

## Annex V

### Statements on the Agenda

#### ANNEX V1

##### STATEMENT BY THE JAPANESE DELEGATION CONCERNING SMALL CETACEANS

Resolution 1999-9 on Dall's porpoise is clearly outside the jurisdiction of the IWC and therefore Japan decided not to provide data concerning small cetaceans to the Scientific Committee. Furthermore, Japan will not participate in the Standing Sub-Committee on Small Cetaceans and discussions in other Sub-Committees nor Working Groups where issues on small cetaceans are dealt with. It is unfortunate that the political attempt to expand the scope of the IWC's influence to include small cetaceans by Resolution 1999-9 has prevented the continued voluntary scientific cooperation of Japan in the field of small cetaceans.

However, Japan will make its data on small cetaceans available following this year's Scientific Committee meeting through appropriate means such as the website of the Fisheries Agency of Japan.

Finally, although Japan may not make any comments on the draft report of the Standing Sub-Committee on Small Cetaceans and relevant parts of draft reports related to small cetaceans prepared by other Sub-Committee nor Working Group, this should in no way be taken to mean that Japan concurs with or supports the contents of the report.

#### ANNEX V2

##### STATEMENT BY THE JAPANESE DELEGATION CONCERNING WHALE WATCHING

It is the Government of Japan's position that whale watching is outside the competence of the IWC. The Scientific Committee has to focus its efforts on IWC's mandate such as stock assessment considering the limited financial and human resources.

#### ANNEX V3

##### STATEMENT BY THE JAPANESE DELEGATION CONCERNING CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS (CMP)

Japan has committed to the conservation of threatened whale stocks including the western North Pacific gray whale. With this in mind, it submitted 'Status report of conservation and researches on the western North Pacific gray whales in Japan' to the Sub-Committee on Bowhead, Right and Gray Whales (BRG), and has done so to the Sub-Committee on Conservation Management Plans (CMP) after the reformulation of sub-committees. However, it must not be construed to prejudice Japan's position that the Conservation Committee is not consistent with the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling because the Committee negates one of the objectives of the Convention: sustainable use of whales.

#### ANNEX V4

##### STATEMENT BY THE ICELANDIC, JAPANESE AND NORWEGIAN DELEGATIONS CONCERNING DNA REGISTER SYSTEMS

Members of the Scientific Committee are aware that the Governments of Iceland, Japan and Norway have implemented national DNA register systems for effective monitoring of whale meat products in the market and that information on those DNA register systems have been provided, on a voluntary basis, to the Commission.

This statement is to reassert the position of the Governments of Iceland, Japan and Norway that the monitoring of markets is outside the jurisdiction and competence of IWC and that inclusion of items related to DNA identification of market products on the agenda of the Scientific Committee and its Working Groups is inappropriate. For this reason, representatives of the Governments of Iceland, Japan and Norway and their appointed scientists will not participate in Scientific Committee's discussions on this matter.

However, the Governments of Iceland, Japan and Norway will provide additional information on their DNA register systems as they deem appropriate including information on technical aspects of these systems. Furthermore, we would urge that the future work of the Science Committee on matters related to the use of DNA technologies and analyses take the position of the three Governments into account. In this regard, documents dealing with the marketing of whale meat products should not be submitted to or discussed by the Scientific Committee.

#### ANNEX V5

##### JAPAN STATEMENT IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED WORKSHOP ON CETACEANS AND ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING: A GAP ANALYSIS

As Japan expressed at the occasion of the adoption of Agenda of this Scientific Committee, it does not support the Scientific Committee to deal with issues outside the competence of IWC.

It found that most of the activities envisaged to be dealt with at the proposed Workshop are outside the competence of IWC.

For this reason, Japan cannot support the proposed Workshop, and especially it cannot support the allocation of a budget of Scientific Committee for this purpose.

**ANNEX V6****STATEMENTS RELATED TO ITEM 9.1.2 – NORTH  
PACIFIC SEI WHALE COMPREHENSIVE  
ASSESSMENT****Statement by Iñiguez**

Iñiguez noted that the In-depth Assessment sub-committee has not yet decided how many separate populations of sei whales there are in the North Pacific. Genetic information is available only for the central or 'Pelagic' area. The abundance data used in the preliminary modelling results for the In-Depth Assessment show that the abundance of sei whales in the Western Coastal, Aleutian, Eastern North Pacific and Eastern Coastal areas remains low, and shows no sign of recovery from particularly high catches in the past in the Western Coastal and Aleutian areas. The Government of Japan has announced plans to resume commercial whaling for minke, Bryde's and sei whales within the Japanese EEZ (SC/68A/04). This area lies within the Western Coastal subarea as defined by the In-depth Assessment sub-committee. Until the number and identity of the distinct populations of sei whales have been clarified, precaution dictates that no catches be taken in those subareas where sei whale abundance remains very low. Iñiguez therefore suggested that the Committee recommend that no sei whales be taken in the Western Coastal area until the In-depth Assessment is completed, and the Committee has determined the status of this putative population. Iñiguez ended with a quote from SC/68A/04 'Statement regarding Japan's Withdrawal from IWC': '... Japan will only harvest those species whose populations have been assessed by the SC as abundant: i.e. minke, Bryde's and sei whales. The catch limits will be calculated in accordance with the Revised Management Procedure (RMP), taking into account relevant scientific progress achieved by SC such as outputs from the Implementation Reviews and In-depth Assessment...'

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**Statement by Moronuki**

Moronuki noted that there are two alternative stock structure hypotheses for North Pacific sei whale: a one-stock hypothesis and a five-stock hypothesis. However, after extensive analyses and discussions, the Scientific Committee has already acknowledged that the evidence for the five-stock hypothesis is weak. The sei whale in the western North Pacific was once reduced by earlier whaling but has more recently been recovering. It is highly plausible that, as with many other marine living resources, its range contracted in the past following depletion and is now expanding again. The relatively low numbers of sei whales close to Japan at the moment is fully compatible with this scenario. This is to be compared to the five-stock hypothesis which is essentially speculation unconfirmed by any scientific data. And to the contrary, genetic analyses of samples from JARPNII and NEWREP-NP taken west and east of 150°E (which is the primary putative boundary between the pelagic stock and a putative western coastal stock) showed no significant differences, suggesting that sei whales in the pelagic area belong to the same stock as whales near to Japan (see Appendix 7 of SC/68A/SP05). It is always possible to formulate some hypothesis that suggests the existence of some small stocks and to argue that a harvest would cause problems to such small stocks. But, it is obvious that that is not the only criterion. Japan's decision on this point will be based on the view of the Scientific Committee that existing scientific information places much higher plausibility on the one-stock hypothesis.

