the status of this species at its meeting next year.

Northern hemisphere stocks of common minke whale, *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

The information provided is limited to the three stocks of minke whales that are the focus of Proposal 12.4.

Okhotsk Sea-West Pacific stock

The latest abundance estimate for this stock formally accepted by the Scientific Committee was agreed in 1991 (see *Rep. int. Whal. Commn* 42, 1992, 64-68) during the Comprehensive Assessment for North Pacific minke whales. As communicated to your Secretariat previously, this estimate was based largely on a paper by Buckland *et al* (SC/43/Mi3) using data from sightings surveys in 1989 and 1990 (see *Rep. int. Whal. Commn* 42, 387-392). It refers to animals in a particular geographical area at a particular time. The question of the stock identity of those animals remains to be resolved. Further discussion of available abundance estimates (including those after 1991) and their status is given in the workshop report referred to in the next paragraph (SC/54/Rep.1).

Work on RMP *Implementation Simulation Trials* began at the Scientific Committee meeting in 1993. The Scientific Committee hopes to complete them at its meeting next year. The reasons the *Trials* have taken such a long time are detailed in this year's Scientific Committee report and can be summarised as: (1) complex stock structure hypotheses; and (2) whaling to occur during migration. For the latest information on this work see: SC/54/Rep. 1 'Report of the Workshop on North Pacific common minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) *Implementation Simulation Trials*' and the subsequent discussions of the Scientific Committee at its meeting this year (IWC/54/4 Report of the Scientific Committee, pages 8-16).

Northeast Atlantic and North Atlantic Central stocks

The status of agreed IWC abundance estimates for the Northeast Atlantic stock remains unchanged from that reported to CITES in January 2000, i.e.:

- at its meeting in 1995, the Scientific Committee established an intersessional Abundance Estimation Working Group (AEWG) to derive an agreed estimate for the Northeast Atlantic stock;
- the work of the AEWG and subsequent discussions at the 1996 Annual Meeting led to the population estimates given in *Rep. int. Whal. Commn* 47, 1997:71-77; 239-241; 453-483 – the latter being a paper submitted by Schweder *et al*.
- in view of the difference between the population estimate from a 1995 sighting survey and that from a survey performed in 1988/89, work was done to reconcile the differences. At its meeting in 1998 (see *J. Cet. Res. Man.* 1 (Suppl.) 1999: 11-12), the Committee accepted the estimate from the 1995 survey given in the paper by Schweder *et al* for use in the Revised Management Procedure (RMP).

The Scientific Committee has not considered the North Atlantic Central stock in any detail since the mid 1990s. The Committee received information on abundance estimates based on aerial and shipboard surveys carried out in 1995 and submitted to NAMMCO (the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission), and examined these in 1997 (see *Rep. int. Whal. Commn.* 48, 1998:154-155) and 1998 (see *J. Cet. Res. Man.* 1 (Suppl.) 1999: 12-14).

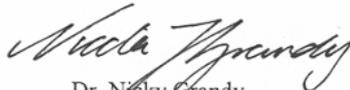
With respect to both the Northeast Atlantic and the North Atlantic Central stocks, the Scientific Committee will be considering new abundance estimates at its meeting next year based on sightings surveys carried out since 1995 (see IWC/54/4: Report of the Scientific Committee, page 16 and Annex D, item 6.4). This review forms part of the *Implementation Review* of North Atlantic minke whales.

Western North Pacific stock of Bryde's whales, *Balaenoptera edeni*

The Comprehensive Assessment for North Pacific Bryde's whales was completed at the 48th Annual Meeting in 1996 (see *Rep. int. Whal. Commn.* 47, 1997: 82-84). It considered: catch data, species and stock identification, distribution and migration; biological parameters; abundance and trends; ecosystem and habitat considerations; and assessment and management advice. The Commission then agreed that work on RMP *Implementation Simulation Trials* for Western North Pacific stock should be initiated. Preparation for the *Trials* was begun in 1997 and the *Trials* are still in their early stages. The work of the Scientific Committee to date is described in the following references: *Rep. int. Whal. Commn.* 48, 1998: 72-73; *J. Cet. Res. Man.* 1 (Suppl.) 1999: 14-15; *J. Cet. Res. Man.* 2 (Suppl.) 2000: 10-14; *J. Cet. Res. Man.* 3 (Suppl.) 2001:12; *J. Cet. Res. Man.* 4 (Suppl.) 2002:10-11; IWC/54/4 Report of the Scientific Committee, pages 16-17.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions on the information provided.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

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